



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Green Office organisations reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by over 6,300 tonnes**

**In 2011, the Green Office organisations of Finland reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by a total of 6,304 tonnes when compared to the year 2010. The amount corresponds to 956 passenger car trips around the world. The Green Office network consists of 200 organisations with over 64,400 employees. This year will be the 10th anniversary of the programme, which was developed by WWF Finland.**

The Green Offices report at least three different consumption figures to WWF each year. These indicators have been selected together with WWF, and they describe the most significant impacts on the environment. The indicators include, for example, the consumption of paper, electricity and heat, car fuel, air travel and the amount of unsorted waste.

In 2011, 167 organisations obligated to report provided their figures. The number of these organisations grows year by year: once the first office inspection is completed and the office has been granted the right to use the Green Office label, the office is also obligated to report annually to WWF Finland.

The Green Offices reduced their electricity consumption by a total of almost 4 GWh compared to the previous year, which corresponds to a reduction of over 5,600 tonnes of carbon dioxide. The reduction was achieved through small everyday actions, such as turning off the lights and computer when it is not necessary to use them. “In addition to changes in habits, the offices’ transition to green electricity significantly decreased the global warming effects of electricity consumption,” says **Helka Julkunen**, Head of Green Office.

The Green Offices consumed nearly 580,000 reams of paper in 2011, which is an increase of more than 27% from 2010. Regardless of the fierce increase in total consumption of office paper, consumption per person decreased from the previous year. In 2011, one person consumed 10.3 reams of paper. In 2010, the corresponding figure was 10.7 reams. The growth in the total consumption of paper can be explained by the increased number of staff members in the offices. “The most important thing is that consumption per person has decreased and that actions that save paper have not been forgotten,” states Julkunen.

In total, the greenhouse gas emissions of office and printing paper were reduced by over 3,900 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent when compared to the year 2010. The huge reduction was caused by the annual correction of emission factors so that they correspond to the newest available information. Because of this the emissions savings caused by paper consumption have not been included in the calculation of the total emission savings.

On the other hand, air travel and the amount of unsorted waste increased in the Green Offices. The carbon dioxide emissions of air travel grew on average by 500 kilos per person. This means an increase of over 26% from the previous year. The amount of unsorted waste that ends up in the rubbish dump and causes most

greenhouse gas emissions grew by over 38%, or 338,000 kilos. Some of the increase can be explained by offices undergoing renovations or moving to new locations.

“Cutting down air travels through long-distance negotiations and reducing unsorted waste by recycling are small actions, as is reducing electricity consumption by turning off lights,” encourages Julkunen.

**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 strain on the environment and at the same time gain savings in material and energy costs. Green Office is a light and practical environmental service. WWF grants offices that meet its criteria the right to use the Green Office label.*

*At present, the Green Office network in Finland includes 197 organisations with a total of over 64,400 employees. The network includes companies, the public sector and third sector operators. The international programme is at present also in use in Indonesia, Pakistan, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Vietnam and Estonia.*

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