

The postal sector's impact on climate change

What is the postal sector's impact on climate change?

Combating climate change, a major challenge for our planet, has also become an unavoidable issue for the postal sector.

Given the considerable resources used to run the postal service (collection, transport and delivery of mail, etc.), the sector's impact on climate change cannot be denied.

A few figures provide ample proof of this: the postal sector has:

- around 660,000 post offices open to the public;
- over 600,000 motor vehicles and 250,000 motor cycles travelling millions of kilometres each year;
- hundreds of aeroplanes flying between the continents every day; and
- thousands of tonnes of paper, ink cartridges and chemical products used every year.

As a result, the postal sector consumes vast quantities of natural resources (fuels, wood, metal) and, more importantly, produces considerable amounts of polluting emissions, particularly greenhouse gases, which cause climate change.

Anxious to be a responsible player, the postal sector is committed to efforts to address this issue. Although postal operators are partly responsible for the problem, they can also become an integral part of the solution.

Which factors in the postal sector contribute most to accelerating global warming?

The two main sources of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in the postal sector are:

- the fleet of vehicles, most of which run on fuel which is from non-renewable sources (petrol) and causes pollution (fine particles, methane, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, etc.); and
- the buildings, which have to be lit, heated, air-conditioned, etc. using large amounts of fuel and electricity.