DFS environmental policy

Air traffic control and climate protection



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Environmental and climate protection is a central corporate objective for DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH (DFS) and its subsidiary DFS Energy GmbH. It has always governed our daily activities as we provide air navigation services across Germany and when we generate our own energy at our DFS Headquarters in Langen. This commitment is reflected not only in internal processes and procedures, in the operation of technology and buildings, but also in the way our employees get around. 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 central corporate objective.

The principle of sustainability is one of the three core areas of our Group strategy. This primarily relates to climate-friendly air traffic control, the reduction of resource consumption and the procurement of energy from renewable sources.

3. We will become CO₂-neutral as a company.

Due to our extensive and always-on infrastructure, DFS has a high energy consumption, which we are gradually reducing. The electricity required is obtained exclusively from renewable sources, and the use of fossil fuels is being replaced successively.

4. We embrace environmental protection companywide.

Protecting the environment and climate is an integral part of all processes and 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 any 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 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, we work together towards the goal of continuously improving environmental and climate protection within the DFS Group. Regular information promotes environmental awareness among employees. We also closely involve specialists from all relevant departments in the development and implementation of the environmental management system.

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

DFS supports environmental, climate-friendly behaviour by its employees through 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 authorities and the public through constant work in the local noise abatement commissions and other relevant political bodies. We are convinced that only open and honest communication can create trust.

The DFS Group has set itself ambitious environmental targets and is pursuing corresponding measures in four central fields:

- Decarbonisation & energy efficiency
- Resource efficiency
- Climate-friendly flying
- Noise abatement procedures for arrivals and departures
- Climate resilience

We reduce the CO_2 emissions and non- CO_2 effects as well as noise emissions from air transport. The economical use of energy and raw materials is central 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. We also continuously analyse and evaluate the climate risks relevant to DFS and DFS Energy and develop measures to avoid economic risks.

To this end, we regularly determine, analyse and evaluate the direct and indirect environmental impact of our business activities. 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 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.