

Sustainability on board

# MINIMIZING FOOD WASTE

Environmental protection is a top priority for the Lufthansa Group. To increase sustainability onboard our aircraft, we are developing catering concepts that create less waste. Unavoidable waste is recycled as far as possible. However, EU regulations restrict recycling for flights from non-European countries.

In Germany, about 11 million tons of food are discarded as waste each year, even though in many cases they are still fit for consumption. The Lufthansa Group is determined to reverse this practice. On our continental flights, we have cut the amount of food waste across the Group by half since 2019. We have now developed new concepts that will enable us to take more forceful action: We are optimizing catering processes, giving our guests the opportunity to order meals in advance and reducing the number of standard products that we keep on hand. Austrian, SWISS, Eurowings, Eurowings Discover and Lufthansa also offer unsold food to passengers on evening flights at reduced prices.

The measures are having an effect: By selling food at reduced prices, the participating airlines prevented about 80,000 food






products from being thrown out in 2022. Lufthansa also lowered the amount of perishable food that was thrown out by 45 percent in 2022 compared with the previous year.

**EU rules require urgent changes**

In instances where waste cannot be prevented, efficient EU recycling regulations apply to inner-European flights. This is not the case for flights that originate outside the EU: Under EU Regulation (1069/2009), international waste that contains animal (by-)products must be incinerated or disposed of in a landfill – this is not how a circular economy works. Along with partners such as Air France and British Airways, the Lufthansa Group therefore recommends that this EU regulation should be rewritten.

**Disposable plastic on the index, circular economy in focus**

Airlines in the Lufthansa Group have set a clear goal: By 2025, the onboard experience of their guests should include no disposable plastic and aluminum. All leftover plastic and aluminum items will be recycled or processed. The Lufthansa Group is deeply committed to all forms of a circular economy. Here are five examples:

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  - **Lufthansa:** The airline worked with catering companies in FRA and MUC in 2022 to collect more than 1,500 tons of recyclable waste and transfer it to the Green Dot recycling system in Germany. This is set to increase in 2023.
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  - **SWISS:** The airline and a partner transferred textiles that could no longer be used onboard its planes into a recycling system and an alternative process called downcycling.
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  - **Austrian Airlines:** The airline is using a patented process to convert disposable plastic cups and packaging into synthetic crude oil.
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  - **Eurowings:** The airline is using sandwich packaging that is completely compostable. More than 4 tons of plastic waste are prevented each year as a result.
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  - **Lufthansa Cargo:** The freight airline has set the goal of increasing its global recycling share for plastic film to 100 percent by 2025. You can't do any better than that.