International Post Corporation

In the "Pays noir", Bpost goes green: an Ecozone in the heart of Charleroi and a new carbon-neutral distribution centre

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The city centre (postcode 6000) is becoming an Ecozone. All regular mail carrier rounds are now carried out using electric vehicles. This enables Bpost to respond to the growth in parcel volumes while reducing its environmental footprint. At the same time, Bpost continues to modernise its operations in the Charleroi region. Since September, distribution activities have been consolidated in a new distribution centre that is larger, more modern and fully carbon-neutral.

An Ecozone for a more breathable city centre

In addition to this new centre, Bpost is rolling out its Ecozone concept in the centre of Charleroi.

In practical terms, mail carriers in the city centre (within the ring road) carry out their rounds using electric vans or cargo bikes. A dense network of 3 Bbox parcel lockers, 1 post office, 3 parcel points and 1 nearby postal point complements the Ecozone.

The results observed in other cities are significant: an average reduction of 85% in COâ,, emissions and a 38% lower social costs for road damage, noise pollution and congestion..

For residents of Charleroi’s city centre, this means fewer combustion-engine vans, less congestion and quieter streets. Charleroi therefore joins the list of Ecozones already launched by the company in partnership with local authorities.

A building designed for the future

Mail carriers operating within the Ecozone depart from a new Charleroi Mail site. This new building replaces several older locations. It has gradually brought together the teams from Charleroi, Jumet, Gilly and Courcelles on a single infrastructure to improve operational efficiency and working conditions.

With a total surface area of 6,350 m^2, the centre features:

- 5 truck loading docks
- 488 parking spaces
- 100 charging stations
- a large covered loading area
- a washing area

- optimised logistics areas for preparing delivery rounds

This organisation makes it possible to better absorb the continuous growth in parcel volumes driven by e-commerce while simplifying day-to-day operations.

A 100% carbon-neutral centre
The building has been designed according to high environmental standards and operates without the use of fossil fuels.

Key sustainability features include heat pumps for heating and cooling, photovoltaic panels for on-site electricity production, a green roof, smart automatically regulated LED lighting, rainwater recovery and infiltration systems, and charging infrastructure for the electric fleet.

The local fleet has also been largely electrified: 75% of vehicles are now electric.

Source: bnode

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