



HOME › BOEING NEWS › BOEING EYES MORE SUSTAINABILITY WITH 2 MILLION GALLON SAF PURCHASE

## Boeing Eyes More Sustainability With 2 Million Gallon SAF Purchase

The SAF will power the manufacturer's commercial airplane operations in Washington & South Carolina.

BY TOM BOON

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Photo: Boeing



In a bid to boost its sustainability credentials, Boeing has signed an agreement with EPIC Fuels for 2 million gallons (7.5 million liters) of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The fuel will be used at the manufacturer's sites in Washington and South Carolina throughout the year and will power its commercial aircraft activities.

Sustainability is the aviation industry's big word at the moment, with airlines, airports, and manufacturers doing their bit to cut emissions, especially when it comes to CO2. The industry is currently responsible for around 2% of global emissions.

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## 2 million gallons of SAF

To make its operations more sustainable, Boeing is investing in SAF. These will be used for its commercial aircraft operations in Washington and South Carolina. This means that a 30% SAF / 70% conventional fuel blend will be used to power the company's production, test, ferry, Dreamlifter, and customer flights at Everett, Renton, Seattle, and North Charleston.



*Boeing will be using a 30/70 blend of SAF provided by EPIC Fuels. Photo: Boeing*

EPIC Fuels will produce the SAF, and the planemaker said that it would use the two million gallons throughout the year. According to information from [AirInsight](#), Southwest Airlines, an all-Boeing 737 operator, burned around 862 gallons per hour in 2021. Obviously, larger aircraft will burn more fuel than smaller aircraft, and Southwest primarily uses the NG version of the 737, which is less efficient than today's new 737 MAX. Assuming this was a standard figure for the whole range of aircraft, 2 million gallons of fuel would last Boeing for around 2,300 hours of flights.

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Commenting on the order, Sheila Remes, Boeing vice president of Environmental Sustainability, remarked,

***"SAF is a safe, proven, immediate solution that will help achieve our industry's long-term commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050... Boeing has been a pioneer in making sustainable aviation fuels a reality. Through this agreement we will reduce our carbon footprint and have SAF available for customer deliveries as well as our own operations."***



Across the industry, companies are seeking to implement SAF usage. Photo: United Airlines

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## Why SAF?

The aviation industry widely regards SAF as an interim solution to the emissions

The aviation industry widely regards SAF as an interim solution to the emissions problem rather than a complete solution. However, with zero emissions solutions likely remaining a long way off, SAF is regarded as the best option right now.

SAFs still give off a similar number of emissions to conventional fuels. The main difference is where the carbon comes from. Boeing's SAF is made from inedible agricultural waste. This plant matter has taken carbon out of the air as it has grown. When burned, it only re-emits carbon that was already in the atmosphere rather than adding new carbon.

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As mentioned, Boeing is using a 30/70 blend of fuel from EPIC. A maximum mix of 50/50 is currently approved for commercial operations, though OEMs such as [Boeing](#) and [Rolls-Royce](#) seek to increase this to 100%. Boeing will continue to use blends between 50/50 and 100/0 for its ecoDemonstrator project.

**What do you make of Boeing's sustainable fuel purchase? Let us know what you think and why in the comments!**

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