

# Southend Airport achieves 'very good' environmental rating



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SOUTHEND Airport's terminal extension has received a "very good" environmental rating.

The £10million extension, officially opened in April, has been rated "very good" under the building research establishment environmental assessment methodology, which is the world's foremost environmental assessment and rating system for buildings.

The building, which quadrupled the size of the departure lounge and trebled the retail floor space, received an overall score of 57.9 per cent after being assessed on ten criteria, including land use, water and minerals.

Southend Council and [Rochford](#) District Council demanded the extension achieve a "very good" rating when granting it planning permission.

Jason Ivey, operations director for the airport, said: "We looked to introduce a number of features into the terminal extension that reflected both councils' wishes and those of the general public.

“Ten per cent of the building’s energy is sourced by renewables. We achieve this via the solar PV panels on the terminal’s roof and air source heat pumps, which absorb heat from the outside air and then use it to warm the interior of the building. “Even if the temperature is as low as -15C outside, these remarkable devices can create heat from natural resources.

“We have also constructed a cycle shelter and created a wildflower meadow to increase the biodiversity around the site and raise the overall ecological value of the airport’s perimeter.”

The [Stobart Group](#), which bought the airport for £120million in 2008, also utilised a number of cutting edge, energy-efficient methods to boost the new terminal’s environmental credentials. These included water and energy monitoring meters, thermal modelling in the early design stages to understand how the new terminal building would perform in terms of energy consumption and carbon emissions and timber sourced in accordance with the Government’s stringent procurement policy.

Launched in 2009, BREEAM is the longest-established and most widely used method of assessing, rating and certifying the sustainability of buildings.

It is also used to encourage architects, builders and clients to work together to deliver low carbon and low impact designs that minimise energy demands created by the building itself, whilst maximising energy efficiency and utilising low carbon technologies.