



ATA's Climate Action Plan

June 2023

Overview

This plan is part of the ATA Sustainability Plan announced in 2022, which laid out a roadmap for the next 10 years, to guide ATA's action to help build a better world for future generations. The Sustainability Plan is all-encompassing to include environmental, social and economic sustainability, while this plan focuses on the environment. We acknowledge this is a complex subject, and that our goals, and measurement of those goals, will likely change over time. We recognize the need to approach the issue from a multicultural perspective that acknowledges its complexity. We look to address that by capitalizing on the diverse views of our global staff.

Our Commitment

As a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration, we commit to:

- Support the global commitment to halve emissions by 2030 and reach Net Zero as soon as possible before 2050
- Deliver with this document, our climate action plan and implement action items
- Align our plans with the five pathways of the Declaration (Measure, Decarbonise, Regenerate, Collaborate, Finance) to accelerate and co-ordinate climate action in tourism
- Report publicly on an annual basis on progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as on actions being taken
- Work in a collaborative spirit, sharing good practices and solutions, and disseminating information to encourage additional organizations to become signatories and supporting one another to reach targets as quickly as possible

Action through the five pathways

1. MEASURE our impact by

- Calculating ATA's overall carbon footprint for Scope 1 and Scope 2.
- Collecting flight data annually for all flights taken by ATA staff, students and customers.
- Vetting our supply chains as we transition to cleaner partners
- Calculating our waste

2. DECARBONIZE: Reduce carbon emissions by

- Educating staff on the need and ways to travel for work and investing in a Decarbonization Fund for every flight taken by a staff person, student or customer (more information below).

- Composting our waste in our office HQ
- Greening our supply chains – eg selecting clean energy transportation, sustainable hotels and reducing shipping
- Reducing Single Use Plastic and waste on our programs

3. REGENERATE by

- Supporting local communities – using a “supplier sustainability checklist” to select partners who share our environmental commitment
- Planning itineraries that are conscious of concerns related to climate change and over-tourism.
- Investing in and supporting projects that regenerate local communities -supporting community-led regenerative projects or considering secondary destinations

4. COLLABORATE with all stakeholders through education, review and advocacy by:

- Reviewing ATA’s Sustainability Plan goals annually through an internal audit.
- Embedding sustainability goals in all our work and performance reviews
- Educating students and customers through our materials that address our climate actions and goals.
- Participating in important initiatives including Tourism Cares.
- Participating in regular local clean up days in the Washington DC area
- Identifying and consulting external advisors who can help us achieve our goals and see past our blind spots

5. FINANCE climate action by:

- **Investing in a Decarbonization Fund.** Even though ATA is not directly responsible for the CO2 emissions caused by flights taken by our travelers we commit to mitigating the carbon footprint of every traveler, student and staff person by investing in a Decarbonization Fund. In 2022 just under \$50,000 was invested in three projects supported by [Cool Effect](#) (a US non-profit that supports projects that reduce carbon emissions while advancing other [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#))
- **Donating to sustainability initiatives,** including organizations to protect and regenerate the environment and the well-being and safety of people in need. These organizations currently include: Tourism Cares, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the International Rescue Committee and many other destination specific entities such as Fondo per l’Ambiente Italiano and Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center.