Taking Care of Green Business
Voir la vie en vert

Air Canada partners with the UN to promote the International Year of Biodiversity. Air Canada s'associe avec l'ONU pour promouvoir l'Année internationale de la biodiversité.

At the time of writing this, the environmental eyes of the world are focused on the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Whatever the outcome and commitments that various countries, including Canada, take from Copenhagen, we at Air Canada are mindful of our responsibility to safeguard the environment and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

This is why for 2010 we have partnered with the UN to promote the International Year of Biodiversity and help raise awareness of the importance of the variety of life on Earth. Biodiversity is essential to sustaining the living networks and systems that are the source of health, wealth and everything else our lives depend on.

We recognize that transporting over 30 million passengers around the globe creates special obligations for us, so we will continue our own efforts to reduce our environmental impact in the sky and on the ground. Already we have made significant strides, improving our fuel efficiency 30 percent since 1990 by replacing old aircraft (we now have one of the most fuel-efficient fleets possible with current technology), reducing aircraft weight, flying at optimal speeds and taking more direct routes. This enabled us to save 101 million litres of fuel in 2008, which translates into a 260,000-tonne reduction of CO₂ emissions – the equivalent of removing 65,000 cars from the road for one year.

We have also begun using hybrid vehicles and switching to fuels with lower emissions for our ground equipment. We’ve introduced lightweight Kevlar cargo containers for freight and baggage, which reduces fuel consumption. And we’ve implemented recycling programs, right down to issuing flight attendants biodegradable pens that can be planted when the ink runs dry.

In addition, we are also working with the global industry to share best practices, consulting with governments to improve air transport efficiency, and supporting the development of alternative fuels, better aircraft and cleaner, quieter engines. This includes supporting the IATA drive to improve fuel efficiency by an average of 1.5 percent annually; stabilize net CO₂ emissions from aviation from 2020 onwards; and, by 2050, cut CO₂ emissions by 50 percent from 2005 levels.

Often, customers ask how they can do their part. You can help with simple actions such as packing less, reusing your headset and taking an electronic as opposed to a paper boarding pass. Through our website, we also offer a link to the Zerofootprint carbon offset program for those who wish to explore that option.

For more information on Air Canada’s green initiatives, please go to www.leaveless.ca. Our goal is to one day leave no footprints when we fly.

Write to me: president@aircanada.ca

Air Canada is pleased to offer you service in English and French. (For more information, please turn to page 102.) Air Canada est heureuse de vous servir en français et en anglais. (Pour plus de détails, veuillez aller en page 102.)