

Emirates to launch longest green flight

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Emirates Airline is set to trial a new environmental scheme with the launch of its new service from to Dubai to San Francisco, which will represent the world's longest green flight, the airline announced on Wednesday.

The Dubai-based airline has worked closely with government agencies in Dubai, Russia, the United States, and other countries, to develop the green flight, which aims to save an estimated 2,000 gallons of fuel and 30,000 pounds of carbon emissions on the 16-hour non-stop service.

The new initiative has been dubbed as the "Environment flight" and the inaugural flight EK225 will depart Dubai at 8.55 am on December 15 and land in San Francisco at 1.00 pm local time on the same day.

"After months of planning, Emirates' Environment flight is a best-practice trial of how airlines, governments, manufacturers, technology providers and airports can work together to be as eco-efficient as possible," said HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, chairman and chief executive of Emirates Airline and Group.

"We have made a multi-billion dollar investment in new state-of-the-art eco-efficient aircraft," he added.

Fuel and emission-saving measures for the new ultra eco-efficient 777-200LR include specially washing the plane before the flight to minimise drag, giving the aircraft priority clearance for both taxiing and departure, and planning a departure route out of Dubai that will allow the aircraft to reach its optimum cruise altitude as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In addition, the Environment flight will use revised routes within Russian airspace following negotiations with the Russian government.

"The San Francisco inaugural flight will be a dual milestone of commencing services between two great cities and also demonstrating the best our industry can offer in environmental efficiency," Al-Maktoum said.

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