On November 28th 2023, Virgin Atlantic flew a Boeing from London to New York using 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel

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Milling attacks

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We looked at the global climate impact of this flight using a lifecycle approach



ESTUAIRE 🕐

Fuel-related CO2 emissions first

bp

Tons CO2 equivalent

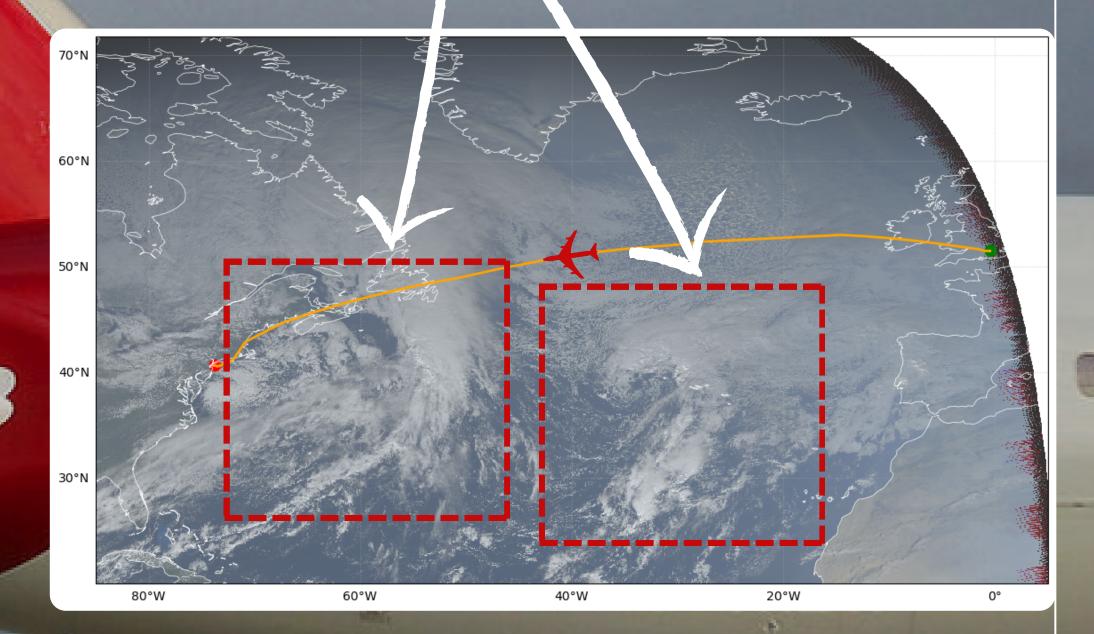
	129	-95.9	
			Biofuel made from used cooking oils 84% lifecycle savings
	Well to wake CO2 emissions	Savings from 88% of SAF 1	Synthetic biofuel, needed to mimic fossil kerosene for certification 50% lifecycle savings
	Fuel supply		-7.7 Savings from 12% of SAF 2 25.4 CO2 emissions left

Source : Estuaire fuel model, Virgin Atlantic communication and CORSIA SAF lifecycle savings

Contrails

With two low pressure systems over the North Atlantic, the probability to meet a contrail area was high

Those two spiral weather shapes



Source : GOES satellite picture on 28/11/2023 at 3:30pm CET

Contrails

However it seems the aircraft flew high enough over the contrail areas



Contrails were probably generated, but only short lived

So no noticeable climate impact from contrails on this flight

Source : CoCiP algorithm with reanalyzed weather data

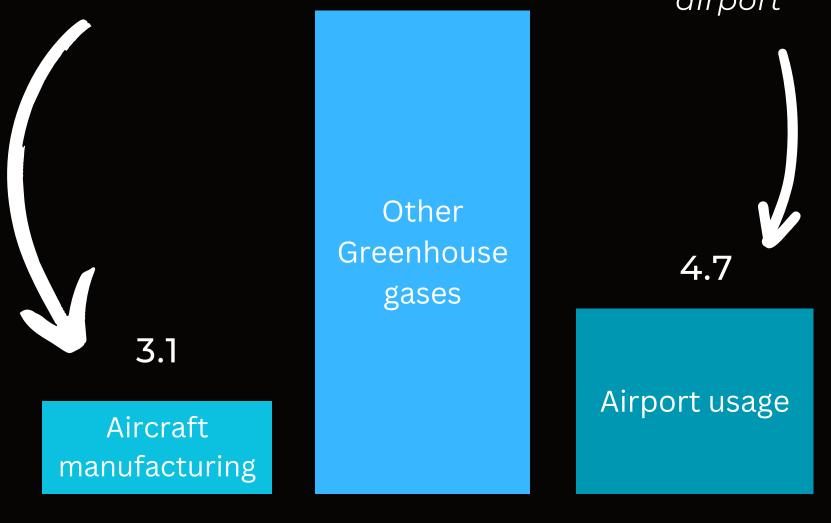
The other lifecycle emissions are left



Raw material extraction and aircraft assembly emissions, distributed across the aircraft life



Considering carbon intensity of energy mix, distributed over all flights of the airport

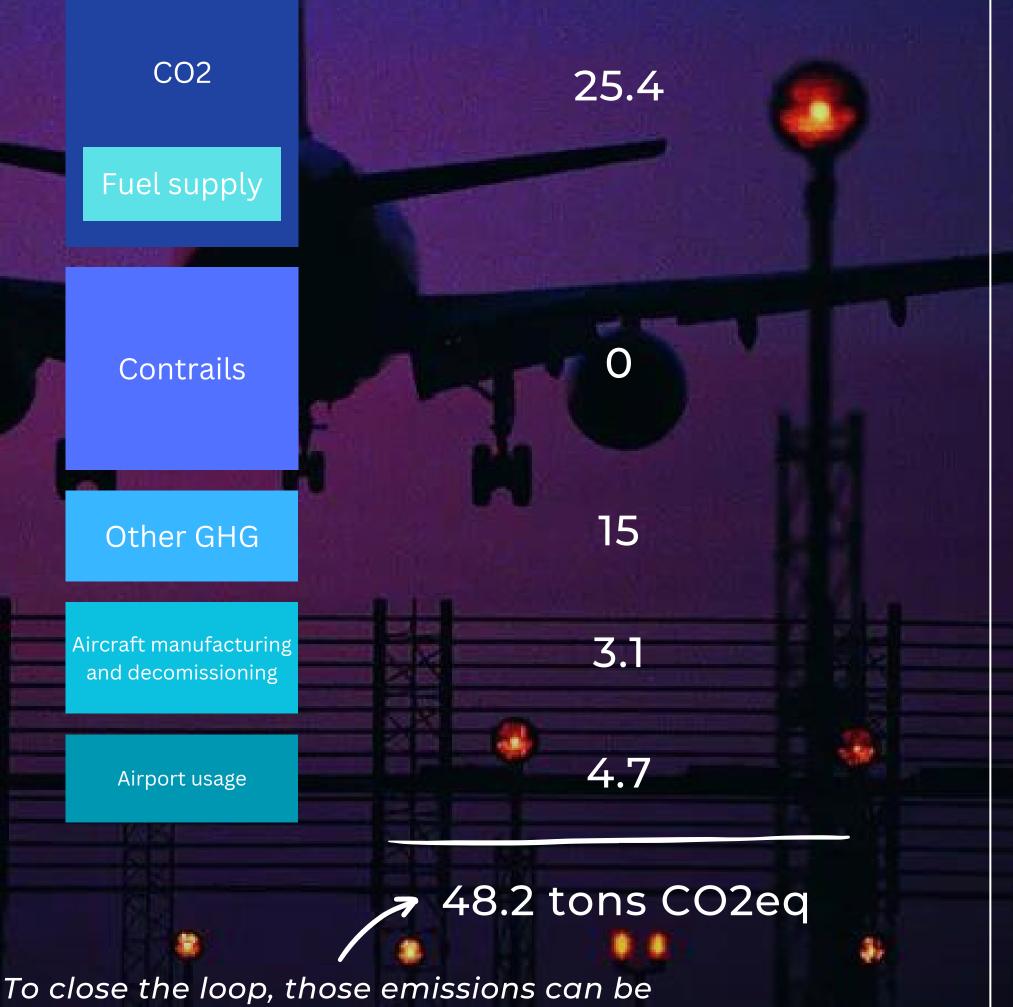


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Source : Estuaire lifecycle models based on peer-reviewed aircraft LCAs

Adding things up...



offset, as advertised by Virgin Atlantic

Scaling up that effort

Purchasing the biofuel for this flight and biochar carbon credits to offset the remaining 48 tons of CO2 could have cost up to 190,000\$

Today, regular kerosene for this flight typically costs 24,000\$

Spread to all seats on board, this difference would amount to 645\$/seat



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Source : Heathrow jet fuel spot price, 5000\$/ton HEFA, 500\$/tCO2 biochar credit