



## **Appendix 12**

### **County of Milwaukee Airport Division**

#### **General - Mitchell International Airport (MKE)**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Milwaukee County is committed to environmental stewardship and created the “Green Print” initiative to promote conservation of resources and integrate sustainability in daily operations. The County’s Airport Division is responsible for operating General Mitchell International Airport (MKE), including aligning MKE’s operations with the County’s stewardship goals. The Division maintains a source-separated recycling program at MKE that was started in the 1990’s to reduce costs and address environmental impacts. The program has continued to evolve and improve in response to changing conditions and stakeholder feedback.

The Airport Environmental Manager oversees the recycling program, including implementing improvements and tracking progress. The County’s Procurement Department administers the county-wide waste and recycling collection contracts with private hauling companies; this Department also purchases supplies for the MKE, including some which contain recycled content or are recyclable. The Facilities Management Division funds waste management activities. Janitorial activities are performed by Airport staff. The County’s Sustainability Director provides support for the program and is on site weekly.

To document existing conditions and identify opportunities for improvement, a waste stream composition study was completed, and an Airport Recycling, Reuse, and Waste Reduction Plan was developed for the facility. The Environmental Manager has coordinated with the waste and recycling hauling companies to address data needs.

Airport employees recycle in their offices and other work areas. Pallets are also stockpiled and reused. Airport employees receive training on the program, updates at monthly meetings, and other information about recycling. MKE maintains recycling dumpsters (Figures 1 and 2) and material balers for cardboard (Figures 3 and 4) which are available for employee and tenant use. The collection of baled cardboard material is included in the contract with the company collecting this material. The Division modified janitorial staff’s carts to provide two separate compartments for each stream, allowing them to service both types of containers in one pass.

The Division provides containers and bins in the public areas of the terminal for use by passengers (Figure 5). Airport terminal tenants are responsible for managing waste and recyclables in their leased areas and transferring them to a central landside recycling area. The Airport Environmental Manager provides training to tenants on recycling and waste procedures.

Most of the MKE’s airlines participate in the recycling program, including some that recycle materials generated on their flights. The Environmental Manager meets with airline representatives monthly; airline employees also approach the Environmental Manager and the Division with ideas for the program. To increase airline participation in the program, the Division renovated a storage area and now operates it as an airside recycling area dedicated to airline materials (Figures 6 and 7). This facility is configured so that the collection hauler can pick up materials from the landside area and does not need to access the airside

area. It also allows airline employees to recycle their materials without leaving the secure side ramp area, cutting the time required to move these materials from the aircraft to a recycling area by at least 50 percent.

Some of the food and beverage and retail tenants participate in the recycling program. HMS Host has established a food donation program within its restaurants in MKE's food court. Restaurant employees set aside edible food items for donation; a food bank located on Airport property collects them each day and distributes them to those in need.

The Division is also evaluating opportunities to improve the facility's waste and recycling collection contracts to increase landfill diversion. The Environmental Manager is interested in coordinating with the recycling facility to evaluate the feasibility and impacts of converting the program to single stream. The goal of this adjustment would be to increase convenience for passengers and tenants, reduce labor requirements for janitorial staff, reduce the amount of space needed for separate recycling dumpsters, and reduce access requirements associated with multiple haulers servicing multiple dumpsters.

The Airport Division is in the process of developing a sustainable management plan for the facility and may be restructuring to create an Airport Sustainability Department. Once the sustainable management plan is completed, the Division will establish strategies to meet the goals and objectives established in the plan, including increased outreach and education. The Division is planning to create a key performance indicators dashboard to track and communicate progress toward these goals.



Figure 1: Comingled recycling dumpster; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division



Figure 2: Paper recycling dumpsters; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division



Figure 3: Cardboard baler; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division



Figure 4: Cardboard baler; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division



Figure 5: Terminal recycling bins and waste containers; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division





Figure 6: Airside recycling area; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division



Figure 7: Commingled recycling dumpsters and cardboard baler in airside recycling area; courtesy of County of Milwaukee Airport Division