Addressing University of Toronto’s Business-Related Scope 3 Air Travel Emissions

May 2020

Based on work done by students in ENV461/1103 (The U of T Campus as Living Lab of Sustainability); staff and student research assistants at CECCS, Facilities and Services staff, and U of T faculty, with the support of the central and divisional administration at U of T,

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Available from CECCS

Revised version to be published in book: Stefanovic, I, et al, Conversations on Ethical Leadership: Lessons Learned from University Governance, University of Toronto Press (forthcoming in 2022)
Three Sections

1. Quantifying Air Travel Scope 3 Emissions  
   (John Robinson)

2. Reducing Business-Related Air Travel at U of T  
   (Andrea Muehlebach, Vinita Haroun)

3. Developing a U of T Emissions Mitigation Program  
   (Ron Saporta)
1. Quantifying Air Travel Scope 3 Emissions
(student project in ENV461/1103 – The U of T Campus as a Living Lab of Sustainability)

Three sources of data

- General Ledger data on travel reimbursements ($20.9 million)
- booking data from Avenue Travel, showing distance flown ($2.9 million)
- survey of flying behaviour (79 responses; 115 flights)

Top-down: ~26,000 t eCO2 (23% of scope 1 + 2 emissions)
Bottom-up ~58,000 t eCO2 (51% of scope 1 + 2 emissions)

Need for centralized and standardized method of collecting air travel data for all individuals travelling
Assigning Institutional Responsibility for Business Air Travel

Travel of University People

U of T Community
(i.e., University staff, faculty and students)

Visitors
(i.e., Visiting staff, faculty and students)

Travel Paid by University

Paid by U of T

Not Paid by U of T
2. Reducing Business-Related Air Travel at U of T

Possible options to reduce travel

• the elimination of same-day return flights,
• reducing flying for one-night stays,
• reducing group travel,
• favoring direct flights over layovers,
• requiring University personnel to travel by Economy Class only, and
• altering reimbursement rules requiring travel via the cheapest option only

Options to Substitute for Travel

• Virtual conferencing
# Virtual Conference models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional In-Person</th>
<th>Live Stream</th>
<th>Teleconferencing (several interacting screens)</th>
<th>Hybrid Model (One example below)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional conference with all speakers and attendees meeting at one location for set programming.</td>
<td>Largely traditional conference with live-stream/broadcast for virtual attendees.</td>
<td>Semi-hybrid programming with several interacting screens of presenters and attendees. Enables bilateral communication.</td>
<td>A combination of various models fit the specific needs of the programming.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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![Diagram](image-url)