



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programme A Challenge for Europe and Public Postal Operators

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

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1. What is the aim of the GHG Reduction Programme?

The programme was launched by the Environment Working Group of PostEurop and its aim is to involve as many PostEurop members as possible which will contribute to reducing the Co2 emissions. Furthermore participants should benefit from synergies which should be created by exchanging best practices.

2. What is the expected result of the programme?

The expected result is an average *10% reduction of CO2 emissions across all programme participants within the next five years*. This is an ambitious goal that postal operators hope to achieve. However, the overall goal is the sum of the individual and different target setting by the programme members.

3. What is the commitment for participants?

As a *voluntary* programme, the GHG Reduction Programme does not have any binding nature. All programme members are free to set their own goals. (e.g. 2%, 10%, 15% etc).

4. Why should PostEurop members participate in this programme?

Climate change is one of the most pressing concerns facing governments, companies and individuals. The postal sector, in common with other industry sectors, has a role to play in reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO₂.

A reduction of CO₂ emissions has a great positive impact in several areas:

- **Economic**, from reduced fuel, energy and resources consumption
- **Regulatory**, by anticipating the evolution of 'green' regulation
- **Promotional** (image benefit), by contributing to global effort against global warming, making postal operators responsible companies.
- **Scientific**, by encouraging R&D and innovative technologies
- **Societal**, by demonstrating postal operators' goodwill to address their social responsibility, and meet customers expectations.

5. Who are the participants?

14 participants at the moment:

Austrian Post (Austria), Deutsche Post World Net (Germany), De Post / La Poste (Belgium), Hellenic Post – ELTA (Greece), Itella (Finland), Groupe La Poste (France), Maltapost (Malta), Post Danmark (Denmark), Poste Italiane, (Italy), Posten AB (Sweden), Posten Norge (Norway), Royal Mail Group Ltd (United Kingdom), Swiss Post (Swiss), TNT (Netherlands).

Situation on 18th September 2007

6. What is the scope of the programme?

The scope of the programme is *transport, building and products. However, calculation of CO₂ emissions will be only focused on transport and buildings.*

This means all transport that postal operators use for their direct activities and all buildings that postal operators use for their direct activities.

But European postal operators that have already signed up for the GHG Reduction Programme, or those who will sign up in the future, have various business activities. Defining a common perimeter for measuring GHG Programme members' CO₂ emissions is therefore complex.

- Within the scope of transport, postal operators are free to choose their own perimeter of business activities (including outsourced transport activities) that will be included in the GHG Reduction Programme, nevertheless excluding:
 - CO₂ emissions related to employees' travel to their workplace
 - CO₂ emissions related to business travel
- Within the scope of buildings, both owned and rented buildings related to postal operators' activities have to be taken into account
- CO₂ emissions on a national basis will be taken into account as a first step. International activities will be taken into account at a future date.
- Offsetting of CO₂ emissions does not alter the scope of the programme.
- The programme is focused on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide – the main greenhouse gas. Any associated reductions in other GHGs, such as methane and nitrous oxide, will not be reported as part of the programme's reductions.

- The aim is to define GHG Reduction Programme borderlines according to the financial accounting standards.

7. Is the aim of a 10% reduction in CO2 emissions based on normalised or absolute figures?

The programme participants recognise that the total CO2 emissions may actually increase over time, as some members are facing an important growth in their activities. As such PostEurop will report the progress of this programme in both normalised terms (CO2 emissions/unit) to measure efficiency gains, and in absolute terms (tCO2) to reflect differences in the relative starting points of the participating members.

8. What is the reference year?

The reference year, starting point for CO2 measurement, is **2007** for companies that join the programme from the beginning.

For companies that join the programme later, the reference year will be the calendar year of entry.

9. What kind of support do we get as participant?

The Environment Working Group will provide a toolbox including a method for measurement of CO2 emissions from transport and buildings.

A website for the GHG programme will be developed. Besides general information about the programme (public), on this website the participants will find the toolbox, best practices, analyses and progress reports (access only for participants).

10. What are the costs

There are no costs for the participants. PostEurop covers the costs of the programme and provides the necessary resources.

11. What kind of controlling will be applied?

PostEurop will *not control* the veracity of the figures provided by members. The objective is to encourage participants to provide the most accurate figures, according to their capacity to do so. Nevertheless, the figures will be validated. To validate automatically the figures provided by participants, some of these indicators will be included in the database (company turnover, number of employees, km, number of buildings...)

12. Is the database confidential?

All the figures that will be put in the CO2 database will remain *strictly confidential* if wanted by the participants.