

Urging Global Airlines to Embrace Sustainable Aviation Fuel for a Healthier Future

To Global Airlines,

Last year, a friend and I were busy researching a topic for a school project. We were assigned to find an innovation that would contribute to the improvement of our planet's future. Both being avid travelers, we decided to start by looking into the future of the aviation sector and some of its current problems. What we first found was that the number of passengers flying was starting to pick back up after the pandemic! After all, I'm sure a lot of us love to travel and explore the wonders of our planet. However, as the world returned from staring at computer screens and hiding from each other, our carbon emissions also started to return. I'm sure all of you have heard of global warming. It's one of the most prominent problems that humans all over the world are scrambling to solve. Simply put, the world is now warming up at a dangerous rate, and unfortunately, your industry is producing 2% of all our carbon emissions. While this may not seem like a lot, the aviation industry needs to do its part if we want to help clean up global warming. The International Energy Agency has already evaluated that, when dealing with your industry, "Many technical measures related to low-emission fuels, improvements in airframes and engines, operational optimization, and demand restraint solutions are needed to curb growth in emissions and ultimately reduce them this decade in order to get on track with the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 (NZE) Scenario."

One of the promising current solutions for this problem is Sustainable Aviation Fuel or SAF. SAF is a low-emission jet fuel made from renewables like plants that can reduce aviation's carbon emissions by up to 80% with current technology. SAF has been proven to provide greater efficiency in engine operation in extreme climates and reduce harmful chemicals from getting into our air. However, SAF is still rarely used in the aviation industry mainly due to the high price tag. According to the NYT, "Even at United, the largest consumer of sustainable fuel in the United States, it accounted for less than 1% of its total fuel consumption [in 2022]." But the more support and use that SAF gets, the lower the price. In addition, even if we don't fully switch to SAF right now, it is inevitable that there will come a day when fossil fuels run out and SAF will need to become mainstream. So I, as a concerned consumer, would like to strongly urge you to take action with SAF, since even a small investment can help the industry as a whole. While it may take a rough start, with your help, I believe that we can create a healthier future!

Sincerely,
Alex

References:

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