



## **Application of DB Schenker:**

### **Eco Plus - CO<sub>2</sub>-free rail transports in Germany**

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2nd UIC Sustainability Award

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<b>1 EcoPlus – CO<sub>2</sub>-free rail transports in Germany</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Product description: Eco Plus – CO <sub>2</sub> -free rail transport in Germany	1
1.3 Contact persons	3

# 1 EcoPlus – CO<sub>2</sub>-free rail transports in Germany

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## 1.1 Introduction

DB Schenker Rail operates 4,700 freight trains each day, thereby relieving Europe's roads of about 84,000 truck trips every day and saving as a result some 19,400 t of CO<sub>2</sub>. DB Schenker Rail has reduced its particle emissions by about 80 per cent since 1990. DB Schenker Rail is extending its lead on climate issues by using low-emission locomotive engines, a higher share of electric traction and regenerative sources of energy, recovering energy during braking, as well as improving the utilization levels of trains, and using a fuel-efficient driving style.

In the past years the DB Group has continually increased the share of renewable energy used to provide traction – 18,5 per cent in 2009. That is good for the railway's environmental impact, because 96 per cent of our rail freight is now transported by electric traction.

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## 1.2 Product description: Eco Plus – CO<sub>2</sub>-free rail transport in Germany

Since 2010 DB Schenker offers its customers a new product option, Eco Plus, the CO<sub>2</sub>-free rail transport. Customers can eliminate all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated during transport by paying a nominal extra price. Instead of a simple certificate or carbon offsetting, this will be ensured by purchasing renewable energies by the DB Group, thereby transforming low-emission rail freight transport into zero-emission rail freight transport. By using DB Schenker's Eco Plus, the production of carbon emissions will be avoided through the use of 100 per cent renewable energies. Eco Plus contributes a direct effect for customers and creates a win-win-win situation for customers, DB Schenker, and the environment.

Existing or new transports can easily be switched to become CO<sub>2</sub>-free. On the line from Hamburg to Munich, for instance, customers using a block train hauling a payload of around 1,000 tons can make carbon savings of as much as 20 tons compared with regular rail transportation. Compared with road transportation, carbon savings of over 55 tons can be achieved.

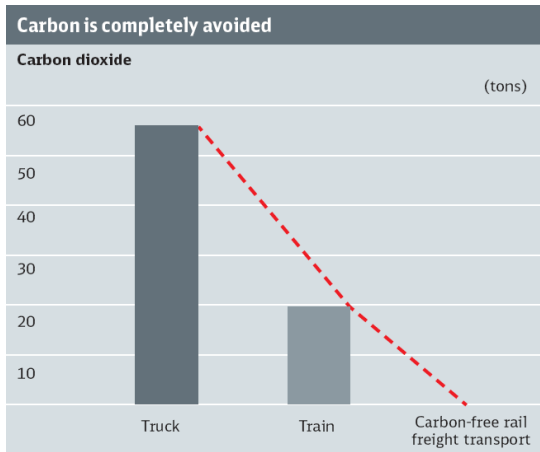


Illustration 1: Average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the transportation of roughly 1,000 t from Hamburg to Munich

DB Schenker is able to compare the environmental impact of transport by rail, road, sea and air, as well as by combined transport, by using the Ecological Transport Information Tool (EcoTransIT), which has been developed in co-operation with UIC and other partners. EcoTransIT is an online tool for measuring environmental impact and energy consumption. DB Schenker uses EcoTransIT to survey specific energy consumption as well as carbon emissions of its customers' transports. The results are taken as the basis for the purchase of renewable energies for the CO<sub>2</sub>-free product Eco Plus. The online application can be used in the context of Eco-Audit Regulation EMAS II and DIN ISO 14001.

The purchase of renewable energies is made by the DB Group. Before the CO<sub>2</sub>-free transport starts to roll, DB purchases the amount of the renewable energy required for that transport and feeds it into DB's energy grid. In this way, conventional energy is replaced by renewable energy. DB Schenker certifies its customers that the entire energy consumption of their transport is covered by energy from renewable sources. The energy for the CO<sub>2</sub>-free transports is entirely from regenerative energy resources in Germany. These facilities and their production are certified by the TÜV Süd. In addition to the energy production, the measurement of energy consumption is also certified by TÜV Süd.<sup>1</sup> Parts of the proceeds of Eco Plus will be invested to support the construction of facilities for the production of renewable energies.

An initial client was won and negotiations with further clients are under way. CO<sub>2</sub>-free transports will commence soon. DB Schenker's Eco Plus is a milestone for the whole rail sector, its customers, and the environment. To win the 2nd UIC Sustainability Award will support the market penetration of Eco Plus and reflect the major impact it will have in minimizing the environmental impact of rail freight.

<sup>1</sup> TÜV SÜD acts as process partner supporting its clients throughout the entire value chain. Its service range includes the testing and certification of industrial plants, the testing of consumer products to ensure their safe functioning in compliance with official standards, and the provision of management system certification and occupational health and safety services.

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### 1.3 Contact persons

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