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Finnair to Fly Airbus from Helsinki to New York on Recycled Cooking Oil

By Paul Riegler on 22 September 2014

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Finnair announced plans to operate a non-stop long-haul flight from Helsinki, Finland to New York City on Wednesday using recycled cooking oil to power the engines.



A Finnair plane in Zurich

The flight, which will coincide with the opening day of the United Nations Climate Summit, will be operated using an Airbus A330 and environmentally sustainable biofuel. Provided by SkyNRG Nordic, a joint venture between SkyNRG and Statoil Aviation, the fuel is comprised partly of cooking oil recycled from local restaurants.

"The UN Climate Summit is an important gathering to fight climate change," said Kati Ihamaki, Finnair's vice president of sustainable development. "We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight the climate benefits of more widespread adoption of environmentally sustainable biofuels in aviation."

An airline's environmental impact is largely from aircraft emissions and Finnair says that the switch to a sustainable fuel that reduces net greenhouse emissions would result in net CO2 emissions that are lower by 50% to 80%. Currently, aviation biofuel costs twice as much as conventionally produced jet fuel.

Finnair says that the cultivation of its biofuel sources will "neither compete with food production nor damage biodiversity."

Founded in 1923, the Helsinki-based airline has been testing biofuel since 2011.

(Photo: Accura Media Group)

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