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## Press release

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Green Offices' carbon dioxide emission savings amount to the emissions generated during 365 round-the-world car trips

**During 2008, workplaces in WWF Finland's Green Office programme saved a total of 2,740 tonnes\* of carbon dioxide emissions compared to the previous year by reducing their energy consumption. These savings correspond to the emissions generated by approximately 365 round-the-world car trips. WWF's Green Office programme is a simple environmental management system devised for offices. The programme aims to mitigate climate change, promote sustainable practices, and increase awareness of environmental issues. More than 130 firms and organisations have already joined the programme.**

Green Offices report annually to WWF on at least three indicators of their consumption patterns. These indicators are selected together with WWF to describe workplaces' most important environmental impacts. Typical indicators include paper consumption, electricity use, heating consumption, use of vehicle fuels, air travel, and quantities of unsorted waste. During 2008 the most significant savings concerned electricity, paper and heating.

In recent years the Green Office network has grown rapidly, while at the same time average emissions per employee have steadily declined.

“As members of staff each reduce their own individual consumption rates, all of these small cuts combined result in considerable savings,” explains WWF's Green Office expert **Mikko Kuiri**. “Offices with a longer history of involvement have got the programme working well, and our new member offices are also extremely committed to the Green Office scheme right from the start. One large organisation, for instance, has switched all of its business trips from car to rail, consequently managing to reduce travel-related carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 75%.”

Electricity consumption rates have declined throughout the network. The Green Offices' total savings in 2008 amounted to 1,620,000 kWh of electricity. In terms of carbon dioxide emissions, these savings are comparable to the emissions generated by burning 150,000 litres of fossil fuel, or in the district heating of 90 detached houses for a year.\*

“We can all save a lot of electricity through small actions like turning off unneeded lights, adjusting the settings of appliances to save energy, and switching off computers and other office equipment when we've finished using them. Machines left on stand-by really use a lot of energy,” adds Kuiri.

The network's total paper consumption has increased, because the numbers of employees in offices reporting on their paper use have risen, but on average each employee used 500 sheets of paper less than in 2007. “It's easy to reduce paper consumption, for instance by not printing documents unnecessarily, by shifting over to electronic document filing, by printing double-sided, and by using printing space effectively,” says Kuiri.



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About 80% of the Green Office workplaces reporting on heating consumption have successfully achieved savings. The network's overall consumption of heat has declined by almost 13%, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1,076 tonnes. These savings correspond to the emissions generated by burning 460,000 litres of petrol, or in the district heating of around 270 detached houses for a year.\*

*\*Energy consumption figures have been compiled for offices where comparable figures were also available for the previous year. Comparisons made to illustrate the scale of emission savings are based on information provided by WWF's "Climate Calculator" ([www.ilmastolaskuri.fi](http://www.ilmastolaskuri.fi)).*

### **Green Office**

WWF's Green Office environmental management scheme aims to help offices to reduce their environmental impacts and also achieve savings on material and energy costs. This user-friendly and practical programme is based on the general principles applied in the more detailed ISO 14 001 and EMAS environmental management systems. Offices who fulfil the programme's criteria gain the right to use WWF's Green Office logo.

Offices and other workplaces can play a key role in global efforts to reduce energy consumption and adopt sustainable solutions. The Green Office programme encourages employees to work together to adopt environmentally responsible practices, while also improving other aspects of their organisations' work.

The Green Office network today includes 133 organisations with a total of around 37,000 employees. Participants include businesses, administrative bodies and civil society organisations. The Finnish-based programme is currently going global, and is already applied in various countries around the world including Turkey, Romania, Indonesia and China.

[www.wwf.fi/green\\_office](http://www.wwf.fi/green_office)

### **For more information:**

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*WWF Finland is part of the global WWF network, which works to save unique natural habitats and endangered species around the world. WWF's goal is a world where people live in harmony with nature. Our work is only possible thanks to generous donations from ordinary people who share our concern for nature.*