



Press Release

17 June 2015

A hundred times to the Moon and back – Finnish offices reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by a record-breaking amount

Last year, Finnish WWF Green Offices saved a total of 13,130 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions compared to the previous year. The same amount of emissions would be released by driving a car a hundred times to the Moon and back. Savings nearly doubled when compared to the previous year's results and reached an all-time high. WWF Green Office is an environmental management system for offices.

"The results are astonishing! Many offices have carried out environmental activities for a long time and still can reduce their consumption each year. A well-functioning environmental management system invariably benefits organisations financially, too. Throughout the year, savings accumulate, there are more euros on the bottom line and nature thanks you," says **Helka Julkunen**, Head of Green Office Programme at WWF.

Electricity accounts for 70 per cent of the savings. Electricity consumption generated 9,250 tonnes less carbon dioxide emissions than in the previous year. All in all, the offices reduced their electricity consumption by nearly 13,000,000 kWh, which corresponds to savings of up to EUR 800,000, an amount equivalent to the monthly salary of approximately 250 Finns.

"In addition to bioeconomy and renewable energy, securing a sustainable future also requires energy efficiency and energy conservation. A one-week campaign is not enough; instead, work must be carried out continuously over a long term. Energy-smart actions, energy-efficient devices and the shift into using mixed-plan offices increase the efficiency of electricity consumption," comments Julkunen.

On average, every Green Office employee saved 180 kWh of electricity. With that amount of electricity, one could heat up a sauna 23 times. Another factor contributing to the reduction of emissions is that many Green Offices have started using green electricity that is regarded in calculations as not generating carbon dioxide emissions. Green electricity is generated using renewable forms of energy, such as wind power, solar power or biofuels.

"There are more and more electronic devices being used, so energy-saving work practices are very significant. The results show how great the joint effect of even small actions is. The means are easy: leave the laptop in sleep mode while you are having lunch and the last one to leave the office switches off the lights. It is the attitude that counts. Good instructions and motivating the personnel to take environmentally friendly action affect the outcome," says Julkunen.

WWF Green Office is an environmental management system for offices. At present, the Green Office network in Finland includes 170 organisations with a total of over 63,000 employees.

Further information:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The results of the WWF Green Office network's environmental activities are monitored through annual reporting. Annual reporting applies to Green Offices, where the environmental management system have been inspected and which have been granted the right to use the Green Office label. In Finland, 156 organisations reported their consumption figures for the calendar year 2014 to WWF. The results were calculated by comparing the 2014 details submitted by the offices to the corresponding details from 2013. The summary has been compiled from the details saved in the Climate Calculator and the Consumer Habit Questionnaire (wwf.fi/climatecalculator, wwf.fi/goquestionnaire). Examples illustrating savings are based on WWF's Climate Calculator.

The key indicators in the annual Green Office reporting:

| Indicator | Emission change | Emission change as a percentage | Consumption change |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Electricity | - 9,253 tCO ₂ | - 19.5% | - 12,950,000 kWh |
| Heat | - 5,684 tCO ₂ | - 17.9% | - 19,129,300 kWh |
| Passenger traffic | + 1,850 tCO ₂ | + 6.1% | |
| Paper | + 14 tCO ₂ (CDE) | + 0.8% | + 16,727,900 sheets |
| Waste | - 57 tCO ₂ (CDE) | - 2.8% | + 120,446 kg |
| Water consumption | | | + 11,864 m ³ |
| Total | - 13,130 tCO₂ | | |

WWF Green Office is an environmental management system for offices. It aims to reduce the ecological footprint of offices and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. With the help of the service, offices can reduce their impact on the environment and, at the same time, gain cost savings. WWF grants offices that meet its criteria the right to use the Green Office label. WWF Finland launched the Green Office programme in 2002. At present, the programme is also in use in China, Pakistan, Switzerland, Norway, Turkey and Estonia, for example.