

Zurich Airport Brasil



Airport Name: Aeroporto Internacional de Florianópolis | Aeroporto Internacional de Vitória | Aeroporto Internacional de Macaé

Airport Group: Zurich Airport Brasil

Responsible: Anderson da Silva Pinheiro, Engineering, Maintenance, Infrastructure and Sustainability Manager

Project Name: Waste Diversion Pathway

Executive Summary

The **Waste Diversion Pathway** project at Zurich Airport Brasil shows our commitment to sustainability and responsible waste management. Since our operations began in 2018, we have increased our waste diversion rate from 39% to an impressive 85%, even considering the challenge faced by the Natal Airport, whose operations started in February 2024 with an initial diversion rate of just 18%. Remarkably, it reached 82% within just seven months of operation.

We have set an ambitious goal to achieve a 90% waste diversion rate across our four airports—Floripa, Vitória, Macaé, and Natal—by the end of 2024. We have implemented several key strategies to accomplish this target, including comprehensive training programs for airport community members and rigorous waste separation. We have also made significant investments in enhancing our waste management capabilities, including the establishment of advanced waste processing facilities.

Our project also prioritizes social impact through partnerships with Vitória and Natal Airports recycling cooperatives. This collaboration boosts recycling rates and provides essential economic opportunities for local communities, promoting social inclusion and equity.

Additionally, in 2024, we implemented the "Plastic Free" program to engage the entire airport community, particularly in the food and beverage tenants, in eliminating single-use plastic. By replacing plastic bags, cutlery, plates, straws, and napkins with reusable or alternative materials, we support our waste diversion goals while fostering environmental awareness. Our aim is to achieve "Plastic Free Airport" status by 2025.

In Brazil, only one airport has achieved zero waste status, highlighting the significance of our project in setting industry standards. Zurich Airport Brasil is committed to leading the way in sustainable airport operations through these collective efforts, demonstrating that environmental responsibility can harmonize with economic viability and social equity. We believe our commitment to these principles will inspire others in the aviation sector and beyond.

Results and Benefits of the Project

The Waste Diversion Pathway project at Zurich Airport Brasil has yielded remarkable results, significantly enhancing our sustainability efforts. Since its beginning, we have **increased our overall waste diversion rate from 39% to an impressive 85%. In 2024, we already diverted 1.243 tons of waste from landfills, bringing 3621 tons diverted since the project began.** This achievement highlights our commitment to sustainable waste management.

One of our most notable successes is the remarkable progress at **Natal Airport. Starting with a modest diversion rate of 18% in February 2024, the airport swiftly reached an impressive 82% within seven months of operation.** This rapid improvement is a testament to the effectiveness of our initiatives and the impact of our comprehensive training programs.

The environmental benefits are substantial. Our partnerships with local recycling cooperatives have successfully reintegrated thousands of tons of recyclables—such as plastics, paper, glass, and aluminum— back into the production cycle, supporting the circular economy. Also, we have implemented composting processes to convert organic waste into compost for our gardens, and non-reusable waste is transformed into alternative energy sources through co-processing.

These waste diversion efforts have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with our commitment to global sustainability goals and our Net Zero by 2040 goal. Furthermore, our Plastic Free program aims to eliminate single-use plastics, aiming to achieve Plastic Free Airport status by 2025, reinforcing our dedication to minimizing waste generation.

In conclusion, the Waste Diversion Pathway project exemplifies Zurich Airport Brasil commitment to sustainable operations, inspiring the broader aviation industry to adopt similar environmentally responsible practices.

Waste Diversion at Floripa, Vitória, Macaé and Natal Airports Brasil since 2018.

