

# Green Flash

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## Americas

### USPS reduces buildings energy by 26%

The United States Postal Service announced on 23 August that it had reduced the total energy consumed by its 33,000 buildings by 8.6 trillion BTUs since 2003, a decrease of almost 26%. In 2011 alone, the Postal Service reduced consumption by about 1 trillion BTUs, saving US\$22m (€17m) of costs.



In its Sustainability and Energy Scorecard presented to the US Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in July, the Postal Service said it had achieved 22.4 % of its 30% goal for reducing building energy intensity by fiscal year 2015. The company uses utility management and enterprise energy management systems to measure energy use and identify ways to cut costs.

It also reported that by the end of 2011 it was 16.1% of the way towards its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by financial year 2020 (2008 baseline).

For its third measure, potable water intensity, the Postal Service achieved 18.5% of its 26% reduction target for 2020 (based on 2007 figures).

Two buildings now have green roofs: The Morgan Mail Processing and Distribution Facility in New York City and the Colvin-Elmwood Post Office in Syracuse. These roofs have a 50-year lifespan and help to conserve water and energy.

The roofs are part of the Postal Service's greener facilities strategy which includes use of environmentally friendly building components, renewable materials, energy-efficient lighting and HVAC, low-volatile organic compound parts, low-water-use fixtures and solar photovoltaic systems.

The Postal Service operates almost 70 bicycle delivery routes and in 2011 eliminated more than 6,800 routes despite an increase of almost 1m in the total number of delivery addresses. Petroleum usage has dropped by 6.4% since 2005 and 41,000 Postal Service vehicles are now capable of running on ethanol, biodiesel, compressed natural gas, propane or electricity.



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## USPS a third of the way to 2020 emission goal

The United States Postal Service's fourth annual sustainability report was published in June covering achievements in 2011 and highlighting a 7.4% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions (compared with 2008). The emission reduction represented almost 985,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and put the Postal Service more than a third of the way towards its 20% reduction goal.

During 2011 more than 400 local, multi-functional Lean Green Teams made significant contributions to building energy reduction. The agency also consolidated its data centres at two locations to maximise energy efficiency.

## UPS committed to transparent reporting

UPS published its annual sustainability report in July revealing a 3.5% overall emission reduction in 2011 despite package volume growth of 1.8%.

The report gained a score of 99 out of 100 in the Carbon Disclosure Project's (CDP) Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index, attaining the highest score for Standard and Poor's 500 Industrials sector. According to CDP, high scores indicate good internal data management and understanding of climate change related issues affecting the company.

Chairman and chief executive of UPS, Scott Davis, said in the report that the company is committed to transparency on sustainability.

UPS said it avoided 85m transport miles by using advanced route planning technology thereby saving 83,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Its increasing use of telematics eliminated more than 98m minutes of engine idling time, saving 653,000 gallons of fuel.

## FedEx sets a new goal for aircraft emission efficiency

FedEx Corp has increased its global aircraft emission intensity reduction goal to 30% by 2020 from its original goal of 20%. It said in its fourth annual Global Citizenship Report that it is well on the way to achieving its target, having reduced aircraft emissions intensity by 13.8% in 2011.

The company is to source at least 30% of its jet fuel from alternative fuels by 2030. FedEx Express plans to replace all its less efficient 727s by 2015, moving to the more efficient 757. The company will continue to introduce Boeing 777F aircraft which use 18% less fuel than the MD-11s currently in the operation. The new Boeing 767 will join the fleet in 2013 contributing further to the company's revised aircraft emissions target.

In the road transport fleet, vehicle fuel efficiency improved by 16.6%. FedEx is deploying all-electric commercial vehicles in cities worldwide alongside hybrid vehicles, fuel-efficient Sprinter vans and more innovative delivery solutions such as electric-powered tricycles in Paris.

During 2011 FedEx introduced carbon-neutral envelop shipping at no additional cost to the customer via a carbon offset scheme.

The amount of recyclable waste collected increased by more than 6m tonnes year-on-year in 2011 to 47.9m tonnes.



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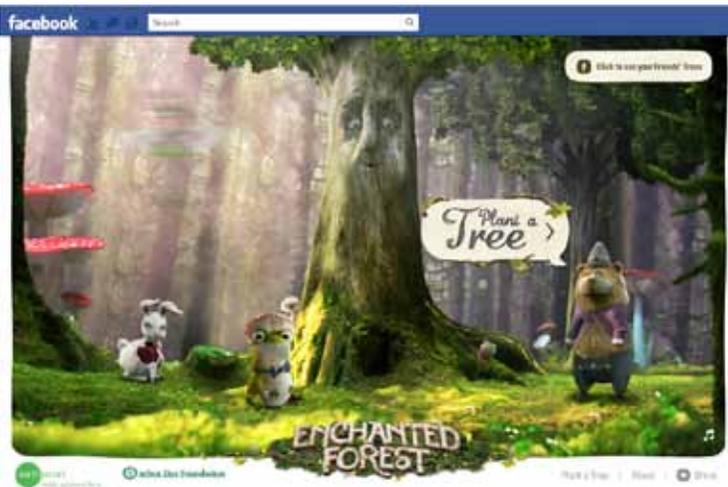
### FedEx creates an enchanted Facebook forest

FedEx Corp is reaching out to the public and its employees via an initiative on Facebook run in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation.

A virtual 'enchanted forest' created with a Facebook application invites users to plant a virtual tree and select an image of themselves to place on their tree and share with their friends.

For every virtual tree created, FedEx will donate US\$1 (€0.8) to the Arbor Day Foundation to aid replanting in areas of Texas, United States, recovering from drought and wildfires.

After planting their virtual tree, Facebook users can learn more about the FedEx EarthSmart initiative, which involves communities and its employees in volunteer activities such as tree-planting and litter removal.



### UPS buys more Reach vans for high-mileage routes

UPS has ordered an additional 150 plastic-body walk-in delivery vans following a year-long trial with five vehicles in western USA.

The Reach vans from Utilimaster are due to be delivered by the end of 2012 for deployment on high-mileage routes.

UPS said it achieved a 40% increase in fuel efficiency in its trial, owing to the vehicle's 10% lower weight, its advanced power train technology and aerodynamic design. The walk-in van is claimed to be more manoeuvrable, to provide greater access and to be almost 500kg lighter than comparable vehicles.



## Asia Pacific

### New Zealand Post exceeds its carbon reduction target Significant CO<sub>2</sub> improvement in DHL ground operations

New Zealand Post says it has reduced its carbon emissions by 16.1% in the past five years, exceeding its target of 12%.

It has employed reporting and measurement systems to manage its fleet's fuel consumption, improving fuel efficiency by around 10% since 2008 and generating savings of more than NS\$5.6m (€3.6m, US\$4.6m).

The purchase of a new Boeing 737-300F aircraft provided greater capacity and fuel efficiency producing a 20% better burn rate on the same route than the aircraft it replaced.

In buildings, improvements in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and lighting at 400 sites were coupled with employee engagement campaigns to 'switch off'. Together, these produced an overall 15% reduction in electricity consumption.



DHL Express improved its CO<sub>2</sub> efficiency by 21% in ground operations across Asia Pacific in 2011. The company has also won two awards in the region for carbon footprint and climate change accounting.

The CO<sub>2</sub> efficiency figure for Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 1 and 2 emissions excludes all the company's aviation emissions.

DHL mounted a region-wide GoGreen programme to optimise delivery routes, use clean fuels, consolidate facilities and optimise processes and operations. It also rolled out specific CO<sub>2</sub> reduction programmes in different markets.

In Japan, for example, a DHL project team responded to power shortages following the tsunami by implementing measures such as re-setting air conditioners at 28 degrees, switching off lights and installing LED light bulbs.

In Bangladesh, the region's highest achiever, the business invested in cleaner technology such as compressed natural gas vehicles and reduced its reliance on least energy-efficient power sources such as diesel generators. Increased operational efficiency and better route planning also made a significant contribution, according to DHL.

The awards for carbon footprint accounting and accounting for climate change were awarded to DHL Express in the Asia's Best CSR Practices Awards, organised by marketing and branding specialist CMO Asia.



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## Europe

### GeoPost subsidiaries offer carbon-neutral delivery

Le Groupe La Poste's holding company, GeoPost, launched its carbon-neutral initiative in July in a campaign entitled Total Zero.

The switch to carbon neutrality for international parcels follows parent company Le Groupe La Poste's move to make domestic letter and parcel services carbon neutral on 01 March earlier this year. The whole programme is based on carbon offsetting at no extra cost to customers.

For subsidiary DPD, the initiative applies to business and consumer parcels shipments made to global destinations from France, Germany, the Benelux countries, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. From 2013, other DPD business units in Europe will launch TotalZero in their national markets.

DPD said its TotalZero programme was achieved through triple action: measuring carbon emissions, reducing the carbon generated by DPD operations and offsetting residual CO<sub>2</sub>. DPD in Belgium has already won the Best Innovation award for its TotalZero programme at the Best in Transport

ceremony organised by Transportmedia.

In addition to TotalZero, DPD is also offering its customer a free CO<sub>2</sub> calculation of all the emissions generated by their parcel shipments via all modes of transport.

GeoPost aims to offset around 550,000 tonnes of non-avoidable CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through a partnership with French offset partner CDC Climat.

ColiPoste, Le Groupe La Poste's domestic parcels business, asked selected customers to vote for their preferred carbon offset project. They chose a reforestation initiative in Borneo operated by carbon compensation company Eco-Act. The initiative plans to restore the habitat for many species of mammals and birds and to replant tree species threatened with extinction.

### Swiss Post buys its green electricity domestically

Swiss Post now obtains all its electricity from renewable sources in Switzerland, mainly from hydroelectric power but also from wind-, solar- and biomass-based electricity suppliers.

The company has been purchasing electricity exclusively from renewable sources since 2008 but has now brought all its renewable supply sources into its own country.

### IN BRIEF

#### DPD units gain ISO 14001

DPD in the Netherlands and the Czech Republic have both gained ISO 14001 environmental management accreditation. In the Czech Republic the company retained its certificate, while in the Netherlands DPD added ISO 14001 to certification for ISO 9001.

**total zero**  
zero CO<sub>2</sub> zero cost to you




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By the end of 2016, Swiss Post plans for all its 7,500 scooters to be powered by eco-friendly electricity. The company currently has 3,500 electric scooters and tricycles and has been pilot testing two electric-powered delivery vans for the past year. The pilot test has now been expanded to a further ten vans following positive initial results.

This year Swiss Post has received about CHF1.5m (€1.2m, US\$1.6m) from the government in a redistribution of money gained from a CO<sub>2</sub> tax on fuels. The funds are being invested in climate protection projects and used for the continued operation of biogas-driven vehicles and for the purchase of 500 electric tricycles for letter delivery.

### Eco-friendly delivery for Swiss-Courier

Swiss-Courier, Swiss Post's express service, has included sustainable delivery in a relaunch of its service.

The eco-friendly deliveries are made using a combination of road, rail and bicycle transport and customers have the option to offset any residual carbon emissions at a small additional charge by means of the 'pro clima' service.

Service improvements also include track and trace and pre-delivery notification via SMS.

### bpost moves ahead with its sustainability programme

Belgium's bpost has increased its CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction target to 45% by 2020 (based on 2007 levels) having already achieved a 35% reduction.

The company has also opened a low-energy sorting centre in Thimister-Clermont and issued a set of stamps with FSC certification.

The new sorting centre is part of a programme to consolidate and modernise mail processing and logistics. According to bpost it has been designed to meet low-energy standards



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equivalent to a maximum of 45kWh per m<sup>2</sup> per year in heating and a maximum of 100kWh per m<sup>2</sup> per year in primary energy.



The centre has solar panels, skylights to let in natural light, reinforced insulation and two airlocks to reduce heat loss. The building contractor and tradespeople who worked on the construction were based locally to limit the building's environmental footprint as much as possible.

The low-energy building is part of bpost's social responsibility project launched with the support of WWF in 2009.

The new FSC-certified stamp issue comprising images of leaves is not only produced using paper derived from sustainable sources. The company is also guaranteeing that all the processes used to manufacture its stamps now conform to FSC standards.

### Post Danmark's e-bikes win innovation award

Post Danmark's electric bicycles with a flexible storage system have won the Last Mile Delivery Innovation of the Year award at POST-EXPO in Brussels.

The two-wheeled bikes with a trailer have a payload of 105kg, while the three-wheeled tricycles can transport 130kg. Both models utilise a custom-made, modular box system to store mail.

In 2011 Post Danmark deployed electric bicycles and tricycles on 900 delivery routes and the remaining 250 routes currently served by petrol-driven mopeds are due to switch soon.



### Correos develops its three-pronged eco-strategy

Correos is developing an environmental strategy focusing on three areas: reduction of energy consumption, efficient use of resources and waste management. The company is continuing to work towards a 20% reduction in its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020.



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It has developed an environmental management system and deployed it at 3,375 of its workplaces since the beginning of 2012. The system tracks electricity and fuel consumption, sharing data gathered with other units to create a 'League of Excellence' and encourage engagement by the workforce. Correos is rolling the system out to additional workplaces and raising awareness of sustainability issues.

The company aims to achieve a 7% reduction in electricity consumption this year compared with 2011 and a 6% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### P&T's Editus headquarters gains eco-certification

P&T Luxembourg's Editus subsidiary headquarters in Kayl has obtained Gold environmental certification from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen (DGNB).

The building was planned and constructed according to strict environmental, economic and social criteria, according to P&T.

### CTT transforms its vehicle fleet

CTT Correios de Portugal is engaged in transforming its buildings and vehicle fleet in order to decrease its carbon emissions and energy consumption. It said it reduced its energy consumption by 8% in the first half of 2012 compared with the same period last year.

The company is participating in an EU-funded project, FR-EVUE, to show that electric vehicles undertaking last-mile deliveries in urban centres can achieve significant carbon reduction.

It has committed to deploying about 12 electric vehicles on pick-up and delivery operations in central Lisbon. It also has a fleet of 120 less-polluting vehicles and has acquired 150 electric bicycles.



### Seur lowers emissions per package by 4.5%

GeoPost's Spanish subsidiary Seur claims to provide a benchmark for sustainable transport, lowering its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per package transported by 4.5% in 2011 through use of eco-friendly vehicles, efficient driving and fewer trips.

The company is trialling all-electric Cross Rider vehicles for small packages within the Valencia urban area, providing



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home delivery services for organic supermarket chain Herbolario Navarro. The Cross Rider has greater load capacity than Seur's current electric tricycles at about 300kg and a top speed of 50kph.

Seur outlined its sustainable fleet operation and management at the National Congress on Urban Sustainable Mobility.

Earlier in the year, it sponsored the Madrid Eco-city 2012 initiative when 21 vehicles powered by alternative fuels such as ethanol, hydrogen, electricity and solar energy competed to see which one would cover the most distance with the least energy consumption.

### UPS tests improved electric vans on steep gradients

UPS is testing three new electric vehicles in Germany under a scheme subsidised by the German Government.

The delivery vans manufactured by EFA-S are based on a prototype that has been tested in Wendlingen, near Stuttgart, since November 2010.

The new test, in Rhein-Ruhr, involves vans with technical improvements and is designed to show whether they can handle steep slopes as efficiently as traditionally powered vehicles.

One of the test vans has a new electric motor that allows it to run without a gearbox thus reducing overall vehicle noise and weight.

The vehicles have updated software to improve their power-assisted steering. A crash sensor shuts down the on-board high-voltage system automatically and the power socket's position had been improved to facilitate loading of batteries in confined spaces.

Thomas Schlichting, UPS manager for external communication, said the Rhein-Ruhr test would help the company make electric transport more cost effective.

### Swiss Post participates in energy and climate summit

Swiss Post was a partner-contributor at the Swiss Energy and Climate Summit in Berne this month.

Dieter Bambauer, head of PostLogistics, gave a speech and the company had a stand at the Global Benchmark Exhibition which accompanied the summit.

The event brought together economists, politicians and scientists to debate energy and climate policy topics.

### IN BRIEF

#### PostBus proves fuel cell feasibility

Swiss Post's PostBus has successfully tested the company's fuel-cell drive system at higher altitudes with lower oxygen density to confirm that the emission-free vehicles are deployable throughout Switzerland. The electric vehicle is powered by a hybrid fuel cell battery system with the battery being recharged by energy created when braking.



# Green Flash



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## About this publication

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If you would like to contribute to this publication or require further information, please contact: [publications@ipc.be](mailto:publications@ipc.be).

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