

Airlines miss most of their climate change targets

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A new report says airlines in the U.K. have missed all their climate change targets since 2000, except one. The U.K. aviation industry has set more than 50 climate targets in the past two decades. These included using greener

fuels for airplanes and making fuel more efficient. The climate group Possible did research on the airline industry. It said the aviation industry has failed to reduce its carbon footprint. Leo Murray from Possible told the BBC: "Companies set grand-sounding targets with a lot of fanfare....They talk about them for a couple of years. Then the targets sink without trace, never to be seen again." Mr Murray said the industry's climate record "is exceptionally poor".

The airline industry creates a lot of greenhouse gases. In 2018, air travel was responsible for seven per cent of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. Mr Murray said this was a problem. He said the UK's goal to be net zero by 2050 "can't be met without every sector of the economy pulling its weight". Possible wants frequent fliers to pay more. More than 70 per cent of flights in the U.K. are taken by just 15 per cent of residents. Murray also wants the government to make sustainable transport like rail or ferries cheaper and easier to use. Possible said the airline EasyJet was the only company to have met a target. It successfully reduced the amount of fuel an airplane burns per passenger kilometre by three per cent.

Sources: bbc.com / sky.com / irishtimes.com

Writing

People should fly less to help the environment. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

report / airlines / climate change / targets / the past two decades / airplanes / poor / greenhouse gases / emissions / net zero / economy / frequent fliers / flights / fuel

True / False

- 1) The U.K. airline industry only met two of its climate change targets. T / F
- 2) The industry set over 50 targets in the past 22 years. T / F
- 3) A climate group said the industry did cut its carbon footprint a little. T / F
- 4) The group said the industry's climate record was very, very poor. T / F
- 5) Airplanes account for 7 per cent of global greenhouse gases. T / F
- 6) The U.K. wants to be net zero by 2050. T / F
- 7) In the U.K. 15% of residents take 70% of the flights. T / F
- 8) An airline called EasyJet cut the amount of fuel its airplanes burn. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. missed | a. vanished |
| 2. efficient | b. publicity |
| 3. fanfare | c. regular |
| 4. sunk | d. effective |
| 5. exceptionally | e. aim |
| 6. responsible | f. cut |
| 7. goal | g. failed to hit |
| 8. frequent | h. citizens |
| 9. residents | i. unusually |
| 10. reduced | j. accountable |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of climate change?
- b) What climate change targets does your country have?
- c) What do you know about net zero?
- d) What do you think of airplanes?
- e) What do you do to help the environment?
- f) What do you know about greener fuels?
- g) What's your carbon footprint like?
- h) What do you think of airlines that don't meet climate targets?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. missed all their climate change targets | a. fliers |
| 2. making fuel more | b. trace |
| 3. set grand-sounding targets with a lot | c. for seven per cent |
| 4. the targets sink without | d. greenhouse gases |
| 5. the industry's climate record is | e. of fanfare |
| 6. The airline industry creates a lot of | f. zero by 2050 |
| 7. air travel was responsible | g. exceptionally poor |
| 8. the UK's goal to be net | h. fuel an airplane burns |
| 9. frequent | i. since 2000 |
| 10. It successfully reduced the amount of | j. efficient |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How much do you worry about climate change?
- Do you think airplanes create too much pollution?
- What do you know about greenhouse gases?
- Do you always pull your weight?
- Should frequent fliers pay more?
- Is travelling by rail better than by air?
- What questions would you like to ask an airline CEO?

Spelling

- iaanvot industry
- in the past two dcesade
- making fuel more tcniffeei
- grand-sounding targets with a lot of afnrfae
- the targets sink without acert
- leiacpnoxelty poor
- a lot of ehenesorgu gases
- air travel was iplesrsenob for seven per cent
- every sector of the economy pulling its tegiwh
- freutenq fliers
- just 15 per cent of eistrdsen
- It successfully ecdduer the amount

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. b	4. a	5. i
6. j	7. e	8. c	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Airline

You think airline is the most polluting industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least polluting of these (and why): steel making, food or shipping.

Role B – Steel Making

You think steel making is the most polluting industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least polluting of these (and why): airline, food or shipping.

Role C – Food

You think food is the most polluting industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least polluting of these (and why): steel making, airline or shipping.

Role D – Shipping

You think shipping is the most polluting industry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their industries aren't as polluting. Also, tell the others which is the least polluting of these (and why): steel making, food or airline.

Speaking – Industries

Rank these with your partner. Put the most polluting industries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| • Airline | • IT |
| • Car | • Food |
| • Tourism | • Construction |
| • Steel | • Shipping |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.