

A photograph of two scientists in a laboratory. One scientist, a Black woman with dreadlocks, is wearing safety glasses and looking intently at a small vial held up by her hand. Another scientist, a white woman with safety glasses, is leaning in from the right, looking at the vial. The background is a bright, slightly blurred laboratory setting.

Improving lives beyond healthcare

Merck Healthcare aims to change lives by putting patients at the center of everything they do. The company understands that every decision and contribution they make in their work impacts the lives of patients and their caregivers. Their holistic approach includes environmental stewardship.

A shift from air to sea

In 2019, Merck made a major move to significantly reduce the carbon emissions associated with medicine logistics while lowering costs, improving quality scores, and maintaining supply reliability: They transitioned 80% of their medicine shipments from air to ocean freight. The switch shrank their logistics footprint by 10,600 tons of carbon compared to 2018.



“Green Lotus taught us that the use of biofuels is a fast and effective solution that can be implemented without requiring a redesign of our supply chain.”

*Markus Koehler,
Senior Vice President Supply Network Operations,
DHL Global Forwarding*

A joint initiative to go green

As an innovative company dedicated to human progress, Merck is exploring new opportunities to minimize carbon emissions, including the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and sustainable marine fuels (SMF). To learn about the options for utilizing sustainable fuels and the ‘book & claim’ process, they launched Green Lotus, a pilot project together with DHL Global Forwarding. The two-month trial tested our GoGreen Plus service on all shipments from Europe to 25 destinations in the Asia Pacific region. GoGreen Plus facilitated the switch from fossil to sustainable fuels and ensured provision of independently-verified carbon reduction certificates. Working together, we delivered 50 tons of medicines by sea and air and achieved a 65% reduction in carbon emissions (370 metric tons). Thanks to this initiative, we have yet another proof point that SAF and SMF are key to making logistics greener.

In cooperation with

MERCK

DHL

