



## **Alfalfa Dehydration, France**

DPD is supporting an alfalfa dehydration project in France as part of its Total Zero carbon neutral commitment. DPD shareholder GeoPost will offset approximately 550,000 tonnes in 2012 of carbon emissions through certified projects identified by low-carbon investment and advisory specialist, CDC Climat.

### **A high quality feed with a big carbon footprint**

Dehydrated alfalfa is a high-quality animal feed that provides locally-grown proteins, free from genetically modified organisms (GMO). While nutritious, its production is very energy intensive. In a [Joint Implementation project of the UNFCCC](#), French agricultural cooperative, Coop de France, is leading efforts to reduce emissions from the production process.

It is investing in two key means: firstly, switching energy use from the fossil fuel coal to wood pellets, a local biomass fuel; and secondly, pre-drying alfalfa in the fields. Pre-drying reduces the amount of energy that is traditionally used in water evaporation at the factory processing stage. The total expected CO<sub>2</sub> reductions as a result of the initiative are 400,000 tonnes. Additional benefits include improvements on:

1. Soil and water: As a high-quality ecological plant, alfalfa acts as a green cover that prevents soil erosion and maintains underground biodiversity;
2. Air and climate – In comparison to traditional fossil fuels, atmospheric pollutants are reduced with biomass fuels;
3. Safety – Unlike fuel boilers, biomass boilers limit gas inhalation risks for employees; and
4. Job creation - Coop de France's programme has led to 102 jobs being created. Fifteen of the 17 plants are in the Champagne-Ardenne region, which has the 6<sup>th</sup> highest unemployment rate (10.1% Q4 2011) of France's 22 metropolitan regions. It is estimated that an additional 50 jobs have also been created in support of alfalfa dehydration in the region.

### **How the offsetting project was selected**

The alfalfa dehydration programme is one of a number of projects that will help DPD to meet its Total Zero offsetting goals. CDC Climat established a long-list portfolio of projects that met criteria pre-agreed with GeoPost including technological diversity, project type and geographic spread. Projects ranged from biomass through to tidal to deforestation and geothermal. Each one must have attained at least one or more carbon standard certifications. These include: the [Voluntary](#)



[Carbon Standard \(VCS\)](#) which measure project emission reductions; 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 to premium carbon mitigation projects.

## **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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.