



TRAVEL BETTER

What is carbon offsetting?

Carbon offsetting is the term used for balancing carbon emissions from our air transport service. This means that for every tonne of CO2 emitted by our planes, we need to make sure we're reducing a tonne elsewhere. We can do this by supporting projects which physically remove CO2 from the air, such as planting more trees. Or by avoiding the creation of more carbon, such as by 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 are paying to offset the carbon emissions from the fuel used for all of our flights. We only participate in carbon offsetting projects which meet either the Gold Standard or Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) certifications. This is a voluntary offset system, complementary and additional to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) applied in EU Member States, or any other applicable legislative schemes.

Examples of the types of projects we're supporting include



Working with local communities in developing countries to foster emission reductions in their way of life



Afforestation (planting new trees) as well as the prevention of deforestation



Production of renewable energies including solar and wind

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 continue to offset the carbon emissions produced from the fuel it uses, by supporting projects that include the planting of trees or protection against deforestation. This does not reduce the emissions created by flying, but it means we ensure less carbon enters the atmosphere by avoiding more emissions, or directly removing carbon dioxide, in proportion to the amount of carbon we produced. We are aware that carbon offsetting is not a long term solution but we believe it currently represents the most immediate way to compensate the carbon emitted from flying.

What we're already doing



Modern, fuel-efficient planes

We introduced the Airbus A320neo aircraft into our fleet back in June 2017 and in 2019 we took delivery of our first A321neo aircraft, which is our largest, quietest, most cost and fuel-efficient aircraft yet.



Carbon reduction targets

Since 2000, over a 20 year period, we reduced our carbon emissions per passenger, per kilometre by over one-third, and our aim is to bring this down further



Efficient flying

We aim to fill each flight, so they're productively used. In 2019 the load factor was 92.9%. High load factors reduce the carbon footprint of each passenger. 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 a variety of partners to explore and to develop new technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of flying, and we are championing advanced carbon capture technologies. We will look to use these types of technologies as well as sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) as they become available and commercially viable.



Hydrogen-powered planes

We're supporting Wright Electric who are working on creating a hydrogen-electric plane. Late in 2019 we announced a partnership with Airbus to support the development of their hydrogen-powered aircraft. The entry into service for both these aircraft is expected, at the earliest, by the mid-2030s.



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 only major European 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 a more environmentally conscious choice. This comes at no additional cost to you, our customers, as we have not introduced, nor we will, any supplement to the ticket price for our flights. In terms of your experience, everything will remain exactly the same.