

# From SAF to solar: DHL's bold steps toward net-zero by 2050

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Bonn - DHL Group enters 2026 with strong momentum in its global decarbonization journey. In 2025, the company advanced several key levers of its sustainability strategy, from scaling sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) to electrifying last-mile delivery and building solar-powered infrastructure. These achievements mark meaningful progress toward DHL's goal of net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and reinforce its role in building more sustainable, efficient, and resilient global trade. Here are five milestones that defined this progress.

**Advancing sustainable aviation: Largest SAF agreement in the U.S.**

Air freight remains the most carbon-intensive mode of transport per ton-kilometer, and DHL has been a pioneer in adopting SAF since 2021. In 2025, DHL signed one of its largest-ever SAF agreements with Phillips 66: over 240,000 metric tons (approximately 314 million liters) of SAF over three years. This will reduce lifecycle emissions by approximately 737,000

metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e - about the same impact as 2,400 one-way flights from Los Angeles to Frankfurt. The fuel, produced in California, will primarily serve DHL's West Coast operations.

**Cutting emissions at sea: Partnership with CMA CGM**

Ocean freight moves most global goods, making sustainable marine fuel (SMF) critical for reducing emissions. DHL and CMA CGM partnered to purchase 8,800 metric tons of UCOME second-generation biofuel, enabling an estimated 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions reduction on a well-to-wake basis (covering the full lifecycle of fuel emissions). That is roughly equivalent to powering a large container ship for several days of operation. This collaboration demonstrates a significant step for low-carbon maritime transport.

**Hydrogen on the horizon: First pilot in the Middle East**

Hydrogen-powered trucks are emerging as a

solution for decarbonizing long-haul logistics, providing longer range than electric trucks. DHL has been actively testing hydrogen trucks in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific, and will now introduce them in the Middle East. Last year, DHL signed an MoU with Hyperview in Saudi Arabia to pilot hydrogen-powered trucks. The project aligns with Saudi Vision 2030 and includes a feasibility study for hydrogen infrastructure, reinforcing DHL's commitment to reduce logistics-related greenhouse gas emissions in emerging markets.

#### Fully electric delivery across Germany

DHL aims to electrify 66% of its last-mile fleet - the final step of getting a shipment to the end customer - by 2030, with Germany leading the charge. In 2025, the company announced one of its largest electric-vehicle purchases: 2,400 new Ford electric vans for its Post & Parcel Germany division, the majority of which have already been delivered and are in operation. This

milestone means that one-third of all German postcodes will benefit from zero-GHG-emission last-mile delivery, powered by a fleet of more than 35,000 electric vehicles, including e-trikes, e-vans, and e-bikes.

#### Solar-powered warehousing in Asia

Beyond operational carbon neutrality, DHL is exploring facilities that produce or source renewable energy on-site, combining sustainability with energy self-sufficiency. In Thailand last year, DHL launched a solar-powered warehouse expected to generate 100% of its energy on-site through a 4.2 MWp solar array and advanced battery storage. This facility eliminates reliance on fossil-based grid electricity and sets a blueprint for future logistics infrastructure worldwide.

Source: [DHL Group](#)

# Half a million gifts to be returned on ‘Takeback Tuesday’: Royal Mail prepares for surge with rollout of lockers, shops and parcel postboxes

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Royal Mail is reminding customers of new, more convenient ways to return parcels ahead of Takeback Tuesday – the busiest day of the year for sending back online purchases following the busy Christmas shopping season.

Royal Mail data shows returns are expected to rise by around 25 per cent this week, with Tuesday set to be the peak day as shoppers send back an expected half a million items bought in the run-up to Christmas.

This year marks the first returns season where customers can take advantage of several convenient new ways designed to make dropping off parcels with Royal Mail easier than ever. These include:

**Proof of postage at postboxes:** Customers can now drop off parcels that fit in any of the 115,000 postboxes – located within half a mile of 85 per cent of UK addresses – and request proof of postage using the Royal Mail app.

**Postboxes of the future:** Royal Mail is rolling out 3,500 postboxes of the future across the UK to allow customers to easily return larger parcels. These solar-powered postboxes feature built-in digital scanners, removing the need to access the app to obtain proof of postage.

**Royal Mail Shop outlets:** More than 8,000 convenience stores across the UK have become Royal Mail Shop outlets, enabling customers to drop off parcels and purchase Royal Mail postage at more locations and longer opening hours.

**Parcel lockers:** More than 2,600 parcel lockers are now available in high-footfall locations such as Sainsbury’s stores and other major retailers, offering customers a secure self-service returns option. Customers can also continue to return parcels at any of the Post Office’s 11,500 branches, Royal Mail’s 1,200 Customer Service Points and 1,400 parcel postboxes — or choose to have their postie collect returns from home using the Parcel Collect service.

To find your nearest Royal Mail drop off point visit: [Services Near You](#) | Royal Mail Group Ltd

Ricky McAulay, UK Operations Director at Royal Mail, said: “We know customers want returns to be quick, simple and on their terms. That’s why Royal Mail has expanded

the ways people can drop off parcels — from proof of postage at any postbox to thousands of new Royal Mail Shop outlets and parcel lockers across the UK. Whether you prefer to hand it to your postie at your

doorstep or drop it off whilst going to work or doing some shopping, Royal Mail is making returns more convenient than ever.”

Source: [International Distribution Service](#)

