Why are the CO₂-eq emissions of a transcontinental Business class flight so high?

Business class and 1st class have a greater CO₂-eq footprint than economy class because there are fewer seats per m². The difference can be as much as three times greater, on average.

Long-haul flights are more costly in terms of CO₂-eq because the aircrafts are heavier, fly longer and at higher altitudes.

Average CO₂-eq emissions per Business class passenger for a round trip Zurich-San Francisco:

10T

Long-haul flights are more costly in terms of CO₂-eq than short- or medium-haul flights, because the aircrafts fly at higher altitudes, which increases the flight's environmental impact. Business class is more expensive in terms of CO₂-eq than economy class because there are fewer seats per m².
Academic travel is a major contributor to EPFL’s carbon footprint. In order to reduce this footprint, it is essential to take action in this area. A reduction can only be achieved through the active participation of our community.

### Breakdown of EPFL’s carbon footprint (2019)

- **35%** Travel
- **34%** Energy
- **13%** Food
- **6%** Digital
- **8%** Pendularity

### Main destinations of EPFL community flights with associated CO₂-eq emissions

Flights to the American and Asian continents and Asia account for the majority of the carbon footprint (transcontinental flights: 84%). Flights within Europe represent 63% of the total number of all air travel.

### In 2019 academic travel constituted 35% of the global EPFL CO₂-eq footprint.

### Distribution of the CO₂-eq footprint of members of the EPFL community in 2019

(Only trips booked through the central travel agency are listed.) Scale: T CO₂-eq

Each point on this graph represents a member of the EPFL community. On the left are those who travel a lot; on the right those who travel less.

### EPFL’s carbon footprint (2019)

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