

Appendix 11 Clark County Department of Aviation McCarran International Airport Case Example

Appendix 11
Clark County Department of Aviation
McCarran International Airport (LAS)
Las Vegas, Nevada

McCarran International Airport's (LAS) waste management program is based on the instinct to conserve resources, including financial, and reduce environmental impacts. Neither the County, nor the State of Nevada, require recycling at LAS; the facility's program is a voluntary initiative.

LAS's Terminal Operations Division oversees the recycling program and funds waste management; monitors and tracks the program's progress; and administers the waste and recycling collection contracts with private haulers in cooperation with the Airport Procurement Division. Janitorial services are provided by Airport staff. The membership of LAS's Aviation Sustainability Action Team was recently elevated to a higher, decision-making level which will aid LAS in making progress toward sustainability goals, including improved recycling.

The centrally managed program primarily consists of recycling of cardboard, paper, plastic, and aluminum from the terminal building and Airport offices. These programs divert approximately 1,000 tons of waste from the landfill annually. LAS receives some rebates for these materials. HMS Host operates a food rescue program at LAS. The company gathers unsold food products for daily collection by a local non-profit organization. Airport Terminal Operations staff recently piloted and then converted their cleaning supplies over to a concentrate-based system which reduces packaging, shipping materials, and pallets. Use of non-toxic cleaners also reduces the use and disposal of personal protective equipment.

LAS is undergoing remodeling, including replacement of carpeted areas with terrazzo flooring. The removed carpet is collected by a company which resells the material for reuse. Other materials such as batteries, toner cartridges, office supplies, furniture, waste oil, tires, scrap metals, electronics, asphalt, and pallets are reused/repurposed or recycled. Surplus equipment is offered at auction; unclaimed lost and found items are donated.

The Terminal Operations Division has proactively placed recycling containers for use by passengers. These containers are signed and labeled. Water bottle refill stations are installed throughout the public areas. Passengers awaiting security screening also have access to bins designated for donation to the United Service Organizations (USO) (Figures 1 and 2); items collected through this program are donated to Nellis Air Force Base.

LAS is working to improve the program while maintaining compliance with stormwater drainage requirements. Tenant participation and program tracking are some areas that have been identified for improvement. Department of Aviation environmental staff have met with the airlines serving LAS to work towards their participation in the program. LAS would like to make the program convenient for employees, tenants, and passengers. To learn more, LAS seeks the input of these stakeholders, including surveying passengers on recycling topics during a larger quarterly perspectives survey effort.



Figure 1: Bin designated for donation to the United Service Organizations; courtesy of Clark County Department of Aviation



Figure 2: Bin designated for donation to the United Service Organizations and mixed recycling container; courtesy of Clark County Department of Aviation