



Biodigester Programme, Cambodia

DPD is supporting a National Biodigester Programme in Cambodia as part of its Total Zero carbon neutral commitment. The project is certified with a [‘Gold Standard’](#) – a rigorous and globally-recognised framework to ensure the validity of its sustainability benefits.

DPD shareholder GeoPost plans to offset approximately 550,000 tonnes in 2012 of carbon emissions by investing in a number of environmentally-certified projects. Each project has been identified by low-carbon investment and advisory specialist, CDC Climat.

A fresh-air approach to a traditional way of life

Many rural families in Cambodia rely on the emission-intensive fossil fuel kerosene for lighting, and cook on open wood fires. This intensely smoky practice causes health issues, while the process of collecting fire wood leads to deforestation. Poorly managed waste from community livestock – a vital lifeline for subsistence communities – causes both sanitation and methane emission issues.

In an effort to improve thousands of livelihoods, the Development Organisation of Cambodia (a non-profit organisation), and the Cambodia Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have jointly partnered to provide an innovative and sustainable solution to these issues.

Families in eight provinces across the country will be provided with credits to obtain one of 20,000 biodigesters, which turn sewage into power. Household waste, pig and cow manure is collected and stored in the biodigesters. Tiny microbes inside then turn this into biogas which is used for cooking, lighting, and heating water. Each household also receives a biogas stove, biogas lamps, and all the necessary piping.

Positive environmental improvements are also being seen on:

1. Soil and water – less deforestation means reduced soil erosion. Land fertility degradation is reduced as farmers can now use bio-slurry instead of chemical fertilisers. Community water supplies benefit from better waste management systems;
2. Biodiversity – The destruction of natural habitats is greatly reduced; and
3. Air and climate – using biodigesters avoids polluting methane emissions.

The project is also delivering a number of social and economic improvements including:

1. Better hygienic conditions with the removal of previously unmanaged animal manure;
2. More comfortable living conditions by eliminating hazardous smoke from wood fires;



3. Time previously used for the arduous task of collecting wood is now being used more productively for agriculture or children's education; and
4. New jobs have been created in the biogas digesters industry.

How the offsetting project was selected

The project is part of a portfolio identified by low-carbon investment and advisory specialist, CDC Climat. These met pre-agreed criteria including technological diversity, project type and geographic spread. Projects ranged from biomass through to tidal to deforestation and geothermal. Each one must also have been certified by at least one or more carbon standard. Standards are developed by independent bodies which certify the quality of carbon credits and give third-party assurance. They include the [Voluntary Carbon Standard \(VCS\)](#); CCB Standards by the [Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance](#); [Joint Implementation](#) - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); and the [Gold Standard](#) (GS) certificate, awarded by the Gold Standard Foundation.

Total Zero

Total Zero is an industry first which promises that every parcel sent via DPDs network in its six biggest markets – France, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Switzerland and BeLux – will be carbon neutral from July 2012 - and at no extra cost to the customer. Total Zero has three steps. First measuring the CO₂ footprint; then reducing it through a variety of 'insetting' measures; and finally offsetting the remaining carbon with projects identified in partnership with CDC Climat.

About DPD

With the shipment of 2.5 million parcels a day DPD is a leading international provider of parcel and express services. The company has the most efficient road network in Europe and delivers to 230 countries worldwide. Customers can choose services from an extensive product range of national and international parcel and express services for business and home deliveries. A workforce of 24,000 and 18,000 vehicles operate at more than 800 locations. The majority shareholder in DPD with 83.32 % shareholding is the GeoPost Group, a wholly-owned subsidiary of French Groupe La Poste. With a consolidated turnover of 3.440 billion euros in the year 2010 GeoPost is currently Europe's second-largest provider of express parcel services. .