



Press release 12 May 2014

## Emissions savings of Green Offices equal the mileage of 55 round trips to the moon

**Finnish Green Offices reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by a record 7,048 tonnes in 2013 compared to the previous year. The same amount of emissions would be released by travelling over a thousand times around the world by car or driving a car for 60 years without stopping (at 80 km/h). The distance travelled would equal 55 round trips to the moon.**

WWF Green Office is an environmental service for offices. With it, offices can reduce their environmental load, achieve savings and slow down climate change.

The most savings in Green Offices were seen in electricity. Electricity consumption decreased by almost 9 million kWh, a record high number of three per cent compared to the previous year, reducing emissions by approximately 6,500 tonnes. Generating the same amount of energy with a single wind turbine would take some eighteen months.

“Electricity consumption is one of the most significant environmental effects of offices. Cutting down the consumption year after year requires new ideas and methods. Attention should be paid to the energy efficiency of equipment, but switching off the lights is actually surprisingly important, as up to 30 per cent of the electricity consumed by an office may be used by lighting,” says **Helka Julkunen**, Head of Green Office Programme at WWF Finland.

Decreasing the ecological footprint of the office also saves money. Last year, Green Offices saved a total of approximately EUR 8.25 million in electricity bills alone. Approximately one-third of the electricity consumed by the offices was generated using renewable energy sources.

Paper consumption decreased a lot as well. In 2013, the consumption of copier paper was 21 million sheets less than the previous year. On average, every Green Office employee left two sheets unprinted a day. Stacked on top of each other, these sheets would make a pile over two kilometres high. A path of the A4-size sheets placed lengthwise one after the other would measure 6,250 kilometres, equalling the distance between Finland and India.

“Small everyday choices really do matter when looking at their combined effects. Duplex printing, for example, is an easy way to cut paper consumption in half. Electronic archival and technological development will continue to decrease the need for printing,” Helka Julkunen says.

“I would like to extend my gratitude to all Green Offices for the best result in the 11-year history of the system. The results show that office properties and what people do in them are significant in reducing the use of natural resources,” says **Liisa Rohweder**, Secretary General of WWF Finland.

At present, the Green Office network in Finland includes 179 organisations with a total of over 66,800 employees.



**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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*WWF Green Office is an environmental service for offices, which 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 savings in material and energy costs. WWF grants offices that meet its criteria the right to use the Green Office label. At present, the Green Office network in Finland includes 179 organisations with a total of over 66,800 employees. The international programme is at present also in use in China, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Pakistan, Romania, Switzerland and Turkey.*