

Bailly Leads Electric Vehicle Initiative



Groupe La Poste chief executive Jean-Paul Bailly is leading a government-backed initiative to bring together French public and private companies and create a common tender for economically viable electric vehicles.

On April 13, some twenty large enterprises, including Groupe La Poste, Air France, EDF, France Telecom Orange, SNCF and several local and regional municipalities, signed an agreement jointly order 50,000 electric vehicles.

The group purchasing initiative is the key element of the French environment minister's national plan for non-carbon vehicles. The aim is to guarantee French vehicle manufacturers sufficient demand to justify mass production of electric vehicles.

[read more on page 2](#)

Further in this issue

Europe

Bailly Leads Electric Vehicle Initiative

La Poste Gets Behind Special Eco Week

Common Goals: The Key to Effective CSR

DPD Hungary Sponsors Race Team

Chronopost Portugal Boosts Its Eco Fleet

Deutsche Post DHL Publishes CR Advances

Green Attributes for Electronic Letters

DHL Converts Dubai Warehouse

DHL E-Invoicing Cuts Emissions

Pedal Power in France for DHL, TNT

Swiss Post Buys 100 Gas Vehicles

Posti Turns Postal Waste into Fashion

ECO-Start Sprinters Set to Save Fuel

FSC Paper for P&T Luxembourg

De Post/La Poste Fits More Solar Panels

CTT Correios Offers Eco-Products

Correos Turns Recycled Materials into Trees

UPU Studies Postal Carbon Offset Scheme

Americas

US Postal Services Lays Out its Successes

FedEx Seeks Engagement with EarthSmart

Local Eco-Projects Involve Employees

FedEx Helping to Save the Panda

SMEs Take Green Products to Europe

UPS Hybrids Generate Their Own Electricity

Green Pick-up Costs USD10

UPS Checks Packaging for Eco Value

Asia-Pacific

Energy Audit Identifies 10% Savings

DHL Achieves 19% CO₂ Efficiency Increase

(Bailly Leads Electric Vehicle Initiative continued)

La Poste announced in 2007 that it would order 10,000 electric vehicles. It is launching a call to tender via a "competitive dialogue" with manufacturers.

The environment minister has announced an "ecological bonus" of EUR 5,000 linked to the purchase of each commercial vehicle with CO₂ emissions 60g/km or less, in order to equalise the purchase price of electric and other vehicles.

The industry minister is also setting up a strategy committee to develop proposals, by September 1, for creating infrastructures for battery recharging and associated services.

Mr. Bailly commented: "The factors for success have come together: the engagement of manufacturers, the fact that the total cost of owning an electric vehicle will be equal to a traditional vehicle and the development of infrastructures."

Europe

La Poste Gets Behind Special Eco Week

Groupe La Poste and its subsidiaries organised events around France in April as the official partner for the environment ministry's Sustainable Development Week.

Some 350 postal facilities, from mail sorting hubs to offices of La Banque Postale, displayed official posters designed to raise awareness of sustainable development.

In Paris, La Poste invited the public to a workshop creating post cards from recycled materials; in Champagne-Ardenne, together with partners, it organised an information day for travel to work by public transport; in Alsace a breakfast meeting brought together companies, printers and industry bodies to discuss responsible paper; and in Toulouse, a series of round table meetings

addressed clean transport, environmental responsibility and micro credit as areas for sustainable development.

Groupe La Poste subsidiaries also staged events and announced initiatives during the week, which ran from April 1 to 7. Many, including Chronopost, Ezapaq and GeoPost chose responsible paper as a theme.

Outside of France, DPD Belgium and DPD Luxembourg launched a weekly newsletter to keep employees informed about their sustainability programmes.

One such initiative was the signing in February of green electricity contracts to convert three of the two national divisions' five sites to totally renewable power. The contracts include diagnostic tools and surveys demonstrating the benefits of green electricity. A continuing employee awareness campaign encourages energy conserving behaviour.

(La Poste Gets Behind Special Eco Week continued)

DPD Switzerland chose Sustainable Development Week to announce a new clause in supplier contracts requiring them to have a sustainable development charter and drivers with eco-driving skills.

At a supplier event, DPD Switzerland invited vehicle manufacturers, energy suppliers and financial partners to demonstrate their sustainable development offers.

Pegasus in Romania launched an in-house competition encouraging employees to submit their ideas for sustainable development initiatives.

Common Goals: The Key to Effective CSR

La Poste's chief executive Jean-Paul Bailly believes that corporate social responsibility can only be effective if the whole organisation is engaged and involved.

He says that engagement must be backed by collective and individual objectives and that is why the company is working on defining relevant, non financial goals for both line managers and workers.

The group is also working on a common method for defining responsible purchasing so that it can evaluate its progress. In future, buyers will seek answers to 23 questions when choosing suppliers. The company believes the system will allow it to make a concrete assessment of suppliers' real operational performance.

DPD Hungary Sponsors Race Team



DPD Hungary sponsored one of the teams taking part in the Electromobile Race organised for Earth Day on April 17.

A total of 76 teams took up the challenge to build an environmentally friendly car using just six pieces of cordless percussion drill to design the drive mechanism. DPD's team was from Szent István University Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

Chronopost Portugal Boosts Its Eco Fleet

Chronopost Portugal is expanding its alternative fuel fleet.

It is using its Chronocity electric vehicle for deliveries in the historic towns of Evora and Porto and is putting a third vehicle into service in Lisbon.

The Chronocity is a three or four wheel platform driven by a joystick and capable of carrying a load of 300 kg.

Next year, the company will test a new, zero-emission vehicle, the Renault Kangoo Express, due for launch in Portugal.



Deutsche Post DHL Publishes CR Advances

Deutsche Post DHL has improved its carbon efficiency index by three points, according to its Corporate Responsibility Report 2009/2010 released in April.

Its corporate responsibility is divided into three programmes for the environment, international disaster relief and fairer educational opportunities in Germany.

GoGreen, the environmental programme, aims to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30 percent compared with 2007. The group is improving CO₂ efficiency throughout the company and its subcontractors; in 2009 it also increased the number of its carbon neutral shipments from 145 to 700 million.

Green Attributes for Electronic Letters

Deutsche Post DHL is launching two environmentally friendly mail products: an international hybrid letter and an internet letter for the German market.

DHL Global Mail's hybrid letter, Global Hybrid Print & Mail, claims to be cost-effective as well as green.

It enables large mailers to transmit their data electronically to Global Mail for pre-sorting and preparation of ready-to-print files. These are printed close to recipients and inserted into the local mail stream for delivery.

Global Mail has signed up printing and fulfilment partners worldwide. It says its hybrid service will reduce delivery time and postage costs and claims that the shorter distance travelled by the printed mail item can mean up to 80 percent less CO₂ emission per letter.

The internet letter, named E-Postbrief, is due to be launched in Germany in July. It has already signed up major corporate customers, including the insurance company, Allianz, the Mercedes-Benz motor sport division, the German Football Association, lottery operator LOTTO Hessen, DekaBank and the German automobile association.

Deutsche Post DHL says the E-Postbrief will offer secure, confidential and binding electronic communications including sender and recipient identification.

DHL Converts Dubai Warehouse

DHL Middle East has teamed up with Dubai's Department of Economic Development (DED) to build the region's first carbon-neutral warehouse.

FreightGate-5 is a government-owned warehouse close to the centre of Dubai. DHL converted the 13,000 sq metre site to bring 36 to 40 percent energy savings amounting to 167 tonnes of CO₂ a year.

The upgrading work has included installing state-of-the-art lighting systems, energy monitoring equipment, solar powered lights and operational staff training to encourage energy saving behaviour.



DHL E-Invoicing Cuts Emissions

In Spain, DHL Express says it saved 1,344 kg of paper and four tons of CO₂ last year through the introduction of electronic invoicing. The service, launched last year, is part of Deutsche Post DHL's global GoGreen emission reduction programme.

Pedal Power in France for DHL, TNT

DHL Express is extending use of the Triporteur zero-emission tricycle to deliveries in a fourth French city, Rennes, while TNT is introducing the tricycle to an 11th city in the country, Nice.

DHL has signed an agreement with Formule Courses to make small parcel deliveries by tricycle in Rennes city centre. It says its use of the tricycle saves 2,600 litres of fuel a year and reduces emissions by more than 6,600 kg.

TNT is already using the tricycle for deliveries in ten cities, including Paris, where it cooperates with the Becycle France franchise organisation, which delivers packages up to 30 kg via tricycle or electric-powered vehicles.

Swiss Post Buys 100 Gas Vehicles

Swiss Post is to purchase more than 100 additional gas-powered Fiat Ducatos parcel delivery vans to supplement its existing fleet of 140. Forty of the new vans will be based at Swiss Post's new Mägenwil distribution centre.

The company's low, emission fleet includes 250 electric scooters for letter delivery and 15 double-deck trucks with up to 30 percent more load capacity. The trucks will save more than 280,000 litres of diesel a year, and 13 more are on order for delivery this autumn.

By 2012, Swiss Post plans to reduce its CO₂ emissions by ten percent compared with 2007. That target includes its passenger transport operation, PostBus, which has commissioned a hybrid vehicle for long-term test.

PostBus has already introduced gas-powered vehicles; it has fitted 400 buses with soot particle filters and has 107 vehicles which comply with the international EEV standard.

Posti Turns Postal Waste into Fashion

Itella is helping to convert used mail bags and Posti uniforms into fashion goods through cooperation with Glope Hope, a Finnish company dedicated to creating clothing and accessories from materials that no longer serve their original purpose.

Glope Hope has sewn plastic mail bags into shopping bags, penholders and pouches and has used Posti shirt and jacket cloth to line purses and laptop sleeves. The products went on sale at the beginning of May.

Itella's environmental programme includes its carbon-neutral Itella Green shipments and a variety of initiatives for the company to reduce its own carbon emissions. Its goal is to cut its CO₂ emissions by 30 percent by 2020 compared with 2007 levels.



ECO-Start Sprinters Set to Save Fuel

Parcelforce Worldwide, the UK parcels operation within Royal Mail Group, is purchasing more than 1,000 Mercedes-Benz Sprinter vans.

The vans are fitted with the ECO-Start system, which cuts the engine when the vehicle is stationary for two seconds and starts it again when the driver depresses the clutch.

Parcelforce Worldwide expects the vehicles to achieve a fuel saving of around five percent.

FSC Paper for P&T Luxembourg



P&T Luxembourg has changed its “post envelopes” to be more environmentally friendly. Since the beginning of May, the envelopes have been printed on FSC paper as part of a wider initiative by P&T to use only recycled or FSC labelled paper.

De Post/La Poste Fits More Solar Panels

De Post/La Poste has installed more solar energy panels as part of its objective to reduce CO₂ emissions 35 percent compared with 2007 levels by 2012.

It has fitted 530 solar panels at its Sint-Nicklaas post office to provide 91,563 kWh of electricity a year towards the building’s total annual energy consumption of 296,351 kWh.

In Ghent where solar panels were installed at the sorting centre in March, the post office is also being fitted with 296 solar panels to provide about eleven percent of the building’s energy consumption.



CTT Correios Offers Eco-Products

CTT Correios of Portugal has launched an integrated range of eco-products for direct mailers and consumers.

It is offering business customers three direct marketing products under the name ECO line, which can be applied to direct mail, unaddressed mail and CTT's GeoContacto product.

Direct mailers setting up campaigns that comply with minimum ECO line environmental standards can display a symbol of ecological merit on their mailings.

CTT's consumer range, *Correio Verde*, includes envelopes and pre-paid postage boxes made from recycled paper and card and using less ink.

Correios has replaced the bubble wrap its used previously to protect contents with waste paper padding. *Correio Verde* products can be reused by means of a self-adhesive label. They are carbon-neutral and any CO₂ involved in their production is offset through reforestation projects.

Correos Turns Recycled Materials into Trees

Correos of Spain is continuing with its programme to fund new forest planting from the sale of its packaging made from recycled materials.

To date, under the Green Line programme, Correos has paid for reforestation of 914,000 sq metres of mountain and the planting of 47,000 trees in six areas of Spain. The public has contributed more than EUR 195,000 through their purchase of eco-friendly packaging materials.

Correos said its Green Line programme serves two purposes: to mitigate the environmental impact of postal operations and to make society aware that small, individual decisions such as choosing environmentally friendly packaging can have a significant impact on the environment.

UPU Studies Postal Carbon Offset Scheme

The Universal Postal Union is conducting a feasibility study into establishing a CO₂ offset system that would enable postal operators to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions.

The Postal Operations Council heard initial proposals for a voluntary fund at its meeting in April and the final study is due to go before the Council of Administration in November.

"Using carbon trading for sustainable development means investing and managing in a clear and accountable way, driving economic and social development and stimulating the activity of local postal operators," said Stéphanie Scoupe, assistant to the project group's chairman.



Europe
Americas
Asia-Pacific

Green Issue 8 | 03 June 2010

print | next

Americas

US Postal Services Lays Out its Successes

During 2009, the United States Postal Service reduced the total energy used by its buildings and vehicles by nine percent and increased its use of alternative fuels by 26 percent.

These figures are contained in the Postal Service's 2009 annual report on sustainability performance in which Postmaster General, John E. Potter credits postal employees with the agency's environmental achievements.

During last year, employees reduced the amount of municipal solid waste they generated by seven percent and increased the amount of recycled or reused electronics by 73 percent. Online transactions rose by thirteen percent, meaning that customers made fewer trips to post offices, saving on fuel and carbon emissions.

The Postal Service has won more than 75 environmental awards, including 40 "White House Closing the Circle Awards".

Highlights listed in the 2009 sustainability report include a 10.8 trillion reduction in British thermal units (Btu) of thermal energy since 2005; savings of USD 400 million in energy costs since 2007; savings of USD 314 million from reduced use of fuel and contracted transportation and 10 million fewer sheets of paper used as a result of online initiatives by the human resources team.

For Earth Day on April 17, the Postal Service unveiled its green newsroom, which provides journalists with a one-stop shop for information on its environmental measures including energy saving vehicles and buildings, and green products and services.

FedEx Seeks Engagement with EarthSmart

FedEx has released its 2009 citizenship report and unveiled EarthSmart, the next stage in its sustainability programme.

EarthSmart provides a more formal structure through which to engage stakeholders with the company's environmental goals. It covers three pillars: business solutions, workplace culture and community outreach.

The citizenship report demonstrates the company's progress toward reaching its goals. Highlights during 2009 include an 8.33 percent reduction in aircraft emissions against a 2005 baseline; the ultimate goal is for a 20 percent intensity decrease.

The company has improved vehicle fuel efficiency by 14.1 percent since 2005 and is now more than half way towards its goal of a 20 percent reduction in ground fleet efficiency by 2020.

In March, FedEx announced the expansion of its alternative energy vehicle fleet with the purchase for trials of four purpose-built electric trucks. The company is evaluating the robustness of the vehicles' technology for express deliveries in Los Angeles.

By the end of June FedEx will have 1,869 alternative energy road vehicles worldwide.



Europe
Americas
Asia-Pacific

Green Issue 8 | 03 June 2010

print | next

Local Eco-Projects Involve Employees

FedEx has selected the six local projects in the United States that it is supporting this year.

The company works with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to select projects in urban areas that present environmental challenges. Its employees contribute a day of service to their local projects, helping to clean up the Los Angeles River, plant trees, build a green roof, convert a condemned nursery and develop an outdoor living classroom.

FedEx contributes between USD 25,000 and USD 50,000 to each project through NFWF's Five Star Restoration Program and the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

FedEx Helping to Save the Panda

Environmental projects in China, helping in the survival of the giant panda, are being supported by FedEx Corp to the tune of USD 600,000.

The company is working with Conservation International on ten community conservation projects in Sichuan Province, including reforestation following a major earthquake in 2008.

FedEx intends to empower its local employees to share the importance of a balanced ecosystem with their community.

SMEs Take Green Products to Europe

A group of small to medium-sized companies in America visited Europe in April, showcasing their innovative, environmentally friendly products and services.

The 25 businesses were on a trade mission under the United States Government's initiative to double exports overall within five years. The trip was organised by FedEx, which has a contract from the US Commercial Service to continue its efforts to boost exports by US businesses.

"Our overarching goal at FedEx is to help connect the world in environmentally responsible and resourceful ways so it follows that we would also make it easier for companies to access new markets with their green products and services," said Mitch Jackson, vice president environmental affairs/sustainability at FedEx Corp.

UPS Hybrids Generate Their Own Electricity

UPS has introduced 200 next-generation hybrid electric delivery trucks to operations in eight US cities to join roughly 20,000 low-emission and alternative-fuel vehicles already in operation.

The new hybrid power system uses a conventional diesel engine combined with a battery pack. The vehicles have regenerative braking - the energy generated from applying the brakes is captured and returned to the battery as electricity.

The company believes the new vehicles can yield up to 35 percent fuel savings compared with conventional diesel engines, reducing CO₂ emissions by 1,786 tonnes.





Europe
Americas
Asia-Pacific

Green Issue 8 | 03 June 2010

print | next

Green Pick-up Costs USD10

UPS is offering small and medium-sized businesses in the United States that don't need a parcel collection every day are being offered a "green" pick-up option for a flat rate of USD 10 a week.

UPS Smart Pickup leverages the company's online shipping systems to trigger a collection when the customer processes a package for shipment, thus eliminating the need to call at the customer's premises every day.

UPS calculates that its smart pick-up option will reduce its total number of miles travelled by eight million a year, saving an estimated 793,000 gallons of fuel and 7,800 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

UPS Checks Packaging for Eco Value

UPS is offering to assess its customers' shipping packaging against environmental standards.

Its Eco Responsible Packaging Program covers three elements: damage prevention, right-sizing and the materials used. It scores the results and allows customers who meet its requirements to display the programme's logo on their outer packaging.

The programme is conducted by the UPS Package Engineering Group. The company says it is providing a service designed to share best practice and help customers "green up" their supply chain.



Europe
Americas
Asia-Pacific

Green Issue 8 | 03 June 2010

print | next

Asia-Pacific

Energy Audit Identifies 10% Savings

Australia Post is introducing energy efficiency measures at more than 100 of its sites following a series of energy audits.

The efficiency programme will reduce the company's carbon emissions by ten percent a year while delivering significant cost savings.

The opportunities identified by the audit include replacing existing lighting with induction lamps and new-technology fluorescent lights; installing skylights to increase natural light; using motion detectors, timers and light sensors to control lighting; and upgrading heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Australia Post is carrying out more energy audits to identify additional cost-effective opportunities to reduce its carbon footprint. It is developing an energy efficiency standard for all new buildings and upgrades to minimise future emissions.

The impacts of energy and carbon emissions are now considered in all business decision-making processes.

DHL Achieves 19% CO₂ Efficiency Increase

DHL Express improved its CO₂ efficiency by 19 percent in 2009, reducing its emissions by nine percent.

The first results from the company's carbon footprint assessment and abatement programme reveal that it removed 13 million kilograms of CO₂ emissions from its operations in Asia-Pacific, saving EUR 10 million in energy and fuel costs.

The assessment covered 27 markets across Asia-Pacific. India produced one of the best scores, cutting out 1.7 million kilograms of CO₂ emissions across some 150 operational sites.

That achievement represented a 40 percent year-on-year reduction in ground transport emissions.

Fleet optimisation was a key target for emission improvement in India last year. DHL replaced more than 60 delivery vehicles with motorbikes, and its subsidiary, Blue Dart, substituted air routes with intercity line-haul by road. Delivery optimisation measures enhanced operational efficiency.



Message from the Editor

We hope you enjoy this special issue of *IPC Market Flash*. This is the eighth edition of *Green Flash* and the second of 2010.

The purpose of the special issue is to share the many successful environmental sustainability initiatives being undertaken by IPC member posts and participants. Please highlight your post's programs by submitting your articles and photographs to: publications@ipc.be.

Valoree Vargo
Head of Communication, IPC

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