



Taylor Marie Hoekstra
Sustainable Systems
Spring 2016

Sustainable Executive Summary

An Environmentally-Friendly Airport for Chicago O'Hare
International

A Zero Waste ORD

Airports are not actively seeking an entire refurbishment to become environmentally friendly within their interiors by not using new sustainable opportunities. In regards to Chicago O’Hare International Airport, you have made many steps towards sustainability, but your impact on the environment, passengers, and to other airports is quaint. Therefore, you have the power to take the initiative and lead. Solutions that are small, but very impactful regard energy (solar panel architecture, windmill energy, reduced light energy, motion censored escalators, friction-energy runway) and resources (no plastic bottles, new drinking fountains, recycled chairs, thinner plastic bins, no paper tickets, no paper towels, advertise larger for the garden, and install green walls).

Lead by Example

- You have the prime location to educate travelers on how to improve the earth with lifestyle changes.
- Lead an example for the airport industry into a collective, depart-to-arrival sustainable experience.
- Distinguish yourself from other airports in design and awareness.
- Encourage large businesses to think and challenge themselves to be more unconventionally green.
- Provide more employment (those inventing, designing, resourcing, marketing, constructing, and utilizing).
- Benefit the overall “natural”-like traveling experience.

Importance

Reducing waste externally is beneficial, but the wide opportunity for a wholesome makeover of airports’ view towards waste is still at hand. Airports are places that set the example of action and attitude of flyers, and when you contribute to the environment you are also elevating the importance towards the cause. By making these series of changes and incorporations, the reduced amount of waste of energy and resources increases. More specifically, this initiative can spark more incoming, revolutionary ideas with your sustainable group, SAM to tenaciously guide and inspire other airports to follow your green footsteps.