

Southwest Airlines Continues Dedication to Environment Through Sustainable Aviation Fuel Initiatives

DALLAS—[Southwest Airlines Co.](#) (NYSE: LUV) (the "Company") announced today its ongoing support of the U.S. Department of Energy's [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) (NREL) to develop commercially viable and scalable sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Southwest® has undertaken multiple efforts over the years to minimize its carbon footprint and the Company continues to seek opportunities to help mitigate emissions. NREL presents one of those opportunities, as Southwest intends to continue to support NREL's work to develop low-carbon, low-cost, high-performance aviation fuels created from wet waste. Southwest plans to work with NREL to bridge a gap between the science behind SAF and the application of these sustainable fuels on a commercial level.

"We recognize the important role SAF will play in Southwest's journey to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050—a goal we're dedicated to reaching," said [Stacy Malphurs](#), Vice President of Supply Chain Management & Environmental Sustainability. "By working with organizations like NREL, Southwest embraces a great opportunity to advance the crucial science that makes this technology possible, and more available. We're excited to work with NREL toward commercially-viable SAF."

According to NREL, its [analysis](#) quantifies that U.S. wet waste, including food waste, could produce enough energy content to cover about 20% of U.S. jet fuel consumption. Conventional jet fuel is a primary source of greenhouse gas emissions in the aviation industry—showing the value of creating low carbon or carbon-negative SAF (on a lifecycle carbon assessment basis) from low-cost wet waste is a step toward one day reducing reliance on traditional jet fuel.

NREL has demonstrated how to make SAF from wet waste that is compatible with existing jet engines," said NREL scientist Derek Vardon. "It has the potential for a carbon negative footprint when diverting food waste from landfills."

As a leading global citizen, Southwest remains dedicated to doing the right thing for its People, through its Performance, and in service to the Planet. Southwest recognizes conservation can be more impactful when we all work together for a more sustainable future. For more information about Southwest's citizenship efforts, visit southwestonereport.com.

ABOUT SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

In its 50th year of service, Dallas-based [Southwest Airlines Co.](#) continues to differentiate itself from other air carriers with exemplary Customer Service delivered by more than 56,000 Employees to a Customer base that topped 130 million Passengers in 2019. Southwest has a robust network of point-to-point service with a strong presence across top leisure and business markets. In peak travel seasons during 2019, Southwest operated more than 4,000 weekday departures among a network of 101 destinations in the United States and 10 additional countries. In 2020, the carrier added service to Hilo, Hawaii; Cozumel, Mexico; Miami; Palm Springs, Calif.; Steamboat Springs; and Montrose (Telluride/Crested Butte), Colo. Thus far in 2021, Southwest has initiated service to Chicago (O'Hare) and Sarasota/Bradenton, both on Feb. 14; Savannah/Hilton Head and Colorado Springs, both on March 11; as well as Houston (Bush) and Santa Barbara, Calif., both on April 12; and will begin service to Fresno, Calif. on April 25; Destin/Fort Walton Beach on May 6; Myrtle Beach S.C. on May 23; Bozeman, Mont. on May 27; Jackson, Miss. on June 6; and Eugene, Ore. on Aug. 29. The Company also has announced an intention to initiate new service to Bellingham, Wash., later this year.

The carrier issued its [Southwest@Promise](#) in May 2020 to highlight new and round-the-clock efforts to support its Customers and Employees well-being and comfort. Among the changes are enhanced cleaning efforts at airports and onboard aircraft, along with a federal mandate requiring every person to wear a mask at all times throughout each flight. Additional details about the Southwest Promise are available at [Southwest.com/Promise](#).

Southwest coined [Transfarency@](#) to describe its purposed philosophy of treating Customers honestly and fairly, and low fares actually staying low. Southwest is the only major U.S. airline to offer bags fly free to everyone (first and second checked pieces of luggage, size and weight limits apply, some carriers offer free checked bags on select routes or in qualified circumstances). Southwest does not charge change fees, though fare differences might apply.

Southwest is one of the most honored airlines in the world, known for a triple bottom line approach that contributes to the carrier's performance and productivity, the importance of its People and the communities they serve, and an overall commitment to efficiency and the planet. Learn more about how the carrier gives back to communities across the world by visiting [Southwest.com/citizenship](#).

Book Southwest Airlines' low fares online at [Southwest.com](#) or by phone at 800-I-FLY-SWA.

Media Contacts:

Visit the Southwest Newsroom at [swamedia.com](#) for multimedia assets and other Company news.

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ABOUT SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

[Southwest Airlines Co.](#) operates one of the world's most admired and awarded airlines, offering its one-of-a-kind value and Hospitality at 119 airports across 12 countries. Southwest took flight in 1971 to democratize the sky through friendly, reliable, and low-cost air travel and now carries more air travelers flying nonstop within the United States than any other airline(fn. 1). By empowering its more than 73,000(fn. 2) People to deliver unparalleled Hospitality, the maverick airline cherishes a passionate loyalty among more than 134 million Customers carried in 2025. Southwest leverages a unique legacy and mission to serve communities around the world including harnessing the power of its People and Purpose to put communities at the Heart of its success. Learn more by visiting Southwest.com/citizenship.

1. Based on U.S. Dept. of Transportation quarterly Airline Origin & Destination Survey as of Q4 2025
2. Fulltime-equivalent active Employees as of March 31, 2026

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