

# CASE STUDY 15

## Carbon neutrality down under

**Who:** Christchurch International Airport

**Where:** New Zealand

**What:** Buildings, energy efficiency, recycling and offsetting

**When:** 2008

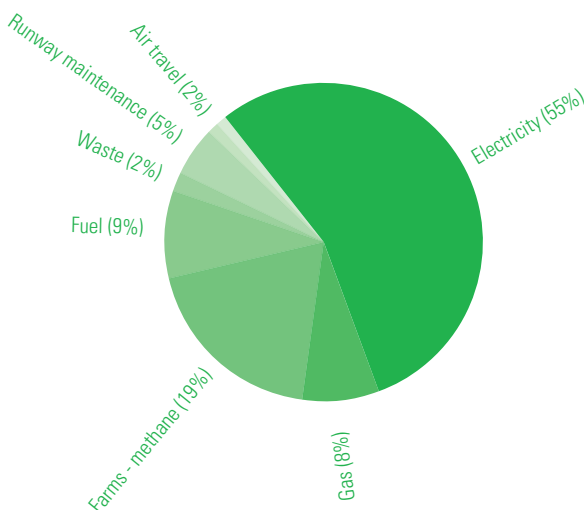
**Why:** First airport company in the Southern Hemisphere to be certified carbon neutral

### Project

New Zealand's Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL) has received carbon neutral certification following detailed measurement and analysis of their carbon emissions. The certification process has seen the airport company measuring, managing, reducing and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions arising from its operational business activities.

### Emissions profile

Christchurch International Airport Limited's total annual greenhouse gas emissions are around 5236 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, produced by the following parts of the business:



Christchurch International Airport's GHG emissions profile.

The airport company has a farm currently occupying expansion land. The farm activities have been included in the company's inventory but are not currently offset because of the potential of establishing precedents that may apply to the rest of the New Zealand agricultural sector.

### Emissions reductions

An emissions reduction plan was developed and is in the process of being implemented. Projects include:

- The CIAL vehicle fleet was audited and a new vehicle replacement policy implemented to include fuel efficiency considerations for new vehicle purchases.
- Recycling programmes, including the re-use of up to 10% of runway asphalt during replacement works.
- All electricity is purchased from Meridian Energy - a fully carbon-neutral electricity supplier using renewable sources.
- A comprehensive programme to identify and resolve energy inefficiencies in the terminal building.

### Offsetting

Christchurch International Airport invested in three local schemes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - a combination of windfarm, forest regeneration and landfill gas recovery credits, all earned from local programmes.

### About the carbonZero programme

The carbonZero programme is an internationally recognised greenhouse gas certification scheme for organisations, products, services, and events wishing to demonstrate climate change action. The programme provides support for individuals and organisations to measure, manage (reduce) and mitigate (offset) their greenhouse gas emissions. The programme is managed by New Zealand Government agency Landcare Research. [www.carbonzero.co.nz](http://www.carbonzero.co.nz)

### ACI and carbon neutral airports

In November 2007, ACI called on its airports to develop plans to reduce emissions, with the ultimate goal being carbon neutral airports. An airport operator can achieve carbon neutral status by reducing carbon emissions from operations and buildings to a strict minimum. The remaining emissions (that cannot be further reduced) are mitigated through economic and market-based measures until long-term technological solutions are developed.



### Company profile:

Christchurch International Airport welcomes over 5.5 million passengers a year, ranking as New Zealand's second largest airport. It is located in the South Island's largest city, Christchurch.

Christchurch International Airport is a major driver of the Canterbury region's economy, as well as generating over 5000 airport jobs.

The facility is owned and operated by Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL). CIAL was established as a limited liability company in 1988, and ownership of CIAL is now shared by Christchurch City and the New Zealand Government.

[www.christchurchairport.co.nz](http://www.christchurchairport.co.nz)

