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WWF

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Green Offices save electricity by one third per person

In 2010, Finnish Green Offices saved a total of 2,810 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions compared to the previous year by cutting consumption. The amount corresponds to over 426 passenger car trips around the world. The WWF Green Office network includes almost 200 organisations.

Green Offices report annually to WWF on their consumption with at least three different consumption figures. These indicators have been selected together with WWF and describe the most significant impacts on the environment. The most common indicators include, for example, the consumption of paper, electricity, heat, and road traffic, air traffic and the amount of unsorted waste. The most popular consumption savings targets in 2010 were electricity, paper and heat.

The Green Office programme has a positive impact on the work day of over 53,000 employees. Last year Green Offices offset over 242 kilogrammes of greenhouse gas emissions per person compared to the previous year. The amount corresponds to approximately one hundred litres of fuel. "A hybrid car could travel for about 2,600 kilometres with this amount of fuel, so each one of the network's 53,000 employees could travel once from Helsinki to Barcelona as the crow flies", compares **Helka Julkunen**, Head of WWF's Green Office programme.

The consumption of electricity was reduced by a staggering 32 per cent per person in the Green Offices. The total amount of electricity saved was 2,96 GWh (2,960,285 kWh), which equates to emissions of almost 2,300 tonnes (2293,43 tCO₂). That corresponds to the greenhouse gas emissions of 975,928 litres of fuel or the average annual emissions of 521 detached houses using district heating. The amount of money saved by cutting consumption was over 412,000 euros.

The consumption of heat in the network has reduced despite the cold winter. In 2010, the consumption of heat was 3.1 per cent, i.e. almost 3.1 GWh (3,070,064 kWh) lower than the previous year. That corresponds to the greenhouse gas emissions from 382,918 fuel litres or the average annual emissions of 205 detached houses using district heating.

The consumption of paper in the network has again declined steadily. The Green Offices used up to 15,670,000 fewer sheets of copying paper compared to the previous year. In monetary terms, that means almost €110,000, and the amount of paper saved would create a pile over 1.5 kilometres high. The greenhouse gas emissions from paper consumption were reduced by almost 200 tonnes (193,47 tCO₂ekv). It is easy to cut the use of paper by favouring electronic communication and by developing new work practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions caused by air and road traffic have increased in the network during 2010. Air traffic emissions increased by five per cent, i.e. 740 tonnes (740,05 tCO₂).

"The economic resurgence has led to increased flying. That is a challenge for the network. It is good to think about how we can reduce the emissions from air travel. We should favour direct flights, choose the aircraft with the lowest emissions, take the train when possible and increase possibilities for long-distance negotiations", Helka Julkunen says.

The Green Offices can for the first time this year report consumption figures for water consumption, fixtures and office equipment, such as computers, printers and telephones. Greenhouse gas emissions are remarkably large especially in the life cycle of fixtures and office equipment. The first figures for comparison will be available next year.

Annual reporting applies to Green Offices, where the environmental programmes have been inspected and which have been granted the right to use the Green Office label. Consumption figures have been collected from those offices, which have an indicator for comparison to the previous year. Examples corresponding to savings are based on WWF's Climate Calculator (www.ilmastolaskuri.fi).



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Green Office

WWF Green Office is an environmental service for offices, which aims to reduce the ecological footprint of offices and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. With its help, offices can reduce their strain on the environment and at the same time gain savings in material and energy costs. Green Office is a light and practical environmental programme, based on the general principles of the ISO 14001 and EMAS environmental programmes. WWF grants offices that meet its criteria the right to use the Green Office label.

Office premises and workplaces have a key role in energy consumption and sustainable solutions. The Green Office scheme encourages personnel to co-operate and to do ecological deeds, while at the same time improving the actions of the organisation in other areas as well.

At present, the Green Office network includes 193 organisations with a total of approximately 53,000 employees. The network includes companies, the public sector and third sector operators. The international programme is at present also in use in Turkey, Indonesia and Vietnam, for example.

www.wwf.fi/green_office

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WWF Finland is part of the international WWF network, endeavouring to save the world's most unique natural phenomena and most endangered species. WWF's goal is a world where man and nature coexist in harmony. Donations from ordinary people make WWF's work possible.