

HOW ONT IS USING RECYCLING OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TO REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



Ontario International Airport is furthering its commitment to the environment

Steve Lambert, PIO

with a series of upgrades and rehabilitation projects that emphasize recycling of old materials and state-of-the-art energy-saving technology.

The Taxiway S Rehabilitation Project is the latest example of ONT's emphasis on sustainability. The project, currently in its first phase and scheduled for completion in November, involves the removal and replacement of old concrete pavement panels, asphalt and other materials. One of its more unusual features is the recycling of those old materials – not something that airports have typically invested in.

“You just don’t see that very often, and it really speaks highly of this airport,” said Rick Slankard, Construction Manager for the Ontario Aviation Group, which is overseeing the operation.

Photos courtesy of our partners at Ontario Aviation Group



Over the project's six phases, crews will crush and haul off about 3,000 cubic yards of taxiway concrete, which will be recycled as base material for roadways. Approximately 650 tons of existing asphalt on the shoulders of Taxiway S will be milled and re-used to fill in low area's in the airport infields between taxiways and runways.

In addition, old metal conduit and reinforcing steel from taxiway concrete will be hauled off and recycled, and about 20,000 feet of outdated wire used in the taxiway lighting system will be replaced and recycled.

If not recycled, most of those materials would wind up in landfills, and new materials would be needed in their place – requiring additional mining, milling and in the case of asphalt, additional oil for the production process. A similar recycling process was used during construction of the new FedEx operations center, and will be incorporated into future projects, including planned runway and taxiway improvements.

"The Taxiway S Rehabilitation Project not only helps ensure the safety of our passengers, but puts less strain on our landfills while conserving energy and resources," said Mark Thorpe, CEO of the Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA). "At ONT, we believe strongly that we have an important role to play in reducing our carbon footprint and protecting our environment for future generations."

The airport is working on a formal sustainability plan. In the meantime, here are some of the environmentally-sensitive features ONT and its partners are incorporating into the airport's planning and development efforts:

- FedEx is upgrading the water line at its new operations center, which will include the use of recycled water for irrigation.
- New energy-efficient LED Touchdown Zone Lights will be installed along runways.
- Plans are being developed to replace the HVAC and lighting at the airport fire station with more efficient systems.
- Runway and taxiway rehabilitation efforts will include new lighting and a new more efficient lighting vault which will require a smaller generator than the current vault.



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