

NO 3RD RUNWAY COALITION

PRESS RELEASE



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For immediate use

HEATHROW 2ND HIGHEST POLLUTING AIRPORT IN WORLD

Heathrow Airport has claimed the title of being the second highest polluting airport in the world, with only Dubai racking up more carbon emissions from its operations in 2019, according to a new report by environmental group Transport & Environment (1).

The findings were made as part of an international airport tracker, which shows the rankings of all major international airports (2). This is despite attempts by Heathrow Airport to paint itself an environmentally friendly. Claims that the airport is carbon neutral were found to only refer to the terminal buildings themselves and not aeroplanes (3).

Overall, London has the highest ranking of any city in the world of CO₂ emissions emitted from its 6 airports. But it was Heathrow Airport that accounted for at least 16.2 of the 23.5 megatonnes emitted, with the remaining five London airports accounting for the remaining amounts.

Campaigners believe that this fresh data reinforces the need for the UK Government to review and withdraw the Airports National Policy Statement, which allows Heathrow expansion – 260,000 more flights per year, virtually none of which will be using anything other than polluting fuels such as kerosene to fly for a considerable time. Sustainable Aviation Fuels currently account for just 0.005% of flights, with mainstream rollout not set to even enter the short haul market for a very considerable period (4).

At the beginning of September, the Government stated it would review the request to review the ANPS once its plans for Jet Zero aviation were finalised in coming months (5).

Paul McGuinness, Chair of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:

“Heathrow is already the single biggest polluter in the UK and now we learn that they are the second largest emitter of carbon from passenger transport in the world. With expansion they would clearly become the biggest emitter by a large margin.

With the UK’s carbon reduction targets now including transportation, Heathrow’s lion’s share of the country’s transport emissions was bound to be brought into sharp focus. The Government’s Climate Change Committee has now advised that, under the new Carbon Budget, any further increase in Heathrow’s share of emissions will require restrictions at – and possibly even the closures of – some regional airports. Which is why, for the interests of the wider country, Heathrow expansion could only ever be iniquitous.”

ENDS.

Notes:

1. <https://www.desmog.com/2021/09/28/heathrow-found-to-be-worlds-second-most-polluting-airport-in-new-report/>
2. <https://airporttracker.org/>
3. <https://news.sky.com/story/heathrow-pledges-to-become-zero-carbon-airport-but-emissions-from-planes-not-included-11938868>
4. <https://www.iea.org/reports/aviation>
5. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1015207/decision-on-requests-to-review-the-ans.pdf