



Press Release 6th of June 2013

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from Green Offices takes a turn

For the ten years of its existence, the WWF's Green Office programme for offices has been successful in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the organisations involved in the network. In the reporting from spring 2013, the overall amount of greenhouse gas emissions from GO programme offices increased for the first time when compared to the previous year. The improvements over the years challenge the achievement of savings.

According to the reporting from spring 2013, the greenhouse gas emissions from GO programme offices grew by a total of 3,307 tCO₂ when compared to the previous year. The amount corresponds to 502 passenger car trips around the world.

Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the consumption of electricity also increased. Reducing emissions has become more challenging over the years, as the continuous improvement of energy efficiency makes it more difficult to decrease consumption.

"In the future, it will be possible to achieve great savings in electricity consumption, when energy efficient LED light fittings, for example, become more common and more affordable. As much as one third of an office's electricity consumption comes from lighting," says **Helka Julkunen**, Head of Green Office Programme at WWF Finland.

Regardless of the growth in overall emissions from electricity consumption and the amount of electricity consumed per person, the emissions per person decreased by 52 kgCO₂ compared to the previous year. The decrease is due to the fact that more and more offices are purchasing electricity produced using renewable resources or compensating for the emissions generated by their electricity consumption using [GoldPower-certified](#) energy, for example.

The most significant factors contributing to the increase in overall emissions were a growth in emissions from heating consumption and air travel. Emissions from heating consumption increased by 1,699 tCO₂ compared to the previous year. The growth correlates directly with how long and cold the winter was.

Emissions from air travel increased by 966 tCO₂ compared to the previous year.

"Finland is becoming more international, which can clearly be seen and felt within the Green Office network," says Julkunen. "When flying, it is a good idea to choose direct flights and efficient aircraft, and trains are a convenient alternative to flying in Europe," Julkunen recalls.

Paper consumption per person decreased in the network from 9.26 reams to 8.9 reams per person. In the network overall, nearly 522,000 reams of paper were consumed, which is equivalent to a stack 2.6 kilometres high. There was an increase of 3.6 per cent in the overall paper consumption when compared to the previous year. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused by paper consumption is small compared to emissions from electricity consumption or air travel. For the sake of natural biodiversity, it is important to consider the source of the wood fibre used to manufacture the paper. WWF recommends that offices purchase FSC-labelled paper made from one hundred per cent recycled fibres. [FSC-labelling](#) guarantees that the fibre comes from sustainably managed forests.



Further information:

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Read more about [Green Office Programme](#)

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. In spring 2013, the number of organisations obligated to participate in reporting was 172. 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](#).