
Emirates Flight Catering greens up power system

By **Rick Lundstrom** on September, 25 2019 | Catering



Muhammed Tariq, (left) AVP Engineering, Emirates Flight Catering, and Saeed Mohammed, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Flight Catering

[Emirates Flight Catering](#) (EKFC) announced yesterday it has successfully commissioned a solar power system on its premises in Dubai.

The solar array expected to deliver an annual reduction of 3 million kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions. EKFC's initiative supports the [Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050](#), which was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, in 2015. Under the strategy, the Emirate aims to produce 75% of its energy requirements from clean sources by 2050.

"Sustainability is an important pillar of the Emirates Group strategy," said His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group. "We are committed to responsible business and environmental stewardship, and we apply eco-efficient technologies across our operations to minimize our impact even as we continue to grow. Emirates Flight Catering's latest initiatives open new opportunities to improve resource efficiency, underpinning

Dubai's strategy to become a global center of clean energy and green economy."

"Our state-of-the-art solar power plant helps us further optimize resources and enhance environmental efficiency, which will benefit all of our stakeholders, including our customers, employees and the communities around us," said Saeed Mohammed, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Flight Catering. "In line with our appetite for perfection, we stay committed to providing the best possible quality products and services to our customers using sustainable and innovative solutions."

EKFC's solar rooftop power plant has 8,112 individual solar panels. It is expected to generate 4,195 megawatt-hours of electricity each year, allowing the company to reduce traditional energy consumption by 15% across its laundry, food manufacturing and staff accommodation facilities. As a result, EKFC's carbon dioxide emission will decrease by 3 million kilogram annually - the equivalent of the annual electricity use of 518 family homes.

EKFC will shortly start constructing a vertical farming facility in a joint venture with U.S.-based [Crop One](#). The 130,000 square foot controlled environment facility will produce 2,700 kilograms of herbicide- and pesticide-free leafy greens daily, using 99% less water than outdoor fields. Its location will enable quick delivery of fresh products within hours of harvest, maintaining the food's nutritional value and reducing carbon emissions associated with transportation. EKFC expects to deliver the first products to Emirates Flight Catering's customers in 2020.

EKFC runs a comprehensive recycling program, ensuring recyclable items, including plastic bottles, aluminum cans and foil, are separated from galley waste after they are removed from the aircraft. The company also has all cardboard packaging and office paper waste recycled into new paper products.

Every month, EKFC says it diverts over 270,000 kilograms of material from landfill and ensures the recycling of 130,000 kilograms of cardboard, 4,000 kilograms of paper, 14,000 kilograms of aluminum cans and foil, 120,000 kilograms of glass bottles and 10,000 kilograms of plastic bottles.

Fast facts about EKFC:

- The solar power project reduces Emirates Flight Catering's carbon dioxide emissions per annum by 2,968,568 kg. This is the equivalent of:
 - 1,264,130 liters of petrol fuel consumption
 - The annual electricity consumption of 518 family homes
- 8,112 individual solar panels installed
- Eight Emirates Flight Catering facilities included in this solar power project
- Annual energy bill reduction of 1.86m AED
- Annual production of 4,195 Megawatt Hours