

OAC Health & Safety Report

January 17, 2018

Prepared by: Kris Martens-Ackeret

1. "Rickenbacker International Airport Installing New Equipment That Improves Air Quality," Circleville Herald, January 16, 2018. FAA awarded a grant for \$508,569 through the Voluntary Airport Low Emissions (VALE) program to the airport to help fund the \$565,077 project. The new equipment to be installed include a new ground power unit (so planes can be powered without having to idle, thus reducing aircraft emissions), as well as a pre-conditioned air unit on each of the terminal's passenger boarding bridges. Over the next 20 years, the improvements are expected to help lower carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by around 75%.
2. "New Airplane Design Could Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions," Annie Sneed, Scientific American, December 29, 2017. A team of designers from Aurora Flight Sciences, MIT and Pratt & Whitney are working on a new design concept for passenger aircraft called "D8". If successful, D8 could dramatically reduce the noise, emissions and fuel use associated with commercial travel. The new design features engines on top of the plane's body near the tail in order to increase fuel efficiency and reduce drag. The D8 is also wider and more oval shaped than traditional aircraft. If adopted worldwide, the D8 would reduce fuel consumption and emissions up to 66% in the next 20 years and reduce noise by 50%.