

Are Governments and Aviation Industry Doing Enough to Fight Climate Change?

Professor **Ian Poll**, Emeritus Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Cranfield University

Date: Thursday, 23 March 2023, 18:00 CET

Online: <https://purl.org/ProfScholz/zoom/2023-03-23>

The current narrative surrounding aviation and its impact upon the environment is wholly negative. This presents a clear threat to the air transport industry and it has the potential to limit the growth that aviation needs for commercial success and the world needs in order to maintain economic growth and improved social wellbeing.

Whilst, in principle at least, there are some technical solutions available for the removal of carbon from the aircraft, e.g. sustainable aviation fuels and electric aircraft, all are high risk, high cost and, above all, long term.

However, aviation's impact on the environment is not limited to CO₂, nor is CO₂ even the largest contributor. In this lecture, the broader environmental impact of aviation will be considered. It will be shown that the aviation's overall climate impact is currently estimated to be twice that of its CO₂ effect.

It will be argued that "contrail management" is a major weapon in the fight against climate change. If it can be supported by the right government policies, it has the potential to make a real positive contribution and, in doing so, could change aviation's narrative from negative to strongly positive.

Ian Poll is Emeritus Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Cranfield University and CEO of Poll AeroSciences Ltd. He has worked in both in academia and industry and has over 50 years experience in aeronautics. In addition, he has served on a number of Government Advisory Committees. He was the 74th President of the RAeS (2001) and President of the International Council of the Aeronautical Sciences (2008-10).

