



94 tonnes of CO₂ emitted by Sider Rodi will be offset by carbon credits for a solar farm project in Madagascar (source: Nova Marine Carriers)

Nova Marine buys solar credits to offset carbon from short sea voyage

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Nova Marine Carriers, a Swiss-Italian dry bulk shipping operator, has undertaken its first carbon-neutral voyage in Italian waters

The operator said it offset 94 tonnes of CO₂ emitted by its vessel Sider Rodi by voluntarily purchasing carbon credits for a solar farm project in Madagascar.

The 8,063-dwt general cargo vessel Sider Rodi had been chartered by an unnamed European power utility company to deliver 3,395 tonnes of woodchip from Livorno to Porto Verme in Italy. In the process the ship burned 28.2 tonnes of marine gas oil and low sulphur fuel oil, equivalent to 94 tonnes of CO₂.

This figure includes the vessel's ballast leg from Genoa to Livorno to undertake the charter as well as the fuel consumed in port during loading and discharge operations.

Noval Marine Carriers chief executive Vincenzo Romeo said, ‘This is a first step for Noval Marine Carriers and a tangible way of reducing our environmental impact today. Shipping is still a carbon intensive activity, but nevertheless the most environmentally friendly way of transporting goods across Europe.’



‘We are committed to reducing our actual carbon emissions through investing in modern ships, continuous operational improvements and supporting research into the next generation of fuels. But we passionately believe that action to reduce global emissions needs to be taken today, so supporting an African solar farm plays a role in making a real-world difference right now.’

The Ambatolampy solar power plant provides electricity and power supply to around 50,000 Malagasy households. The project developer GreenYellow recently announced plans to significantly expand Ambatolampy’s output.

The trade was brokered by Iichor ClearBlue Oceans, a carbon emissions trading and advisory company set up in April by Swiss broker Iichor and Dutch specialist ClearBlue Markets. Iichor head of business development Trifon Tsentides said ‘This is a first for the European short sea sector which moves around 1.8Bn tonnes of trade across the region every year.’

‘We are experiencing high levels of interest in this type of service from a range of shipping organisations.’

With the EU [set to extend emissions trading](#) to shipping, carbon offsets are set to grow in popularity as [owners look to comply](#) with new environmental rules. Riviera has published industry perspectives on offsets [here](#).