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Utilization of Low-Carbon Shipping Services

Epson is partnering with Maersk to use container ships that operate on biodiesel or green methanol

An alternative fuel Maersk container ship

In fiscal 2024, Epson joined forces with shipping industry giant Maersk to begin using container ships powered by alternative fuels such as biodiesel or green methanol for transporting goods from Epson's manufacturing site in Southeast Asia to Europe. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 84% compared to maritime transport on conventional heavy fuel oil ships. In the first year, one-hundred 40-foot containers will be used, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 230 tonnes.

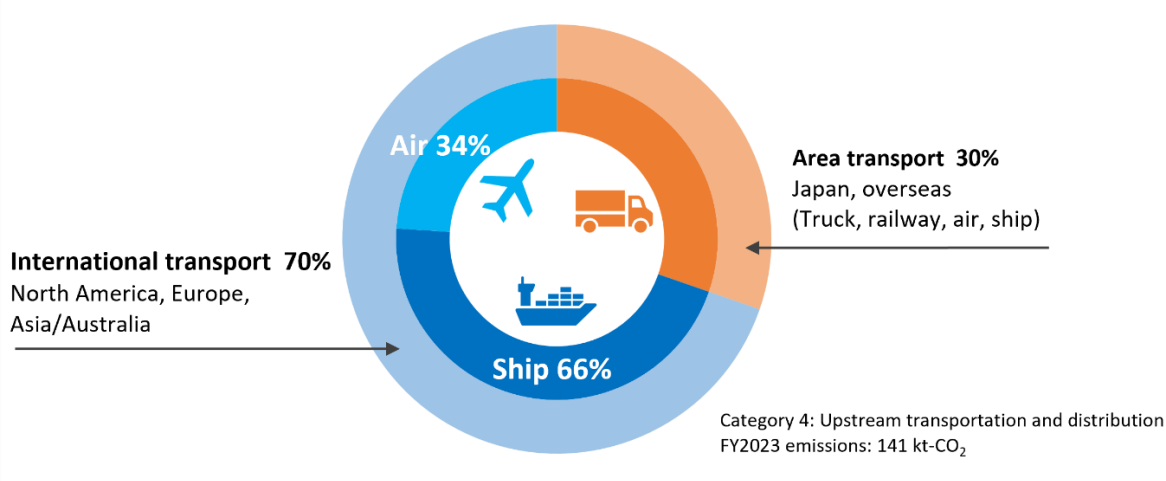
The first container was shipped from Epson Precision (Philippines), Inc. loaded mainly with high-capacity ink tank printers (October 2024)

In 2021, Epson revised “Environmental Vision 2050,” a statement of its long-term environmental goals, and committed to becoming carbon negative and underground-resource[1] free by 2050. As part of this effort, we have been carrying out environmental measures to decarbonize logistics in line with our long-term corporate vision, “Epson 25 Renewed.” We established and are following a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the entire supply chain, including transportation and distribution, by 55% compared to fiscal 2017 levels by 2030.

[1] Non-renewable resources such as oil and metals

Epson has already introduced various measures in logistics to achieve its decarbonization goal. These measures include improving the loading efficiency of trucks and containers, shifting to modes of transportation that have a smaller environmental footprint, and optimizing transportation routes. For example, our product design and logistics teams have worked together to design products that can be transported more efficiently in containers. By improving container loading efficiency by 15% or more, we have cut down shipment frequency and reduced the environmental impact associated with logistics.

The greenhouse gas emissions associated with upstream transportation and distribution in Epson's value chain amount to approximately 141,000 tonnes of CO_2. Most of these emissions are from maritime transport, the main means of international transport from manufacturing sites to sales areas. Therefore, reducing the environmental impact of shipping is one of the important challenges in decarbonization logistics. The adoption of low-carbon shipping services using alternative fuels produces synergies with environmental measures in other areas of logistics, further reducing the overall environmental impact of logistics.



Breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions from upstream transportation and distribution in Epson's value chain (FY2023)

The global shipping industry, a linchpin of global trade, has set a time-bound decarbonization goals. Led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the industry aims to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Epson, which sees climate change mitigation as a critical and urgent societal issue, welcomes this goal and will actively contribute to the decarbonization of the shipping industry by using low-carbon shipping services. Over the next three years, we plan to expand the use of Maersk’s ECO Delivery Ocean, gradually increasing the use of container ships with low-carbon fuels for maritime logistics to Europe.

Speaking about the actions being taken, Yukie Kozu, general manager of logistics planning at Seiko Epson, says, “Epson has set goals of becoming carbon negative and underground resource free, as we see action to address climate change to be one of the most important societal issues. Using the ECO Delivery Ocean is part of a broad program to achieve our environmental goals and contribute to the decarbonization of the shipping industry and society as a whole. There is the issue of higher initial costs, but we recognize that transitioning to alternative fuels is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in maritime transport. We will continue to work with like-minded logistics companies to realize a decarbonized society."

We visited the Port of Yokohama to see Maersk’s new methanol ship and discuss low-carbon services (April 2024)
(Seiko Epson employees with A.P. Moller-Maersk. Kozu is second from the right.)

Related link

Learn more about Maersk ECO Delivery Ocean (external site)

Epson’s Environmental Vision 2050

Epson 25 Renewed Corporate Vision