

Austrian Airlines Aims to Achieve Climate-Neutral Growth as of 2020

- **Three pillars: fleet modernization, fuel savings, CO₂ compensation**
- **Passengers can also compensate for their flights**

Starting next year, Austrian Airlines aims to grow in a CO₂ neutral manner. The Austrian national carrier committed itself to achieving this goal within the context of the “CORSIA**” agreement. As of 2021, CO₂ emissions generated by international air traffic will be compensated by investments in climate protection projects. In the year 2018, the Austrian Airlines fleet, consisting of 81 aircraft, emitted 2.4 million tons of CO₂. In comparison, the streaming of online videos causes about 300 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually, or 125 times as much.

The CO₂ emissions of the Austrian Airlines fleet increased by 6.3% from 2017 to 2018. However, emissions per passenger were slightly reduced due to technical progress and operational measures. In 2018, the Austrian Airlines aircraft required 3.79 liters of jet fuel per 100 passenger kilometers, compared to 3.83 liters in 2017. The CO₂ emissions per passenger on long-haul routes have declined by one-third since 2004. Aviation generally accounts for 2.83% of all CO₂ emissions worldwide, and for 0.16% in Austria.

“Nevertheless, we will have to try even harder to further reduce or compensate for our CO₂ emissions”, said Austrian Airlines CCO Andreas Otto.

The Austrian Airlines approach to further reducing CO₂ emissions is based on three pillars:

1) The further modernization of the fleet. The airline began replacing its Dash turboprop aircraft with A320 jets in 2019. The previous conversion of the fleet from Fokker to Embraer aircraft resulted in annual savings of close to 10,000 tons of fuel and thus 51,000 tons of CO₂. 2) Efficiency improvements such as the reduction of weight on board or the fuel-efficient movement of aircraft on the ground (through “single engine taxi-in”). The airline sustainably avoids 11,000 tons of CO₂ annually by implementing such measures. 3) The compensation of CO₂ emissions. The airline has been compensating for all business trips of its employees since the year 2019.

“Passengers can also compensate for the CO₂ emissions of their flights”, said CCO Andreas Otto, “but unfortunately only less than 1% of all passengers have actually done so up until now.” Nevertheless, EUR 1.5 million has been invested in compensating for 100,000 tons of CO₂ since

2008, when the collaboration with Climate Austria was launched. In this way, projects involving reforestation, small hydropower plants or biomass facilities have been carried out.

This is how CO₂ compensation at Austrian Airlines works:

CO₂ is emitted by every form of energy generated by fossil fuels, for example, in the case of mobility or the consumption of electricity, heat and warm water. Passengers can compensate for these CO₂ emissions by investing in climate protection projects and thus avoiding new emissions to the same extent as those they caused, for example by air travel.

Passengers can compensate for their own CO₂ emissions directly in the booking process at www.austrian.com or also before or after the flight via Climate Austria, a partner of Austrian Airlines. Climate Austria is an internationally renowned provider and guarantees the selection of high-quality climate protection projects featuring further positive ecological and socioeconomic side effects, in addition to reducing the level of emissions. Passengers can choose to support either domestic or international projects with their compensation payment. The contributions of passengers are collected and then provided to the respective Austrian and international climate protection projects. In particular, the portfolio of Climate Austria projects focuses on the fields of renewable energies, energy efficiency and the changeover from non-renewable to renewable energy sources. More information can be found here: <https://www.climateaustria.at/projekte.html>

*Further information on the “Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation“ (CORSIA) is available here: <https://www.klimaschutz-portal.aero/co2-kompensieren/corsia>

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Austrian Airlines

Austrian Airlines is Austria's leading airline. The once state-owned and still convincing red-white-red airline operates a route network of around 130 destinations. Thanks to its favourable geographical location and Austrian history as a melting pot of the former crown lands, its home airport Vienna Schwechat is still a hub between East and West today. About 120 of the 400 daily flights lead to Central and Eastern Europe. "AUA", as it is often abbreviated in Austria, transports around 14 million passengers a year and employs 7,000 staff from 58 nations. AUA has been part of the Lufthansa Group since 2009. Austrian Airlines is also a member of the Star Alliance, the first global alliance of international airlines. Austrian Airlines has been in the black since 2012. It celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2018.

Here you can find photos of AUA: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/austrianairlinespress/albums>

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