

Robert Horton

Vice President Environmental Affairs

DFW Airport



Robert Horton is Vice President of Environmental Affairs & Sustainability for Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) and serves as the Airport Board's Environmental & Sustainability Officer. He provides strategic and innovative leadership for DFW Airport's environmental and sustainability programs, resulting in key domestic and global awards.

In his role at the second busiest airport in the world, Mr. Horton has driven innovative transformations in the aviation industry, including leading the effort for DFW to become the first carbon neutral airport in North America. Under his guidance, DFW Airport received international recognition as the first airport to earn a United Nations Global Climate Action Award. His efforts also resulted in DFW earning the title of the only international airport recognized with the Climate Leadership Award for Organizational Leadership for two consecutive years.

Mr. Horton's passion for clean resources and renewable energy began early in his life, igniting his continual drive to find new, efficient, and cost-beneficial ways to protect natural resources. He has more than 20 years of experience within the aviation, transportation, and sustainability industries, successfully bringing together diverse stakeholders to drive global energy efficiencies, sustainable growth, and operational cost savings.

Mr. Horton holds bachelor of science and master of engineering degrees in agricultural and biological engineering from the University of Florida. In December 2019, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Florida. This award is one of the highest honors bestowed upon a university graduate who has excelled in their chosen field. He is currently working towards obtaining a doctor of philosophy in interdisciplinary ecology from the University of Florida.

He has been formally recognized amongst trade and industry thought leaders as a champion for rapidly evolving aviation and sustainable operations. He was selected to serve as a Commissioner for Alliance to Save Energy's U.S. Commission on Transportation Sector Efficiency (50x50 Transportation Initiative) for his leadership on environmental and sustainability issues. In addition, he was appointed to the Board of Directors for Texan by Nature, a nonpartisan conservation nonprofit founded by former First Lady Laura Bush.

More recently, Mr. Horton was selected to serve on the first National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) External Advisory Board for Advanced Research on Integrated Energy Systems (ARIES), an effort to explore the possibilities of the nation's future energy systems. Mr. Horton also has been chosen to serve on the Technical Review Panel for the NREL's Mechanical and Thermal Engineering Sciences Directorate (MTES), which drives technological innovation in the areas of sustainable transportation, renewable power, and energy efficiency.