

Destination: Net-Zero.

A circular route for aviation waste.



Dublin Airport is Ireland's busiest aviation gateway. Every day, around 100,000 to 123,000 passengers make their way through its terminals while an equally complex network of waste streams constantly moves behind the scenes. Since February 2026, Panda has worked with DAA to give over 12 of those waste streams a clearer identity, journey and **destination**.

Client Dublin Airport • Location Dublin, Ireland • Industry Aviation • Service Provided Total Waste Management

The challenge

With multiple locations, concessions and waste streams operating around the clock, Dublin Airport needed a clearer way to understand what was being collected, where it was coming from and how much was being generated. The challenge, therefore, was to broaden the view beyond collection. It was about bringing greater visibility, traceability and innovation to an operation that could never be put on hold.

The solution

Panda put the entire waste journey on the radar. RFID-tagged bins were linked to individual locations, collection points were mapped across the airport and material could be weighed closer to source. At the same time, Panda worked directly with food and beverage vendors, reviewed individual waste setups and introduced new operational solutions designed specifically around the demands of a live international airport. Within months, Dublin Airport's recycling rate climbed **from 51% to 66%**, taking the airport's recycling target four years ahead of schedule.

The results



Waste mapping: RFID-tagged bins give waste an identity at source, with **more than 12 waste streams tracked** through reporting to help pinpoint trends and overall performance.



Leaner ground operations: Panda's bin-washing system cut apron trips by **90%**, reduced weekly diesel consumption by **92%**, and lowered water use by approximately **71%**.



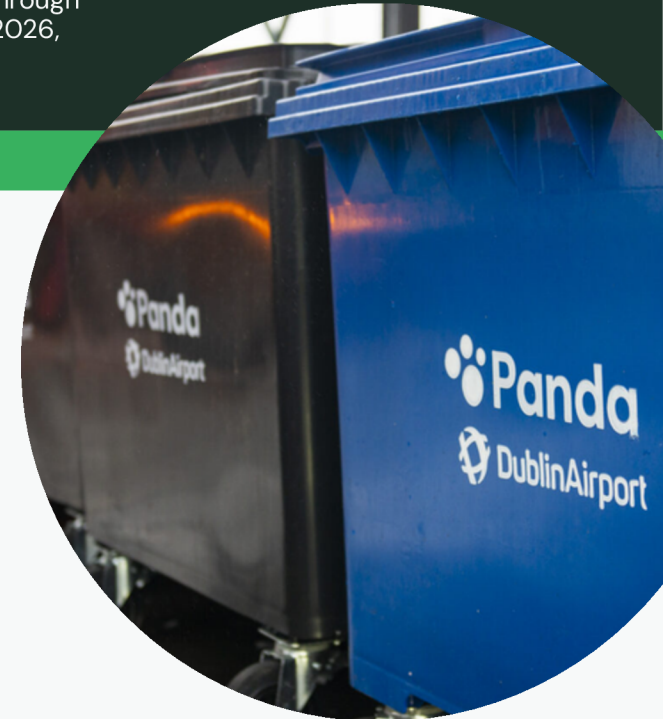
Shared direction: more than **50** F&B staff trained and engaged, supported by six site audits and waste-awareness sessions to **help better segregation take off**.



Performance lift: in just one week, Panda managed 105 tonnes of waste, (*roughly the weight of a plane!*), keeping materials moving through a live international airport.



Seamless turnarounds: Panda worked with Dublin Airport to support the Pier 1 seating replacement, with recovered metal routed for recycling and the resulting **rebate directed to Dublin Airport charities**.



Beyond the measurable results, Panda are simply a great team to work with. They understand the unique demands of a busy environment and consistently respond with professionalism, flexibility, and a solutions-focused mindset.

Naomi Vasilca Contracts Operations and Performance Manager

