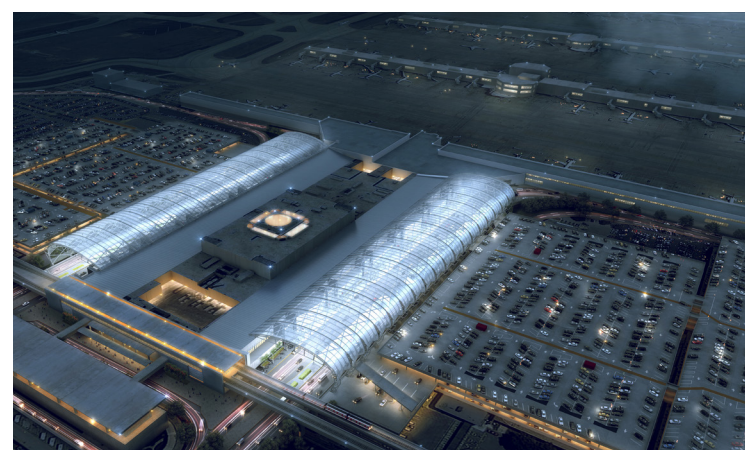# LEED
for Communities
at ATL

Created by: *Planning & Development Sustainability Group*
Hartsfield - Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Aerial of the newly completed canopies at ATL's Domestic Terminal

Introduction

On Sept. 20, 2019, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), the world's busiest passenger airport, became the first airport in the world to receive LEED for Communities certification, as well as the first to achieve a Platinum rating. Efforts were set in motion with the launch of the Department of Aviation (DOA) Planning and Development Bureau's Sustainability Program.

One of the major program initiatives is to track sustainability and efficiency on both a micro and macro level as projects and policies develop. After exhaustive research, it was determined that there was no rating system in place to benchmark all aspects of sustainability across airports comprehensively and accurately.

The ATL Planning and Development Bureau Sustainability Standards

ATL's Planning and Development Bureau (P&D) developed Sustainability Standards for the planning, design and construction of all projects managed by the Department of Aviation. Developed with input from stakeholders spanning ATL, the City of Atlanta, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and airports around the world, these Standards aim to make all buildings, parking decks, and civil-infrastructure projects as resilient and energy efficient as possible.

The framework for each project type is as follows:

- New Buildings and Major Renovations: Achieve a minimum of LEED BD+C Silver
- Existing Buildings: Achieve LEED EBOM Certified through the Arc Performance Score
- Parking Decks: Achieve Parksmart Bronze
- Civil Infrastructure Projects: Achieve Envision or SITES Certified

There are currently 23 projects on ATL's campus that have gained or are pursuing certification in a sustainability rating system. Progress and sustainability metrics for all active and certified projects can be found on the P&D Sustainability-tracking dashboard, *ATLS*.

LEED for Communities

LEED for Communities and its counterpart, LEED for Cities, were developed by USGBC to support the development, execution and tracking of sustainability programming and planning in cities and communities around the globe.

The certification process starts with the preparation of a certification roadmap, which includes identifying sustainability goals and initiatives that support those goals, documentation on stakeholder groups, local governance structure, and a general overview of the land and space types that are included within the project boundary. Thereafter, the community submits information to Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), the certifying branch of USGBC, for pre-certification review.

Once a community is awarded pre-certification, one year of performance data must be tracked and reported in the following five categories:

With the updated version, LEED v4.1 for Cities and Communities, 28 new credits are included to support structured sustainability planning and execution. ATL will apply this new framework to its recertification efforts.

Since 2016, 99 Cities and Communities around the globe received LEED certification. Of those, only 14 have reached a Platinum rating, including Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

The Future of Sustainability Metrics in Aviation

The future of sustainability metrics in aviation is an ever-changing and dynamic standard, but still has the ability to be uniformly captured among airports worldwide. Registering and certifying under LEED for Communities brings a new level of leadership to airports and their stakeholders. ATL's effort—more than three years in the making—is only the first step in what is trending to be the standard for gauging the world's most sustainable airports.

Although ATL received the highest level of certification, the Airport continuously strives to improve operation and resource efficiencies. It is important to note that as other airports seek to benchmark their LEED for Communities score, more expansive and translatable data sets can be applied to the scoring methodologies of the platform.

This score is an invaluable tool that will be used to guide and support future sustainability plans and initiatives at Hartsfield-Jackson. The LEED for Communities platform complements the outstanding accomplishments and designations ATL boasts, and will continue to strengthen the Airport's commitment to Atlanta and the global community it serves.

ATL West Deck, largest registered Parksmart project in the Southeast