

Federal Funding for Airports to Invest in Clean Technology Projects

VOLUNTARY AIRPORT LOW EMISSION (VALE) PROGRAM

In 2003, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established the VALE Program to encourage eligible airports to engage in clean technology projects. The Program offers significant financial contributions to airports in areas designated by the Environmental Protection Agency that are in non-attainment or maintenance of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Funding is provided through the FAA Airport Improvement Program. Between 75% and 90% of a clean technology project's eligible costs can be reimbursed by the VALE Program, including fees associated with preparing the applications. Importantly, VALE-funded projects do not decrease airport entitlement funding.

In addition to grant funding, the VALE Program provides other financial and environmental incentives for airports and airlines to participate. Projects that have received VALE Program funding often lead to operational savings that can result in a return on investment in less than two years. For example, preconditioned air and ground power at gates allow aircraft to use electricity during passenger boarding, eliminating the need for auxiliary power units that burn costly jet fuel. Clean technology projects also accrue emission reduction credits for an airport that may be applied to future capital projects to avoid government-mandated airport emission control measures.

LeighFisher has assisted with 47 of the total 74 applications for VALE Program funding that have been approved since the Program's inception, accounting for about \$80 million of the total \$148 million awarded.

LeighFisher has experience assisting airport sponsors through the entire VALE Program application process:

- Project definition
- Return on investment analysis
- Stakeholder coordination
- Emission reduction estimates
- Completion of FAA administrative requirements
- VALE application preparation



Clean technology projects lead to operational savings that can shorten the "return on investment" period.

SUCCESSFUL VALE PROJECTS—*Federally-funded projects, lower airport operating costs*

WORKING WITH AIRPORTS

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES



LeighFisher secured \$195,000 in VALE funding towards the purchase of hybrid vehicles.

Outcome: Reduced on-airport emissions from gas-powered vehicles.

Airports assisted: **ABE • ABQ • HOU • IAH • PHL • UNV**

LOW-EMISSION BUSES



LeighFisher secured over \$6 million in VALE funding to purchase compressed natural gas and diesel-electric hybrid buses.

Outcome: Reduced vehicle miles traveled and emissions per mile of the on-airport bus fleet.

Airports assisted: **ATL • BOS • PDX**

CENTRAL PLANT



LeighFisher secured \$14 million in VALE funding to upgrade central plants with emission control equipment.

Outcome: Improved efficiency of centralized heating and cooling through installation of state-of-the-art equipment.

Airports assisted: **ABQ • BHM • DTW • IAH**

GEOHERMAL SYSTEM



LeighFisher secured \$2.4 million in VALE funding to install a geothermal heating and cooling system.

Outcome: Improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by supplementing traditional heating and cooling equipment with a geothermal system.

Airport assisted: **DLH**

WORKING WITH AIRLINES

GATE PRECONDITIONED AIR (PCA) AND GROUND POWER



LeighFisher secured \$33 million in VALE funding to electrify 124 gates at non-, small-, medium-, and large-hub airports.

Outcome: Reduced emissions from auxiliary power units by providing preconditioned air and ground power.

Airports assisted: **ABE • BOI • BOS • CHA • CRW • DAL • DEN • DLH • ERI • GEG • GRR • IAH • OAK • PHL • SFO • SJC**

ELECTRIC GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT (eGSE)



LeighFisher secured \$10 million in VALE funding to allow airlines to purchase over 270 pieces of new eGSE.

Outcome: Reduced emissions from diesel-powered ground support equipment by replacing the equipment with its electric counterparts.

Airports assisted: **ABE • ABQ • IAH • PHL • SJC • UNV**

REMOTE AND CARGO GROUND POWER



LeighFisher secured over \$5 million in VALE funding to supply ground power to remote aircraft parking locations.

Outcome: Reduced emissions from auxiliary power units by providing ground power at remote parking positions for remain-over-night (RON) cargo and maintenance operations.

Airports assisted: **CHA • GEG • OAK • PHL**

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