

Press release



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19 000 KBC employees in Belgium to work with green energy from now on

Greenhouse gas emissions will be cut by 47% as a result

'KBC is continuing to carve out its path towards environmental sustainability. Since 1 March 2008, we have resolved to use only green electricity. From now on, all KBC group companies in Belgium (including KBC Bank, KBC Insurance, CBC Banque, Centea, Fidea, KBC Lease, KBC Asset Management, KBC Securities, KBC Private Equity, Antwerp Diamond Bank) will draw on this sustainable energy source. Using green power will immediately reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 47%,' commented André Bergen, KBC Group CEO.

Furthermore, KBC will continue with its efforts to reduce energy consumption, building on the results achieved in 2007, when a number of prevention projects cut the use of electricity by 4.3% and gas usage by no less than 20.6%.

Green power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 47%

KBC uses two energy suppliers in Belgium, Nuon for low voltage and Electrabel for high voltage power. Electrabel will supply the company with around 80 000 000 kWh a year through its AlpEnergy brand, and Nuon with some 33 000 000 kWh a year under its Nuon Nature brand.

On 1 October 2003, KBC was already getting around 30% of its energy from green sources.

AlpEnergy and Nuon Nature are generated entirely from renewable, inexhaustible sources such as wind and water. Both energy products will ensure that no additional carbon or nuclear waste is released when energy is used at KBC.

As a result, 19 000 KBC employees in Belgium – spread across 865 bank branches and 50 administrative buildings – will see greenhouse gas emissions fall by 47%.

Prevention projects are paving the way towards a climate neutral footprint by 2010 and have already lowered electricity consumption by 4.3% and gas consumption by 20.6% in 2007.

André Bergen also had this to say: 'Under its Climate change/Carbon emission policy, the Executive Committee of the KBC group recently resolved to achieve a 'climate neutral footprint for its Belgian activities by 2010'. Needless to say, limiting energy consumption will play the main role in achieving this objective. Our employees play an active role in deciding which prevention projects are implemented'.

A comprehensive suggestion system is in place which rewards employees if they introduce original and feasible ideas. One example of the many rewarded suggestions concerned the offering to staff members of a course in 'eco driving'. Installing automatic lighting controls, systematically using energy-saving flatscreens and installing high-efficiency air-conditioning systems are just a small selection of the prevention projects. The results are impressive: electricity and gas consumption were reduced by 4.3% and 20.6%, respectively, in 2007. In addition, KBC employees have also been encouraged via Intranet to consider and to reduce their own ecological footprint.