

DFS environmental policy

Air traffic control and climate protection



DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung

At at 11/2022

Climate change and its consequences affect DFS in its operational business of air navigation services as well as in its corporate activities. At the same time, social and political pressure is mounting on the aviation industry as a whole to contribute to climate-friendly air travel through long-term measures and programmes. DFS also wants to make its contribution to climate-friendly flying transparent. To ensure this, DFS pursues a consistent environmental and climate protection policy in both its operational and non-operational activities. We have always based our daily work in air navigation services on this principle, which is reflected in our internal processes and procedures, in the operation of our technology and buildings, and in the travel options offered to our employees. In our work, DFS is guided by the following principles:

1. We do our bit for low-noise, climate-friendly flying.

As part of its sovereign task, DFS ensures the safe, orderly and expeditious handling of air traffic and protects citizens from unreasonable aircraft noise. Flight guidance that is efficient, climate-friendly and noise-reducing is a normal part of the daily work of our air traffic controllers. Our flight procedures are planned, introduced and applied with special consideration for noise abatement and the climate.

2. Environmental and climate protection is a priority corporate objective.

The principle of sustainability forms one of the three main pillars of our corporate strategy. This primarily relates to climate-friendly, fuel-saving air traffic control as well as the reduction of resource consumption and the procurement of energy from renewable sources.

3. We will become CO₂ neutral as a company.

Due to its extensive and always-on infrastructure, DFS has a high energy consumption, which is to be gradually reduced. The electricity required is to be obtained exclusively from renewable sources, and fossil fuels are also to be replaced in the long term.

4. We embrace environmental protection companywide.

Protecting the environment and climate is an integral part of all processes, procedures and of all corporate decisions that have a relevant environmental impact. We define environmental criteria as early as in the procurement stage of goods and services and require our suppliers and service providers to comply with them, too.

5. Environmental protection needs innovation and investment.

DFS is willing to commit financial resources for environmental protection because we believe that the long-term benefits for the company are greater than just short-term savings. Accordingly, DFS promotes innovation in flagship projects on the way to CO₂ neutrality and promotes measures with a positive environmental impact.

6. We are guided by the core idea of resource-conserving business activities.

Whenever possible, we avoid environmental impacts such as emissions, noise, waste and waste water when operating our technology and buildings as well as in our day-to-day business, and minimise them when they cannot be avoided. We also consider products throughout their life cycle, from procurement, packaging and service life through to disposal.

7. Environmental protection is everyone's responsibility.

In an open and inclusive dialogue, executives and employees work together towards the goal of continuously improving environmental and climate protection in all divisions of DFS. Ongoing information promotes environmental awareness among employees. We also closely involve specialists from all relevant domains in the development and implementation of the environmental management system.

8. We promote balanced, environmentally friendly behaviour among our employees.

DFS supports environmentally and climate-friendly behaviour by its employees by means of incentives. We focus on offering environmentally friendly alternatives without artificially restricting choices or imposing sanctions in the form of bans.

9. Our principle is transparency.

We take concerns about environmental impacts associated with the activities of DFS seriously. We maintain a constructive dialogue with public bodies and the public through constant work in the local noise abatement commissions and other relevant political institutions. We are convinced that only open and honest communication can create trust.

The greatest potential of DFS lies in the four central fields of action:

- Decarbonisation
- Resource efficiency
- Helping to promote climate-friendly flying
- Noise abatement procedures for arrivals and departures

We reduce the CO₂ and non-CO₂ emissions and noise emissions from air transport. We decarbonise our energy requirements and will thus become CO₂-neutral as a company in the long term. We also reduce the need for raw materials, land and water and minimise waste or ensure better recyclability.

To this end, we regularly determine, analyse and evaluate the direct and indirect environmental impact of our actions and set ourselves targets for improving our environmental performance. The economical use of energy and raw materials is very important to us. The utilisation of electricity, district heating and water for our buildings is to be as efficient as possible. At the same time, we endeavour to promote the circular economy, avoid waste and recycle unavoidable waste wherever possible. We take care to use materials that are as environmentally friendly as possible and to use them sparingly.

Compliance with applicable environmental legislation and other binding obligations is non-negotiable for us and forms the basis of our environmental management system. The DFS EMAS core team meets regularly to monitor the implementation of our environmental policy and the compliance with our environmental targets and to introduce measures for continuous improvement. For us, this includes an open dialogue with all stakeholders and their active involvement.