

Green Flash

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EDITORIAL

**Special Africa edition of
IPC Green Flash**

Over the last years, IPC's Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System (EMMS) has extended its reach as a global postal industry carbon-reduction initiative. Especially in Africa, the programme has seen a remarkable expansion, with the addition of two new participating posts – South Africa Post Office and Nigerian Postal Service – and ongoing talks with other African posts.

To honour these significant developments, we present to you a special 'Africa edition' of the Green Flash, featuring postal sustainability projects in Africa.

Feature story
Two-day EMMS-workshop held at the Nigerian Postal Service

On 06 and 07 November more than 30 federal and regional managers of the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) attended an introductory workshop given by IPC's Manager Sustainability, Pieter Reitsma.

The workshop was held in Abuja, Nigeria and follows NIPOST's participation in the IPC Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System (EMMS). In July the Postmaster General of NIPOST, Ibrahim Mori Baba, signed up to the EMMS programme, becoming the second African post to join. Introductory workshops are given to every new EMMS-participant to explain the programme and assure consistency in answering the questionnaire and in data collection and analyses.



The workshop was attended by a high number of NIPOST managers and received great support of the Postmaster General himself. According to Reitsma, "the lively interaction and the enormous enthusiasm of the group were overwhelming and is a clear sign of Nigeria Post's full commitment to sustainability and to the EMMS programme."

■ SWISS POST HELPS TOGO GET ONLINE ■ COOKING STOVES SAVE FORESTS AND REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS ■ FRENCH POSTMEN VOTE FOR CLEANER WATER IN KENYA

Africa

Swiss Post helps Togo get online

Togo's Société des Postes has initiated a solar energy project to supply power to post offices and Swiss Post is helping with the cost. The project has been coordinated by the Head of the International Affairs and Development Cooperation departments of Swiss Post, Aimé Theubet, and the General Director of Post Togo, El Hadj Tairou Bagbiegue.

A lack of electricity in rural and semi-urban areas of Togo means that local people cannot take advantage of electronic communication and information. Post Togo's solar project aims to facilitate interconnection and give communities access to its financial services, pension payments, microcredit, money transfer, the internet and postal services.

Swiss Post's involvement is taking place within the framework of the Universal Postal Union's development cooperation. The company has already paid most of the cost of installing solar panels at one post office and plans to equip more post offices in future.

Providing a clean, renewable and practical energy source, solar panels are more environmentally friendly than generators.

Cooking stoves save forests and reduce CO₂ emissions

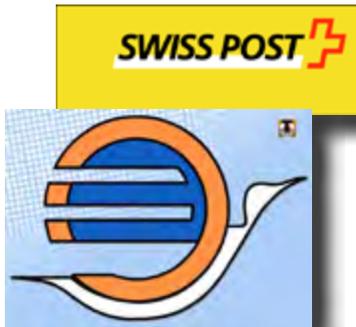
Austrian Post is offsetting the residual CO₂ emissions generated by its letters, parcels and direct mail through projects to supply efficient cooking stoves to families in Mali and Ghana, while Deutsche Post DHL has established its own Gold Standard offsetting project to supply stoves in Lesotho.

In 2011, Austrian Post decided to make its entire range of letter and parcel delivery services carbon neutral, concentrating on CO₂ emission reduction and the use of alternative energy sources to power its fleet. The emissions that cannot be eliminated are compensated for under the stove project, which is monitored and verified by TÜV Austria.

The stoves help to reduce global CO₂ emissions while protecting forests and improving the quality of life of local people. They replace cooking on open fires which contribute to deforestation and release CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere.

The stoves have ceramic liners that burn charcoal and wood up to 50% more efficiently than traditional fires and create cleaner, less smoky living conditions.

"The stoves help to reduce global CO₂ emissions while protecting forests and improving the quality of life of local people."



Families must purchase the stoves at a low price because experience has shown that attaching a notion of value to them secures long-term use.



Deutsche Post DHL's initiative in Lesotho is providing 10,000 'Save80' cooking stoves that claim to emit 80% less CO₂ than traditional cooking methods. In May 2012 the project gained official registration under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism and the Gold Standard.

The company decided to set up its own project in order to balance emissions from its GoGreen carbon-neutral deliveries with carbon credits. In 2011 the number of GoGreen shipments rose to 1.86bn and the upward trend continues.

Deutsche Post DHL runs the Lesotho climate protection project in partnership with atmosfair.

French postmen vote for cleaner water in Kenya

French postmen and women voted for one of four carbon offsetting projects supported by Le Groupe La Poste thereby bringing clean drinking water to communities in Kenya.

From 01 March 2012, Le Groupe La Poste made all its letter, parcels and express delivery services carbon neutral by

offsetting residual CO₂ emissions that could not be eliminated from its operations.

The company's management chose three carbon compensation projects established under the Kyoto Protocol, while the fourth was decided by employees from a choice of five.

The clean water project involves supplying families with filters for the treatment of contaminated water. It was favoured by 62% of the 13,000 postmen and women who voted.



The filters remove the need to boil contaminated water on wood fires and are estimated to reduce local CO₂ emissions by 2m tonnes a year on average. They also free women and children for wood-gathering and have provided jobs for 8,700 people who have been trained to distribute and maintain them.

Le Groupe La Poste is pursuing its clean water project with carbon compensation specialist EcoAct.

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Americas

USPS uses stamps to get across green messages

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is using its 'forever' stamps to convey green messages to the public. These include promoting the use of public transportation and car sharing.

The Postal Service already encourages its employees to use public transport and share rides where possible in order to help save fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The initiative is linked to the Postal Service's tracking of employee commuting as an important source of its Scope 3 indirect emissions.

During National Energy Action Month in October, the Postal Service provided the public with energy saving tips, games, resources and ideas via its website.

Through initiatives related to its own activities, the Postal Service says it has decreased its greenhouse gas emissions by 7.4% since 2008.

UPS deploys hydraulic hybrid vehicles

UPS is to deploy 40 new hydraulic hybrid vehicles (HHVs) on package delivery routes in Baltimore and Atlanta. It expects to achieve up to 35% fuel economy and up to 30% CO₂ emission reduction over traditional diesel vehicles.

The HHVs, developed by Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation and Parker Hannifin Corporation, operate on two power sources: a fuel-efficient diesel engine and an advanced-series hydraulic hybrid. Energy generated by the vehicle's continued braking action is stored in its hydraulic high-pressure accumulator. The engine turns off automatically and the vehicle is driven using stored energy.

The HHV is best suited to urban routes with frequent stops and starts. Its engine-off operation is claimed to reduce engine running by up to 90 minutes on a typical route.

Deployment of the 40 vehicles in Baltimore and Atlanta was supported in part by grants from the United States Department of Energy's Clean Cities programme.

"Our long-term goal is to minimise our dependence on foreign energy", said Mike Britt, UPS director of alternative-fuel vehicle engineering.



IN BRIEF

UPS supports volunteer month

UPS encouraged its employees to pledge 195,000 volunteer hours to making communities more sustainable during Global Volunteer Month in October. The UPS Foundation is awarding US\$2.2m (€1.7m) in grants to environmentally focused organisations in support of its forestry initiative.



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FedEx Express to install biggest solar roof top yet



FedEx Express is to install its largest rooftop solar-electric system to date at its distribution hub in Newark, New Jersey.

The company already has eight solar rooftops globally but the Newark installation will be bigger, involving 8,684 solar modules covering 3.5 acres across three buildings. When completed, the company said the roof system would generate about 2.4m kWh of electricity

and provide 15% of the hub's energy needs.

DHL Express deploys propane vehicles in the US

DHL Express USA is rolling out a fleet of 100 Ford E-250 delivery vans fuelled by propane autogas.

The new vehicles, bound for Florida, California, Georgia, Missouri and Texas, will join other propane vehicles in DHL's fleet in Ohio, Tennessee and Louisiana.

FedEx test alternative-fuel vehicles prior to launch

FedEx Express and FedEx Freight are both involved in testing alternative-fuel vehicles prior to their launch.

The FedEx Express logo and graphics featured on the e-NV200 Nissan Concept electric panel van unveiled at the Hanover commercial vehicle show in

recognition of the company's role in co-testing the vehicle in London and Yokohama.

The e-NV200 is the second of four zero-emission vehicles to be launched by Nissan. FedEx engineers began working with the company in December 2011 co-testing the prototype in real-life operations in London and more recently Yokohama.

Nissan said feedback from the tests would help it meet customer requirements before production begins during fiscal year 2013. FedEx will continue to participate in research and development for the vehicle and its related software.

The e-NV200 is a zero-emission vehicle at point of use offering quick charging, advanced telematics and high cargo volume in a compact body, according to Nissan.

Meanwhile FedEx Freight is beta testing two tractor units powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG). The pre-production engine used in the tractors is planned for limited release in 2013 and is claimed to be the only all natural gas engine capable of meeting the size and power needs of Class 8 trucks.

The LNG tractor test is part of a large-scale sustainability initiative by FedEx Freight to integrate responsible environmental practices into operations.

USPS expands phone recycling scheme

The United States Postal Service has expanded its recycling programme for old mobile phones and small electronic devices to 31,000 retail locations.

The scheme, operated with electronics recycling company MaxBack, offers consumers money in return for certain old devices and recycles those with no value. The Postal Service supplies free mail-back recycling envelopes at its participating locations.



Asia Pacific

NZ Post supports social innovation

New Zealand Post sponsored the Social Innovation Award in the 2012 NZI National Sustainable Business Network Awards announced on 22 November 2012.

The Social Innovation Award is open to outstanding social enterprises, innovations or businesses that use new strategies and ideas to meet social needs of all kinds. It was presented to Te Whangai, an organisation that provides young unemployed people with the opportunity to work in a plant nursery.



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Europe

Le Groupe La Poste launches a waste paper collection scheme

Le Groupe La Poste, France, has launched an innovative service using postmen and -women to collect waste paper from small businesses for recycling.

It has signed a partnership agreement with Revipap, the trade association representing the French paper and cardboard recycling industry. Le Groupe La Poste will supply recycling companies registering with its service with paper and board and Revipap will guarantee the purchase and recycling of all the paper volume that La Poste collects.

The partners have pledged to increase the amount of office paper that is recycled in France by more than 200,000 tonnes by 2015.

Le Groupe La Poste said that only 40% of office paper in France is recycled even though recycling companies are experiencing difficulty in obtaining supplies. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) recycle least because collecting from them is difficult.

The new service offers SMEs local collection and sorting of waste paper for recycling throughout France. Postmen and

-women collect the paper when they deliver or collect the mail, offering companies responsible disposal without incurring any additional CO₂ emissions in transporting it.

Le Groupe La Poste said it was charging SMEs a 'reasonable price' for its new service, for example, €810 (US\$1,047) a year for a company with 30 employees.

An Post uses Six Sigma to tackle energy consumption

An Post is employing Lean Six Sigma techniques to find out why its Athlone Mail Centre consumes up to 25% more energy than any other centre of a similar size in the network.

It identified the high consumption level at Athlone through its energy use tracking. Using Six Sigma it is adopting a three-pronged approach: analysing Athlone Mail Centre's energy requirements and why its consumption is above other centres; developing a plan to align Athlone with other centres, and taking action to reduce consumption at Athlone by at least 5%.

Legislation in Ireland requires An Post to reduce its energy use by 33% before 2020; however, the company said its energy costs were rising each year and could be 10% higher in 2013.

IN BRIEF

Swiss bike rental scheme from 100 locations

The 100th PubliBike bicycle sharing location in Switzerland was inaugurated in Berne in October. The self-service bike rental scheme allows passengers to cycle the 'final mile' between a PostBus or rail journey and their destination.



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WWF and bpost continue their partnership

WWF and bpost have renewed their partnership which is designed to support WWF's nature conservation projects and reduce bpost's environmental impact.

The partnership was first formed in 2009 when bpost agreed to reduce its CO₂ emissions and paper consumption as environmental priorities. WWF provides ideas and advice on good practice, helping bpost reduce its impact and raise awareness among its 30,000 employees and 10m customers.

bpost has reduced its CO₂ emissions by 35% since 2007 and its energy consumption by 15% since 2005. In September 2012 the company became the first European postal operator to issue stamps produced from sustainable forests and certified FSC (Forest Stewardship Council).

Deutsche Post to trial a custom-designed electric vehicle

Deutsche Post DHL is to deploy 50 pilot Streetscooter electric mail and parcel delivery vehicles in 2013 following the production of a prototype that meets its safety and load capacity requirements.

The vehicle has been conceived specifically for Deutsche Post which has completed a year-long development programme

with Streetscooter GmbH and institutes of the RWTH Aachen University. The next phase is pilot testing in 2013.

The vehicle is designed primarily for deliveries in rural areas. It must be able to handle 200 stops and starts and be in service for 300 days a year.

The prototype can reach speeds up to 85km/h, has a 4.6 meter long body, a 30 kW induction motor powered by a lithium-ion battery and a maximum battery range of 120km.

PostNL Parcels subcontractor goes green

One of PostNL's parcel delivery firms, Roorda Transport Services, is operating in Leeuwarden using vans fuelled by carbon-neutral Greengas (biogas) in a public-private partnership with OrangeGas, the municipality of Leeuwarden and PostNL Parcels.

Roorda Transport Services is the first firm to achieve sustainable delivery in PostNL Parcel's national programme to promote sustainability among its independent delivery companies. About 80% of PostNL Parcels' transport activity is carried out by subcontractors.

In 2011 Roorda purchased four Greengas-driven vehicles in partnership with OrangeGas which operates Greengas refuelling points, including a network of 12 refuelling stations

IN BRIEF

Deutsche Post DHL acts on aviation fuel

Deutsche Post DHL is a founding member of the Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy in Germany (aireg e.V.) which announced in September a target to include 10% of biofuels in domestically consumed jet fuel by 2025.



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IN BRIEF

TNT Express Middle East scores high

TNT Express has scored 87 points out of 100 in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index 2012 for its operations in the Middle East. It achieved 100% for its fuel efficiency, environmental policy/management system and human capital development.

in Leeuwarden and the rest of Friesland province.

The municipality of Leeuwarden will make a grant of €1,000 (US\$1,293) for every vehicle that shows it is operating successfully.

ColiPoste customers vote for reforestation

ColiPoste invited around 15 of its customers to vote for the carbon offsetting project used to meet the company's pledge of carbon-neutral parcel delivery.

The winning project provides reforestation on the island of Borneo. With the support of carbon compensation company EcoAct, ColiPoste will regenerate the tropical forest to provide a habitat for mammals and birds and reintroduce species of trees threatened with extinction.

In March 2012, all ColiPoste parcel deliveries became carbon neutral and in July all express services delivered in France and internationally joined the scheme.

Carbon-free bikes ease delivery in Ljubljana

DPD Slovenia is playing its part in the company's Total Zero carbon-neutral shipment programme by delivering parcels in the centre of Ljubljana by electric-powered bicycles. Parcels are brought to the city centre by van and handed over to cyclists for final delivery.

The idea of using bicycles arose from restrictions in the centre of Ljubljana that limit vehicle deliveries to between 6AM and 9.30AM.

GLS adds eco features to Sehlem depot

Royal Mail's European parcels subsidiary, GLS, has consolidated its depots in Koblenz and Saarbrücken, Germany, at a new location in Sehlem where it has renovated an existing hub using environmentally friendly features.

Electricity for the Sehlem depot is generated by a photovoltaic system and a portable heater provides working temperatures in the sorting hall during winter.

IN BRIEF

DPD Russia switches to methane

DPD Russia has started to replace its fleet with vehicles running on methane to reduce its CO2 emissions by 25%. The company said the fleet migration to methane would bring about substantial savings because methane costs less than diesel.



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About this publication

IPC Green Flash is a quarterly special edition in the Market Flash series. The purpose of the special edition is to share the many successful environmental sustainability initiatives being undertaken by IPC member posts and participants.

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

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