



# The U.S. Airlines' Climate Change Initiatives

- The U.S. Airlines' Strong Climate Record
- Our Climate Targets and Initiatives
- The U.S. Airlines' Synergistic Environmental Commitments

December 2019



**Airlines for America**<sup>®</sup>  
We Connect the World

# U.S. Airlines\* Facilitate the Safe, Rapid and Carbon-Efficient Movement of People and Goods Worldwide

Over 740,000 **direct employees**



28,000 worldwide **flights** per day



2.4 million **passengers** per day



58,000 tons of **cargo** per day



5 percent of the nation's **GDP**



**2 percent** of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions



And we're committed to **flying even greener**

Sources: A4A, Bureau of Transportation Statistics and Environmental Protection Agency

\* Includes passenger/combination and cargo-only carriers

# Aviation's Strong Climate Change Record

## » Aviation Is a Relatively Small Contributor . . .

- Domestic U.S. commercial aviation = 2% GHGs (source: EPA)
- Worldwide aviation = 2% (source: IPCC)

## » We Have a Strong Record . . .e.g., U.S. Airlines:

- Improved fuel efficiency over 130% between 1978 and 2018; 5 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> savings = taking ~26 million cars off the road each of those years

## » But There Are Concerns . . .

- Concerns about potential for emissions growth; “Flight Shaming”

## » The Global Aviation Industry Is Working to Address These Concerns



*“Today’s fleet of aircraft has an average fuel efficiency on par with a modern Toyota Prius hybrid.” FAA, Sept. 2019*



# Global Aviation Climate Action - Emissions Targets and Initiatives

## 1. Industry's Emissions Targets



## 2. Key Focus on Technology, Operations, Infrastructure & Sustainable Aviation Fuels Measures

## 3. Implementing 2016 United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Agreements

- ICAO CO<sub>2</sub> certification standard for new aircraft (2020 and 2023 implementation dates)
- ICAO Carbon Offsetting & Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), emissions monitoring began in 2019, offsetting 2021+

# Driving Emissions Reductions within the Industry

The Industry Is Aggressively Pursuing Advances in All These Areas

## 1. Technology

- Invest in newer aircraft/fleet enhancements (e.g., winglets)
- R&D for breakthroughs in engines and airframes



## 2. Operations

- Weight reduction; maintenance (e.g., engine wash), etc.



## 3. Infrastructure

- Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century air traffic control/NextGen

## 4. Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)

- Liquid fuels now; electric/hybrid aircraft longer-term



# A Few Words on Technology & Operations

- **Each Generation of Aircraft Is Approximately 15-20% More Fuel Efficient than Its Predecessor**
  - With improved finances, U.S. airlines purchased more than 800 new aircraft from 2017-2018, with more than 1,700 additional planes expected in the coming years
- **Public-Private R&D Programs Are Critical**
  - FAA-Industry “Continuous Lower Energy, Emissions and Noise” (CLEEN) program
  - NASA-Industry Advanced Air Vehicles Program (AAVP) and Transformative Aeronautics Concepts Program (TACP)
  - FAA-NASA-Industry-Aviation Sustainability Center (ASCENT)

# A Few Words on Infrastructure: NextGen

## ➤ NextGen Is Necessary & Highly Beneficial

- Necessary to **maintain and enhance safety**
- Critical to **U.S. competitiveness**
- **Reduces delays**
- Enables further **fuel and emissions reductions** (climate and local impacts)
- Can and often does **decrease net noise exposures**
  - The aviation industry has been working to address impacts from revised procedures that can change noise exposures

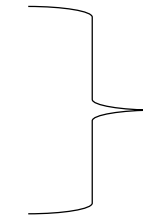
## ➤ NextGen Was Originally Projected to Bring up to 12% Emissions Savings (Low End Estimate Was 5%)

- But FAA's implementation of NextGen has been slow and not delivered significant benefits
- Even a 5% savings in 2018 would have brought almost 10 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> savings, equivalent to taking over 2.1 million cars off the road for one year

# What Airlines Need to Deploy Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

## 1. Above All, Safety – This is Addressed Through:

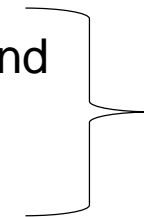
- The jet fuel specification, ASTM D7566; and
- Application of procedures to assure fuel quality is maintained



We have accomplished this

## 2. Environmental Benefit – This is Addressed Through:

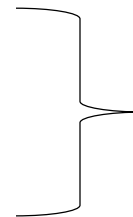
- Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment (LCA), benefits up to 80%; and
- Sustainability review/certification



Established protocols for this

## 3. Commercial Viability

- Need cost competitiveness; and
- Supply scale up and reliability



Progress, but remains the biggest challenge



# Policy Progress Supporting Commercialization

The U.S. Aviation Industry Has Worked in Coalitions to Advance SAF



## ➤ Key Coalitions:

- Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAIFI)
- Farm-to-Fly and Strategic Alliance with the U.S. Military
- Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment (i.e., the “Aviation Sustainability Center” (ASCENT))

## ➤ Policy Progress:

- U.S. Defense Production Act Helped Two U.S. SAF Producers
- U.S. Renewable Fuel Standard Credits SAF on a **Voluntary, “Opt-in”** Basis
- 5 Approved SAF Pathways under the Jet Fuel Specification, with More in Progress
- **Voluntary “Opt-in”** Eligibility for SAF in the California and Oregon Clean Fuels Programs

# A4A Carrier Supply and Deployment Agreements

Starting with Millions of Gallons; Key Step to Scale-Up



Atlas, Hawaiian and UPS also engaged with flights and other initiatives

\*33 million gpy as blended, with 30% renewable fuel content

# Progress . . .But Still Challenges

## ➤ Mechanisms to Scale Up and Enhance Cost-Competitiveness Are Still Lagging

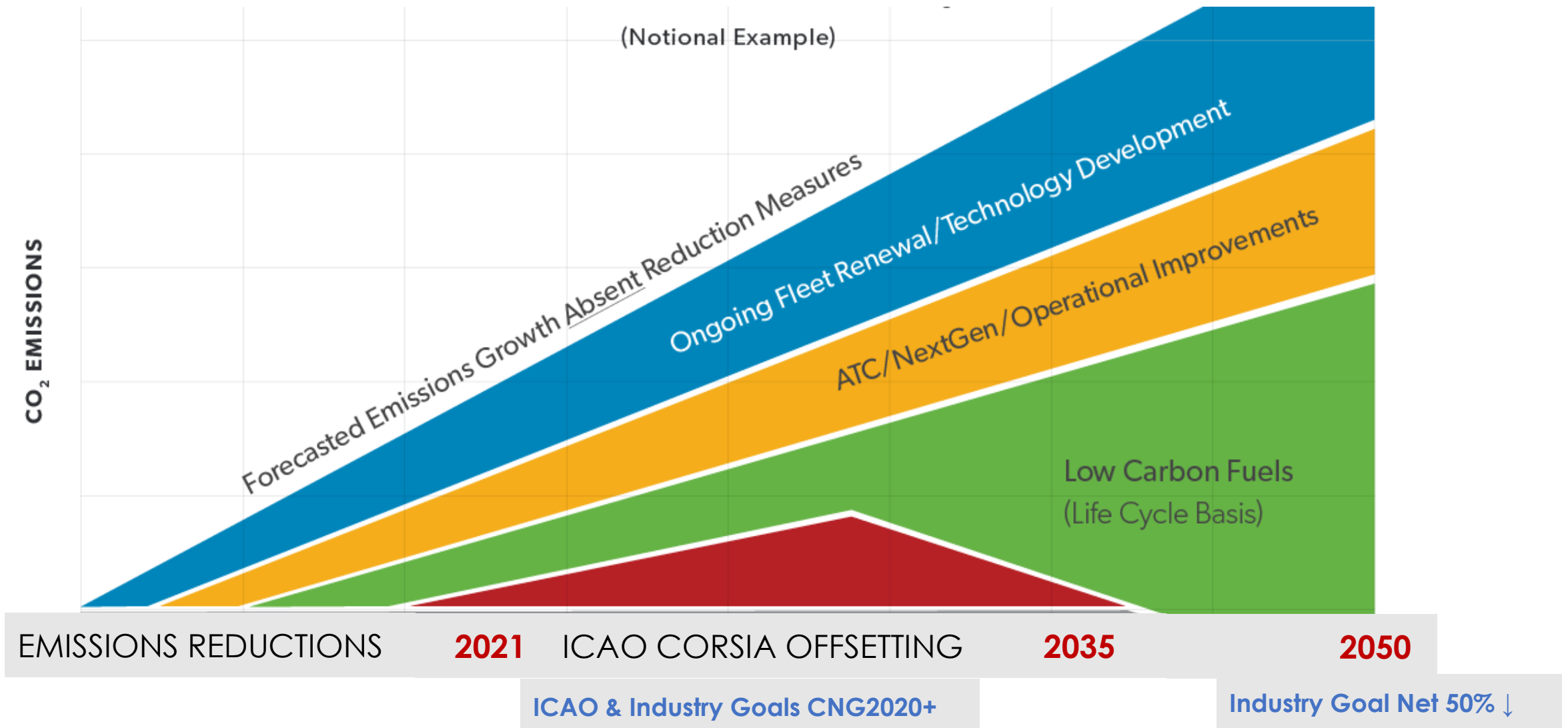
- SAF is still very expensive and scale-up takes time
- Policies under threat: need stable alternative fuels programs
- Funding: U.S. agencies' budgets are threatened
- Tax incentives: e.g., currently none for SAF specifically; and the \$1/gallon federal tax credit for fuel blenders expired (in tax extenders package)
- Positive support is good (e.g., tax incentives; loan guarantees; grant programs for promising technologies) – mandates are not (unlike for ground-based alternative fuels, still an immature market)

**A4A Has Published a SAF Deployment “Primer” to Serve as a Reference**

<http://airlines.org/media/deployment-of-sustainable-aviation-fuel-in-the-united-states/>

# CORSIA – A Complement to Technology, Operations, Infrastructure and Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)

To Support Achieving Carbon Neutral Growth in Aviation from 2020



# ICAO CORSIA – First & Only Global Market-Based Measure

- » **Global Carbon Offsetting Scheme, 2021-2035, Supports Achieving CNG2020 Goal**
- » **Applies to International Aircraft Operators**
- » **All Operators Were Required to Monitor & Report CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions for International Flights as of 1-1-19**
- » **2021-2026: Country Opt-In Basis (81 Countries so Far, 77% of total international emissions); 2027+ Mandatory**
- » **Credit for Operators Using SAF**

# ICAO Has Established Rigorous Emissions Units Criteria (EUC)

For Tapping into the Existing Carbon Market under Agreed Rules

## » Criteria for the Emissions Units Programs and for Projects/Credits Generated under Them

- Carbon programs must meet 11 design elements for the program to be eligible under the ICAO offset system; and
- Carbon emissions units generated by projects under the programs must meet 8 eligibility criteria (i.e., “Carbon Offset Credit Integrity Assessment Criteria”)

## » 19-State Technical Body Will Apply the EUC to Determine which Offsets Qualify



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ICAO document

CORSIA Emissions Unit Eligibility Criteria

March 2019

<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx>



# Opportunities & Challenges



- » The Industry Is Working Together to Drive Solutions
- » Public-Private Partnerships Are Critical
- » Coordination Is Essential
- » Industry Revenue Supports Investments
- » Need Complementary, Stable Regulatory Programs



# A Word About the U.S. Airlines' Synergistic Environmental Commitments

## » Strong Environmental Record . . .

- 2% of man-made CO<sub>2</sub>, while 5% of the GDP; and we have an aggressive climate commitment going forward
- 94% reduction in significant noise exposures 1975 to 2018, while enplanements rose 359%
- Carbon monoxide and smoke virtually eliminated, and oxides of nitrogen from aircraft continually reduced
- Completed voluntary program for aircraft deicing (on top of regs)
- Extensive recycling and other sustainability initiatives

## » And We Are Focused on Continuing and Improving on that Record . . .





# If You Want to Feel Good About the Future, Look Up!



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[www.airlines.org](http://www.airlines.org)

