

## Pursuing a Greener Transformation, A Natural Way to Do Business

McCarran International Airport was 'green' before it was popular. Since 2000, the department has recycled items such as paint, carpet, electronics, batteries, tires and oil. In 2006, the airport formed a recycling committee to track existing practices and oversee the implementation of new environmental sustainability initiatives. One of the committee's first accomplishments was a desk-side recycling program for capturing paper, plastic and aluminum generated in employee work areas. Going greener isn't just a philosophy, it's a lifestyle. And the department's employees have joined the effort to ensure that as much trash as possible is kept out of local landfills.

In 2009, the Clark County Department of Aviation stepped up its recycling efforts with the placement of 70 passenger recycling stations at McCarran's Terminal 1, which allowed customers to recycle plastic, paper and aluminum products. Stations were also placed at the McCarran Rent-A-Car Center and in all departmental employee break rooms. Dumpsters to support tenant and office recycling efforts were also placed at the Rent-A-Car Center, the bus maintenance facility, Terminal 2, and at Henderson and North Las Vegas airports.

These efforts have produced a dramatic increase in recycling and a significant decrease in trash volume. Last year, the airport recycled 875 tons of paper, plastic, aluminum and cardboard, up 29 percent from the previous year and up nearly 60 percent from 2007 recycling levels. Pounds of trash per passenger were down 22 percent from 2007 and recycle pounds per passenger increased 95 percent during the same period. At the same time, trash hauling expenses to the airport declined by 8 percent from 2009 to 2010 and 22 percent from 2007 to 2010.

There is an intrinsic value gained by adopting a greener standard, but the department is also rewarded financially. As part of our recycling contract with local waste management company Republic Services, McCarran has received nearly \$47,000 in rebate money from the sale of the recyclables, which has covered more than 75 percent of the cost to purchase airport recycling stations. These efforts have won Republic Services' praise - company leaders often refer to McCarran as the "gold star in recycling" when citing examples of successful recycling programs within the business community.

This year, the department hopes to extend its success by installing recycle stations and a compactor at McCarran's C Concourse, home to the airport's largest carrier, Southwest Airlines.