

Press release

How much CO₂ is emitted during a flight? – myclimate has updated the online flight calculator

Zurich, 14 August 2019 – myclimate gives its customers the opportunity to calculate emissions generated by flights and to offset these via carbon offset projects on the platform at co2.myclimate.org. Using current data from the aviation industry and with adjustments to the methodology in line with international norms, myclimate has now brought this service up to date. Current studies also corroborate myclimate's calculation and evaluation of the climate-averse effects of aviation, which are not directly linked to CO₂ emissions.

The environmental team from myclimate adapted the flight emissions calculator in a large-scale project with the help of current studies and data from the aviation industry. Since 2005, myclimate has offered to calculate the emissions produced by business or private flights, free of charge. The myclimate offer is being used by more and more customers. In 2019, the growth in the use of the myclimate calculator was around 400%.

Changes

The myclimate flight calculator is now based on the European Standard in Transport (DIN) EN16258 and corresponds to the currently applicable norm. The calculation is based on updated data regarding aeroplane types and their specific fuel consumption and number of seats, as well as the average occupancy of the flights. The data cover all major international airlines. The data basis for this calculation is provided by the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, an agency of the UN. The new myclimate flight calculator also records the emissions linked to the infrastructure at airports, as well that related to the aeroplanes themselves (production, maintenance, disposal).

Further adjustments concern "extra mileage", that is the additional kilometres flown per flight due to air traffic control or general queues for take off and landing. The freight too is now allocated using a new method according to its mass. Likewise the kerosene production in the upstream chain has been more precisely calculated using new data.

The evaluation of additional non-CO₂-producing emissions, undertaken using the RFI factor (Radiative Forcing Index), remains unchanged. The myclimate approach has recently been corroborated by a study by Jungbluth et al. on the calculation of flight emissions.

Impacts

In comparison to the previous version of the myclimate calculator, the results for each flight show slight differences, for long haul flights in particular. These are somewhat lower thanks to new and more efficient planes and the new evaluation of the freight factor. As such, a round trip from Zurich to New York in economy class corresponds to a personal CO₂ emission of exactly 2.0 tonnes (previously, 2.3 tonnes).

“We have worked on updating our online calculator for a long time. To this end we have carried out extensive research and taken the most up-to-date information from the industry into consideration. We are convinced that with the results of our efforts, we can offer interested private individuals and business customers the most accurate calculation of CO₂ emissions for flights,” said Daniel Kammerer, Head of the Consultancy and Solutions division at myclimate.

At myclimate Daniel Berking, Master in Engineering for Technical Environmental Protection (Diplom-Ingenieur für Technischen Umweltschutz), was responsible for planning and implementing the project.

Further information about myclimate

Kai Landwehr, Media Spokesperson for myclimate
kai.landwehr@myclimate.org, Tel. +41 (0)44 500 37 61
www.myclimate.org

Link to the myclimate flight calculator (English)

https://co2.myclimate.org/en/flight_calculators/new

Detailed link to the basis of the calculation

Study on the calculation of CO₂ emissions

Jungbluth N., Meili C. (2018) Aviation and Climate Change: Best practice for calculation of the global warming potential. Working paper. ESU-services Schaffhausen.

About myclimate – The Climate Protection Partnership

myclimate is a partner for effective climate protection, globally and locally. Together with partners from the economic sector as well as private individuals, myclimate wants to shape the future of the world through consultation and educational programmes, as well as its own projects. myclimate pursues this in a market-oriented and customer-focused way as a charitable organisation.

This international initiative with Swiss roots is one of the world's quality leaders in voluntary carbon offsetting measures. Its group of customers include large, medium-sized and small companies, public administrations, non-profit organisations, event organisers and individuals. myclimate is also present in Germany and supports clients worldwide from there and Zurich.

The high-quality projects promote quantifiable climate protection and greater sustainability worldwide. CO₂ emissions are currently offset voluntarily by means of more than 100 carbon offset projects in 30 countries. Emissions are reduced there by replacing fossil energy resources with renewable energies, and by implementing local afforestation measures with smallholder farmers and energy-efficient technologies. myclimate carbon offsetting projects meet the highest standards (Gold Standard, CDM, Plan Vivo), which are not only proven to reduce greenhouse gases locally and regionally, but also make a positive contribution to sustainable development.

myclimate encourages interactive and action-orientated educational programmes in order to encourage each and every person to make a contribution to our future. With this aim in mind, myclimate has already reached around 20,000 school pupils and more than 9,000 trainees in Switzerland, and has also established a global network of 1,600 students and young professionals. Moreover, the foundation also provides advice on integrated climate protection with tangible added value. In the field of CO₂ and resource management, myclimate supports companies with advice, analyses, IT tools and labels. The portfolio ranges from simple emission calculations at the corporate level through to comprehensive life cycle assessments for products. Experienced advisers help in identifying and exploiting potential in the areas of energy and resource efficiency.

Since the foundation was established, the myclimate carbon offset projects have created thousands of jobs, protected biodiversity and improved the general living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people. Not least because of this, the German Environment Agency explicitly names myclimate as a supplier for voluntary carbon offsetting. In both 2015 and 2012, two myclimate projects were cited by the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as so-called "game-changing climate lighthouse activities", and at the UN Climate Conferences in Paris and Doha they were recognised by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon himself. In addition, in 2012 the myclimate educational project "KlimaLokal" was awarded the Milestone Prize, the Swiss tourism industry's highest distinction. In May 2016, myclimate was awarded the PrixEco Swiss sustainability award. myclimate was awarded the "Prix Balance" for its exceptional work-life balance in 2017.

myclimate.org / facebook.com/myclimate / twitter.com/myclimate