TACKLING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS

Naturally, we believe that flying is fantastic for all the benefits it brings. But we have to balance this with the effect we know it is having on the environment. So for every flight we operate, we'll now offset the carbon produced from the fuel it uses, by investing in projects that include the planting of trees or protection against deforestation. We know that carbon offsetting is only an interim measure while new technologies are developed. However, at the moment we believe it's the best way to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

What is carbon offsetting?

Carbon offsetting is the term used for reducing carbon emissions from the atmosphere to compensate for those emitted elsewhere. This means that for every tonne of CO2 emitted by our planes, we need to make sure we're reducing a tonne as well. We can do this by investing in projects which physically remove CO2 from the air such as planting more trees or protecting against deforestation. Carbon can be offset in this way because one tonne of CO2 has the same climate impact wherever it is emitted.

How we're carbon offsetting?

We will pay to offset the carbon emissions from the fuel used for all of our flights. We will only participate in carbon offsetting projects which meet either the Gold Standard or Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) accreditation. Examples of the types of projects we're investing in include:

- Afforestation (planting new trees) as well as the prevention of deforestation
- Production of renewable energies including solar and wind
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What we're already doing

- Modern, fuel-efficient planes
  We introduced the Airbus A320neo aircraft back in June 2017 and this year we took delivery of our first A321neo aircraft, which is our largest, quietest, most cost-efficient and most eco-friendly aircraft yet.
- Carbon reduction targets
  Since 2000 we have reduced our carbon emissions per passenger kilometre by 33.67%.
- Efficient flying
  We aim to fill each flight so they're productively used. This year the load factor was 92.9%. To reduce fuel usage, we fly point-to-point routes. Where possible we use only one engine when taxiing on the ground. To reduce weight and therefore fuel consumption, we use lightweight seats and electronic devices rather than paper documents.

But we're not stopping there...

- New Technologies
  We are working with Airbus, Rolls Royce and Safran to develop new technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of flying, and we are championing advanced carbon capture technologies. We will link to use these types of technologies as well as sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) as they become available and commercially viable.
- Electric & Hybrid Planes
  We are supporting Wright Electric in their development of an all-electric plane. And we have just announced a joint research project on hybrid and electric plane development with Airbus.
- Looking Beyond Carbon
  We are reducing the amount of plastic we use in general – this includes incentivising the use of reusable cups by offering discounts on hot drinks for customers who bring their own. Equally, we are replacing plastic items with non-plastic alternatives. For example replacing plastic stirrers with wooden spoons, or the plastic cup used for tea bags with a small bowl made from sugar cane fibre.

What it means for you...

The fact that we’re the first major airline to offset the carbon emissions from the fuel used for all of our flights means that, if you do choose to fly, flying with us is now a more sustainable choice. In terms of your experience, everything will remain exactly the same. The cost of your flight will not be impacted by our efforts to reduce carbon emissions and neither will the performance of the plane itself or your overall safety.