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Feature

Green Freight Europe launches for road operators



Green Freight Europe (GFE) launched in March with more than 30 founder-member companies dedicated to developing a pan-European standard for collecting, analysing and monitoring CO₂ emissions from road transport.

Green Freight Europe is the new name for SmartWay Europe. Following a first year of comparing, testing and evaluating different concepts, the European initiative officially launched on the basis of its own European methodology.

Postal companies among the founders include Austrian Post, Deutsche Post DHL, Le Groupe La Poste, PostNL and Swiss Post.

At the launch, John Acton, vice president of Le Groupe La Poste's holding company GeoPost, said Green Freight Europe was a good way to have more accurate figures on transport CO₂ emissions. "This is especially true for the subcontracted part which represents around 70% of our parcels' shipping," he said.

The programme aims to drive reductions of carbon emissions by establishing a platform for monitoring and reporting on carbon emissions; promoting collaboration between carriers and shippers, and establishing a certification system to reward shippers and carriers who fully participate in the programme.

GFE also aims to provide a platform for companies to share best practice, promote innovation and communicate sustainability improvements on European road freight.

It claims to foster cooperation with other related initiatives, programmes and working groups worldwide.

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Canada Post reports further emissions reduction

Canada Post reduced carbon emissions from its vehicle fleet by 4.5% in 2011 bringing the total reduction based on 2008 levels to 12.6%.

The figures were published on 01 June in the corporation's fifth Social Responsibility Report. The report noted that Canada Post will continue replacing about 2,400 vehicles with new, fuel-efficient, light vehicles and expanding its use of alternative fuels. Currently the fleet operates 10 natural-gas, 14 electric, 23 hybrid and 123 propane vehicles.

The report also noted that the frequency of injury at work declined by 4.6% in 2011 to 6.2 incidents per 100 full-time employees.

In 2011 Canada Post was chosen as one of Canada's best diversity employers, exceeding the Canadian Labour Market Availability (CLMA) for representation of women.



USPS tells of green successes

The United States Postal Service used the occasion of Earth Day on 22 April to highlight its environmental achievements.

In fiscal year 2011 the Postal Service said it saved more than US\$55m (€44m) by reducing energy, water, use of consumables and the amount of solid waste sent to landfill. The organisation also recycled 215,000 tons of material which generated US\$24m (€19m) in new revenue.

FedEx outlines its idea of practical environmentalism

FedEx Corp's staff vice president of environmental affairs and sustainability, Mitch Jackson, explained the company's philosophy of practical environmentalism to a Senate subcommittee in May.

He told the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, Subcommittee on Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility that environmental action should be economically viable and aligned with core strategic business objectives. Corporate environmental action should furthermore remain responsible to the communities in which the company operates and should involve and motivate team members.

The subcommittee was hearing testimony from corporations on voluntary corporate environmental responsibility efforts and their long-term value.

Carbon-neutral document shipment

FedEx Express has introduced carbon-neutral shipment for documents packed in the FedEx Envelope at no additional cost to shippers.

The company will calculate the annual tonnage of carbon dioxide released through the shipment of FedEx Envelopes and purchase carbon offsets from the not-for-profit BP Target Neutral.

FedEx trials all-electric Newton Step Van

The all-electric Newton Step Van launched by Smith Electric Vehicles Corp in March will be deployed by FedEx Express this year in selected United States markets.

The zero-emission van based on the Newton platform has a walk-in body, gross vehicle weights from 14,000 to 26,000 pounds and a range of 100 miles on a single charge.

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GeoPost raises employees' green awareness

During Sustainable Development Week, an initiative accredited by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) for a fourth consecutive year, Le Groupe La Poste's GeoPost concentrated on raising awareness of green issues among employees and on sharing good practice.

In raising awareness, GeoPost developed three themes for the week running from 01 to 07 April: the company's Total Zero CO₂ emissions offsetting for parcel transportation at no additional cost to customers; responsible paper use from the design of publicity material to choice of paper, and responsible consumption in corporate purchasing.

The company produced a communications document for all its subsidiaries offering them the opportunity to adapt the awareness-raising information provided to meet local needs.

PostNord reduces emissions by 7% in 2011

PostNord has reported a 7% reduction (compared to 2009) in group-wide CO₂ emissions in 2011 to a total of 340,187 tonnes.

The group's overall objective is to reduce its carbon emissions by 40% based on 2009 figures by 2020. It attributes progress so far to greater fuel efficiency in transport operations and a switch to lower-fuel-consumption vehicles. In Denmark PostNord is blending biofuels with diesel and gasoline to help reduce CO₂ emissions.

Initiatives for buildings include the purchase of green electricity and increased energy efficiency.

PostNord's Climate Fund, introduced in 2009, earmarks funds each year for environmental initiatives. This sum corresponds to the cost of offsetting carbon emissions for the previous year. All initiatives are based on employee suggestions. Since 2009, 70 initiatives have been approved and implemented group-wide.

Post Danmark said it had reduced its electricity and heat consumption by 20% in four weeks on account of its Green Behaviour (Grøn Adfærd) campaign focusing on changing employees' energy use behaviour at work and at home.

Local climate ambassadors are keeping up momentum by continuously measuring electricity and heat consumption and organising competitions among employees.



CTT gains benchmark status in eco-categories

CTT Correios of Portugal undertook a range of environmental actions in 2011, gaining benchmark status in three categories of the Business Council for Sustainable Development CSR country rating.

The company participated in the 2011 Business Council for Sustainable Development CSR country rating, gaining first place in the service sector and third place overall among 51 Portuguese companies. It gained benchmark status in three categories: energy and climate; biodiversity and ecosystems, and production and sustainable consumption.

CTT Correios said it reduced its CO₂ emissions by 2,317 tonnes in 2011 and reduced the average age of its light commercial vehicle fleet to 3.2 years.

Last year CTT Correios replaced 489 light utility vehicles and 30 heavy-duty vehicles in its 3,200-strong fleet, introducing new, Euro 5-standard heavy-duty vehicles. It also optimised vehicle routes to achieve an overall 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from fuel in 2011 compared with the previous year.

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In buildings CTT Correios expanded ISO 14001 certified systems to all its sorting centres, purchased green electricity and replaced the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at its sorting centres in Lisbon and Oporto.

A group of CTT Correios employees again volunteered to take part in a company programme to help protect a rare, endangered Portuguese plant species, *Leuzea longifolia*, by removing weeds and identifying the plant in a one-hectare field.

An Post trials electric Kangoo Z.E. minivan

An Post, Ireland, is working with Renault to trial the Renault Kangoo Z.E. electric Postvan on city routes in Dublin, Cork and Galway over 12 months.

The like-for-like study will compare the energy/fuel efficiency, maintenance costs and overall performance of the Renault Kangoo Z.E minivan with its diesel counterpart. The electric vehicle will be tested on a variety of mail collection and delivery routes. Each vehicle's energy usage and overall running costs will be monitored alongside the diesel model.



Chronopost takes a look at Goupil G5 and Kangoo Z.E.

Chronopost Portugal has tested the G5 model of the hybrid Goupil for one week and the all-electric Renault Kangoo Z.E. for two weeks.

The Goupil G5 can operate as an electric or hybrid electric-petrol vehicle. Chronopost said its low speed made it more

suitable for short-distance and door-to-door deliveries in high-density urban areas.

The Kangoo's travelling speed allowed for normal delivery patterns but its limitations were load capacity and its range of 120km.

Chronopost is studying the impact of introducing the two vehicles on its routes and is awaiting financial information. The company has already put the Chronocity electric vehicle into operation, collecting and delivering documents and small parcels in restricted traffic areas of town centres. It continues to monitor the market for electric vehicles.

P&T adds Kangoo Z.E. to its fleet

P&T Luxembourg has added two new Renault Kangoo Z.E. vehicles to its fleet of electric vehicles, supplementing two Peugeot iOn cars and electric bicycles and tricycles already in operation. The company is installing charging points for electric vehicles in one of its buildings in Luxembourg.

The electricity powering P&T's vehicles—and used by the company as a whole—derives from either wind or hydro-energy.

In April this year P&T received the Public Sector Green Award for a new Gold-certified building in Luxembourg constructed for its subsidiary, Editus.

DHL transports containers by rail

Freight transport specialist DHL Global Forwarding is using rail transport to carry consolidated freight containers from its transshipment facility in Bremen to the terminals of different companies in Hamburg and Bremerhaven. Previously, the containers were transported by road and the switch to rail is expected to save about 365 tonnes of CO₂ emissions a year.

Deutsche Post DHL has a target to improve the CO₂ efficiency of its own operations and those of its subcontractors by 30% by 2020 (based on 2007 as the benchmark year).

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French postal employees vote for carbon-offsetting project

French postal employees had the opportunity to choose one of the four carbon-offsetting projects being supported by Le Groupe La Poste under its initiative to provide carbon neutral transport for letters, parcels and express items in France.

The company's management chose three Gold standard projects and put selection of the fourth to an employee vote, providing a choice of five. Of the 13,000 employees voting, 62% chose a clean drinking-water project in Kenya that provides families with water filters.

The filters are said to remove the need to collect and burn wood in order to boil water, thereby reducing deforestation and CO₂ emissions from wood fires. Le Groupe La Poste said the project also removed the need for women and children to collect wood for water boiling.

DPD operates used-battery collection

DPD Latvia is working with waste management operator BAO to collect spent batteries for recycling.

DPD is collecting used batteries on behalf of BAO, whose customers include supermarkets and petrol stations. Consumers deposit used batteries in DPD-branded collection boxes, which DPD empties, storing the contents in purpose-built containers at its depot.

DPD transports the batteries from its depot to BAO's operation in Riga where they are disposed of professionally.

Swiss Post and partner win World Mail Awards

Swiss Post received the Corporate Social Responsibility award for its climate-neutral delivery of domestic letters in the World Mail Awards.

In the technology category Swiss Post's technology partner, Kyburz Ltd, won the award for its DXP scooter, an electric three-wheeler designed specifically for Swiss Post mail deliveries.

Swiss Post's fleet currently comprises about 1,500 three-wheeled DXP electric scooters and over 1,000 two-wheelers. By 2016 the whole scooter fleet is scheduled to be powered by wind-generated electricity.



Correos forestation helps earthquake area

The tree planting programme operated by Correos of Spain is reforesting a six-acre plot donated by the City of Lorca which suffered from the severe earthquake in May 2011.

The programme uses revenue from the sale of Green Line (Linea Verde) eco-friendly packaging products to fund forestation projects in Spain. The initiative in Lorca, managed by Correos's cooperation partner WWF, will help to recover semi-arid ecosystems across the area.

Another, 14-month planting project currently taking place in Tembleque, central Spain, aims to prevent erosion and create a green corridor by reforesting a five-hectare area within the zone of special protection for birds.

Posten voted top sustainable brand

PostNord's Swedish subsidiary, Posten, achieved first place in the Sustainable Brands 2012 survey of more than 8,000 Swedish consumers.

IDG Research, Relation Capital Partners and Novus Group asked consumers to rank 200 Swedish companies based on compliance with the UN Global Compact's principles for long-term sustainability.



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Itella reports on its eco-improvements

In 2011 Itella said it reduced its CO₂ emissions in Finland by 5.8%, energy consumption by 6% and normalised heat energy use by 11%. The proportion of green electricity used went up to 75% of total energy use.

It said its delivery vehicles consumed 3% less fuel than in 2010; during 2011, it switched to renewable biogas in its gas vehicles.

Itella's company cars' emission levels are now at a maximum of 160 grammes of CO₂ per km; half the car fleet has a CO₂ emission level of 130 grammes per km and 15% has a level of 110 grammes per km, the maximum for new company cars. The 110 gramme level attracts a €50 (US\$62) a month reduction from the vehicle's taxation value.

In February 2011 Itella launched carbon-neutral delivery services for domestic letters, direct mail and parcels.

The programme to expand ISO 14001 environmental certification continued with accreditations covering units in eight countries including Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as Nordic countries. Itella said that 70% of its employees now work in an ISO-accredited unit.

The company's logistics centre in Vantaa has now also been granted ISO 14001 environmental accreditation. The centre operates a waste management plan and provides practical training for all staff. In the first quarter of 2012, Posten said only 10% of waste was sent to landfill.

Cyprus Post appoints environmental officer

Cyprus Post has appointed an environmental officer to steer the organisation through its energy and fuel saving programme.

The postal operator has installed recycling bins for batteries, waste paper and plastic bags in its offices and is also recycling electrical appliances and glass. Conventional light bulbs have been replaced by low-energy bulbs and marketing material is being produced using recycled paper.

Cyprus Post is also participating in the International Post Corporation's (IPC) programme to define specifications for environmentally friendly postal vehicles and in a Universal Postal Union (UPU) programme to reduce CO₂ emissions.

PostNord expands in third-party logistics

PostNord is acquiring the Green Cargo Logistics subsidiary of Green Cargo as part of its strategy for continued growth in its logistics business.

Green Cargo Logistics operates ecological third-party logistics and has 260,000m² of storage space. Its operating profit in 2011 was SEK61m (€6.9m, US\$8.6m).

>> In Brief - Europe

Tourline gains environmental certificate

Tourline, CTT Group's express and courier company in Spain, has obtained ISO 14001 environmental accreditation having previously gained ISO 9001 quality management certification at all its logistic hubs and its 247 locations nationwide.

New DPD centre to be eco-friendly

DPD Germany is building energy-saving and environmental elements into the construction of its new parcel distribution centre in Aschaffenburg. Sorting halls will generate energy from photovoltaic equipment; the gables will be made of glass to reduce demand for electric light; air conditioning will be based on air-to-water heat pump systems and solar panels will heat service water.

Exapaq depot meets GeoPost standard

GeoPost's subsidiary Exapaq's new hub at Coudray-Montceaux in France is certified to High Quality Environmental standard thereby adhering to GeoPost environmental policy.

PostBus opens hydrogen filling station

PostBus has opened a hydrogen filling station in Brugg to supply fuel for its own vehicles which have been on trial since December 2011. The hydrogen gas is produced directly at the filling station where all the electricity needed to produce the hydrogen is generated from renewable sources.



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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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