

Supply Chain Spotlight: Logistics UK – airfreight’s route to net zero

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In 2021, Logistics UK launched its Route to Net Zero Commitment, with the aim of supporting its members to decarbonise their operations as quickly and effectively as possible.

This pledge comes in response to the need to speed up the UK’s path to net zero by 2050, with many of the business group’s members aiming to achieve net zero ahead of this deadline.

Fourteen Logistics UK members have now signed up to the commitment, ranging from large, internationally recognised companies such as UPS, DHL and John Lewis Partnership, to smaller regional logistics businesses.

As a result, each company's strategy varies, and, in some cases, is still being developed as new technologies emerge.

It can be difficult for businesses to know where to start, especially for those operating in air cargo, where decarbonisation is especially challenging.

When asked for its advice for those looking to decarbonise their operations, Scottish Water – the first company to apply and pass the application process to become a Route to Net Zero member – recommended business across the logistics industry identify the “quick wins; the changes that can be made easily”.

It also stressed that practicalities must also be considered, such as whether the changes being made/proposed are economically viable.

While there is currently no one-size-fits-all solution for aviation, companies are keen to play their part in reducing emissions.

New planes are much more fuel efficient, the use of sustainable aviation fuel is increasing and many airlines, such as British Airways and EasyJet, support carbon offsetting projects.

It is hoped that the release of government's Aviation Strategy – due to be published soon – will give further assurance to the sector and help create a clearer path to decarbonisation.

Logistics UK's Route to Net Zero Commitment provides companies with a platform to make a public statement on their dedication to decarbonisation and provides an opportunity for them to inspire and guide others on their environmental journeys, by sharing experiences and lessons learned.

For more information on Logistics UK's Route to Net Zero Commitment, including details on how to apply as a Logistics UK member, please visit: logistics.org.uk/environment/netzero