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Finnair Flies Today from Amsterdam to Helsinki Using Biofuel

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For Finnair, it is important to find an ecologically, financially and socially sustainable fuel solution and this is one step towards more sustainable flying. Biofuels are constantly being improved in all of the above-mentioned areas of sustainability, and current investments are playing an important role in development work.

"Biofuel use is still not financially sustainable, because biofuel is more expensive than ordinary aviation fuel and no large-scale production or distribution has yet been established. Finnair, moreover, does not receive any kind of financial support to use biofuel, unlike some other airlines," says Finnair's Vice President Sustainable Development Kati Ihämäki.

Most of the environmental impact of flying arises from engine emissions, so investment on research into alternative fuels is a natural way to seek to reduce environmental loading. The term biofuel means a fuel made from a renewable, organic raw material. The plants used in its manufacture bind carbon dioxide, which is released back into the atmosphere when the biofuel is burned.

In its first biofuel flights, Finnair is using in both engines of its aircraft SkyNRG biofuel manufactured from recycled biomass. The fuel mixture used is half biofuel and half ordinary aviation fuel. The SkyNRG biofuel used by Finnair is manufactured from cooking oil recycled from restaurants.

SkyNRG biofuel has been exhaustively researched and it fulfils all of the quality and safety requirements set for jet fuel. The fuel mixture used is certified in the same class as ordinary aviation fuel.

Finnair's first biofuel flight, AY846 from Amsterdam to Helsinki, departs from Amsterdam at 6:50 p.m. local time and arrives in Helsinki at 10:10 p.m. The flight will be operated with an Airbus A319 aircraft.

"Our sector's goal is to find sustainable biofuel solutions so we do not compete with food, land nor water and these Finnair flights are a step in that direction," said Andrea Debbane, Airbus head of Environmental Affairs. "Airbus is at the forefront in helping to speed up the commercialization of biofuels for aviation and these latest passenger flights are proof that we have already come a long way."

About SkyNRG

SkyNRG is a Dutch Company with the mission to help create a sustainable future for aviation through actively developing a sustainable production chain for alternative aviation fuels. Today the market for these fuels is just emerging; SkyNRG is taking the first steps to make it a reality.

About Finnair

Finnair offers a comprehensive route network via Helsinki to over 50 destinations in Europe and 10 cities in Asia. Finnair's long-haul route flights to Asia fly the straightest geographical route via Helsinki, providing the shortest and fastest connecting time in Europe from US. Finnair is a member of oneworld alliance, the leading global airline alliance. In May 2011, Finnair launched direct flights to Singapore. Last year, Finnair has taken delivery of five new Airbus A330s that represent the latest modern technology: low fuel consumption, environmental efficiency and passenger comfort.
www.finnair.com



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