

FLASH WHAT'S NEW NOW

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TRAVEL

By Jenna Birch

A Plane Will Fly Across the Atlantic—Fueled by Cooking Oil



In honor of the UN Climate Summit in New York, N.Y. on Sept. 23, Finnair is sending its flight from Helsinki into the city on an Airbus A330 using environmentally sustainable biofuel—a.k.a. recycled cooking oil. Science is so cool sometimes.

Now, this isn't a risky first or anything. Biofuel has been extensively tested and proven as an awesome method to cut back on 50 to 80 percent of a flight's carbon dioxide emissions, and Finnair sent up its first biofuel-powered plane back in 2011. The major problem is that this form of fuel is more than double what you'd pay for conventional jet fuel. But with the climate conference kicking off in NYC, Finnair, Airbus and SkyNRG Nordic teamed up to showcase an example of what's possible in the realm of environmentally-friendly aviation if governments can help develop a biofuel supply system and bring down the super-high cost.

"As air traffic contributes 2 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions, it is very important to have this trial with the use of biofuels," says the Finnish Minister for International Development Pekka Haavisto. "If the price of oil rises and biofuels become cheaper, there will hopefully be a day when we'll be able to replace at least some of the fossil fuels with fuels made of renewable and waste material. I'm happy that Finnair is showing leadership in this development."

It's pretty amazing that Finnair, Airbus, SkyNRG and other experts in the field think basic recycled *cooking oil* could be the answer to the high amount of greenhouse gases given off by planes—and have basically proven it works. Hopefully there's a push for developing this as a fuel source at the UN's climate conference this year. If only global governments could get together and come up with a price solution, who knows what would be possible with biofuel? Perhaps the sky's the limit. (Yes, yes. I did just use that cheesy pun.)

[Aviation Tribune]

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