

DPD first parcel carrier to offer free carbon neutral shipping

Europe-wide investment of Euro 5 million a year to fund carbon offsetting

From July 2012 DPD will become the first express parcel carrier to provide its customers with free carbon neutral shipping. Through DPD's Total Zero commitment, customers will be able to send carbon neutral parcels of all weights, sizes and types all over the world, at no extra cost to them.

The Total Zero principle, which will apply in DPD's five biggest markets - France, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands and BeLux, will be achieved through a three step process.

Firstly, by measuring its carbon footprint over the last few years DPD has developed a detailed understanding of its emissions and the company constantly seeks ways to reduce the CO₂ it produces.

Second, reductions are then achieved through a series of 'insetting' measures which currently include:

- only sending parcels by road within Europe (which produces eight times less CO₂ than if sent by air express services) meaning that DPD generates significantly less carbon than its competitors;
- regular route optimisation exercises and eco-driver training for delivery drivers to ensure that collections and deliveries are made in the most fuel-efficient manner;
- the launch of DPD's unique one-hour delivery window service, Predict, which has increased first-time delivery success rates by 10 per cent, reducing fleet mileage and the need for repeated delivery attempts to home addresses;
- the use of the UK's largest fleet of double deck trailers which can hold triple the volume of single deck vehicles;
- initiatives such as sensor-activated lighting, to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

Finally, for the non-avoidable CO₂ produced, DPD will offset the emissions, at no cost to customers, through carbon reduction

projects. DPD's parent company GeoPost has partnered with carbon market specialist, CDC Climat, to manage its offsetting work. GeoPost will make a Europe-wide investment of around Euro 5 million a year to fund carbon offsetting projects in the developing world as well as local schemes in Europe.

Dwain McDonald, DPD's CEO commented, "By its very nature, parcel delivery is a highly carbon intensive industry. At DPD we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and we are committed to reducing the impact our operations have on the planet. Carbon neutral parcel shipping will help us meet this goal.

"To be carbon neutral means firstly to count emissions, then to reduce them and finally to offset the remaining emissions that can't be avoided. Over the last few years we have built-up a detailed understanding of the amount of carbon generated by our operations and sought practical ways to reduce it. Approximately 95 per cent of our CO₂ emissions arise from our parcel transport operations and buildings, and we are constantly looking for ways to reduce this figure. Since 2008 we have introduced a range of insetting measures to reduce energy consumption and emissions, these have cut the amount of CO₂ produced per parcel by ten per cent and we are continuing to look at ways to bring this figure down further. Offsetting will then be used to neutralise the remaining emissions that can't be avoided."

Dwain McDonald continued, "Like us, many of our customers are concerned about the environment and want to reduce their own carbon footprint. Through our Total Zero commitment to carbon neutral shipping, we are helping our customers deliver their own CO₂ reduction objectives - at no extra cost to them or their customers."

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For further information please contact:

Gordon, Liz or Jason at MAW Communications
(www.mawcomms.co.uk) on 01603 505 845

Notes to editors:

DPD is a member of one of Europe's leading parcels groups GeoPost, wholly owned by France's La Poste, the second largest postal group in Europe.

A leading operator in the UK express parcels sector, DPD offers a range of specialist solutions and services. It employs 4,200 people and operates more than 1,700 vehicles from over 40 locations.