

Environment and Society

Operational environmental protection

The environmental impacts of our commercial operations are comparatively slight, deriving principally from business trips taken by our employees and their commuting to and from work as well as the operation of our office premises. Nevertheless, we take our responsibility for the environment very seriously. Through the efficient use of resources and energy we play a positive part in climate change. Operational environmental protection is therefore a major concern for us. In our Sustainability Strategy we regularly define concrete targets and measures for protecting the environment and conserving resources.

With the implementation of our environmental management system back in 2012, which was certified according to DIN EN ISO 14001, we put in place standard processes for dealing with environmental protection and we specified concrete measures in our environmental programme. Certification of the environmental management system according to the revised standard DIN EN ISO 14001:2015 was completed successfully in December 2016. Since 2016 we have published annually a validated EMAS III Environmental Statement in fulfilment of the legal requirement to perform energy audits.

The focus of our efforts to conserve the environment is on reducing CO₂ emissions associated with the supply of electricity and heat to our premises as well as those caused by our business travel. Once again, we achieved our goal of operating on a carbon-neutral basis at the Hannover location to a level of 100%. The changeover to renewable energy in 2012 and the offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions caused

by air travel through payments to the climate protection organisation atmosfair were key factors in this achievement.

Having already converted our power supply at the German location to renewables, we now want to extend this progressively to our international offices as well. In addition, we make every effort to ensure the economical and resource-saving use of materials and raw materials such as paper and water at our offices. We regularly record central consumption and emissions data for our Home Office in Hannover and constantly seek to reduce our consumption. The same is true of the volume of waste. We monitor our waste disposal according to the type and quantity of waste.

Given that the land used by our company is not located in or adjacent to protected areas, the risk to protected areas and natural habitats is minimal. As a company operating in the insurance industry that uses its premises solely for office work, our offices are normally located in cities or municipalities.

We actively support the work of local and international initiatives for climate protection. For example, we are engaged in a number of environmental conservation projects, including the local initiative "Climate Alliance Hannover 2020" and the "Extreme Events and Climate Risks" working group of the Geneva Association, and we also participate in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

GRI Disclosures

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More information

-  Social Commitment
-  Legal framework
-  Website: EMAS
-  Website: Sustainability Strategy
-  Website: atmosfair
-  Website: CDP



Environmental protection

The rising concentration of greenhouse gases is causing the earth's atmosphere to heat up, hence also leading to permafrost melting.

We take our responsibility for the environment seriously and focus on reducing our CO₂ emissions. We have had a net zero carbon footprint at the Hannover location since 2016.

The burning of coal accounts for around half of annual CO₂ emissions. Starting in 2018 we have therefore made a conscious decision not to invest in issuers who generate a quarter or more of their turnover from coal mining and coal-based energy generation.

Environmental management system

With the aid of our environmental management system certified in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14001 we review our impact on the environment and identify measures for minimising these effects wherever possible. Responsibility for the system rests with all the members of our Executive Board.

The targets and measures pursued in the context of our environmental management system form part of our sustainability strategy and are regularly updated. The establishment of an international network for sustainability issues and expansion of the collection of environmental data to include international locations of the Group are enshrined in the Sustainability Strategy 2015-2017. Both these goals will be carried over to the upcoming strategy cycle. Reporting directly to the Executive Board, the Environmental Management Officer is responsible for continuous refinement of the environmental management system; he also coordinates and advises on compliance with all legal provisions in Germany relating to the environment and takes responsibility for annual conduct of the audits that are obligatory under the management system. The standards set out in our environmental management manual and in the supplementary instructions are mandatory for all executives and staff. Information on environmental protection is made available to our staff through our internal Social Media.

In December 2016 our environmental management system was certified according to the revised international standard DIN EN ISO 14001:2015. Our environmental certificate is thus valid for another 3 years. In 2016 we also drew up our first Environmental Statement in accordance with the EMAS III Regulation and had it validated by an environmental verifier. The validated EMAS III Environmental State-

ment, which we publish annually on our website, covers the energy audits that have been mandatory in Germany since April 2015. Major features of the EMAS III Regulation include a rigorous orientation towards continuous improvement of environmental efficiency, the use of consistent performance indicators in relation to key environmental aspects as well as verification of compliance with legal requirements. The current EMAS Environmental Statement published on our website contains details of our environmental goals and the environmental programme.

Costs of around EUR 18,400 were incurred in the reporting period for certification of our environmental management system and validation of our EMAS III Environmental Statement. There are also internal personnel costs associated with ongoing implementation of the environmental management system and a Group policy providing coverage for environmental impairment liability and environmental damage.

The offsets paid to atmosfair for CO₂ emissions caused by our air travel amounted to altogether around EUR 207,200 in the year under review and were therefore a major component of our spending on environmental protection. In addition, we offset emissions from the use of district heating and from our paper consumption, again by making compensatory payments to atmosfair. In 2017 we were thus again successful in operating with a net zero carbon footprint at the Hannover location.

Our total expenditures and investments for environmental protection measures in 2017 can therefore be put at around EUR 350,000.

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More information

 Legal framework

 [EMAS Environmental Statement 2017](#)

Resource consumption

The focus of our efforts to conserve the environment is on reducing CO₂ emissions caused primarily by our business travel and the supply of electricity and heat to our office premises. In addition, we make

every effort to ensure the economical and resource-saving use of materials and raw materials such as paper and water as well as to cut waste quantities. We record central consumption data for our Home Office in Hannover.

Energy consumption

With a view to further cutting our energy consumption at the Hannover location, we systematically pressed ahead with the already existing measures and initiated some additional steps in the year under review. For example, the staff canteens at our main offices were thoroughly renovated in the years 2016-2018 and fitted out with new equipment and technology. This enabled us to optimise production processes in the kitchen and boost energy efficiency.

In 2017 we handed over operation of the backup data centre – which we had previously run ourselves – to a professional data centre operator. The "shared" data centre fulfils the Platinum level of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification and is powered entirely by renewable energy. The relocation also makes it possible to achieve a significantly lower PUE (power usage efficiency) ratio than is possible in comparable self-operated facilities. The PUE metric denotes the ratio of the total amount of energy used by a computer data centre to the energy delivered to computing equipment and it thus determines the efficiency of the data centre's energy usage. This increased efficiency thus results in a further considerable energy saving.

We are also making increasing use of state-of-the-art communication capabilities in order to conserve resources in our work. Our standard workplaces have been made more energy-efficient and hence more environmentally friendly. Notebooks, PCs and workstation printers with high energy consumption and CO₂ emissions were replaced with more modern energy-efficient devices. With the realisation of the aforementioned measures, the IT project to restructure and optimise PC workplaces ("Next Generation Workplace") has been completed.

At the beginning of 2012 we made a complete changeover in our electricity supply and have since used power from our external energy providers that is obtained exclusively from regenerative sources. Electricity consumption in the year under review, including self-generated solar energy, stood at 8,825,131 kilowatt hours. This is equivalent to a reduction of roughly 2% (previous year: 9,008,650 kilowatt hours). The decrease can be attributed inter alia to the comparatively mild summer temperatures, which reduced the need to run air-conditioning for the data centre.

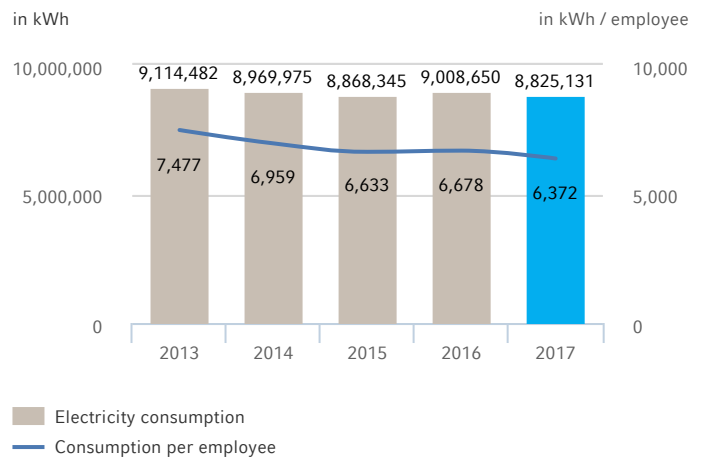
In November 2013 we installed altogether 652 solar modules on the roof of the office buildings in Hannover. In the 2017 financial year 106,151 kilowatt hours of solar energy were generated through operation of the system, roughly equivalent to the power consumption of 41 two-person households.

Electricity consumption per employee was lower than in the previous year at 6,372 kilowatt hours (previous year: 6,678 kilowatt hours) and significantly below the five-year average.

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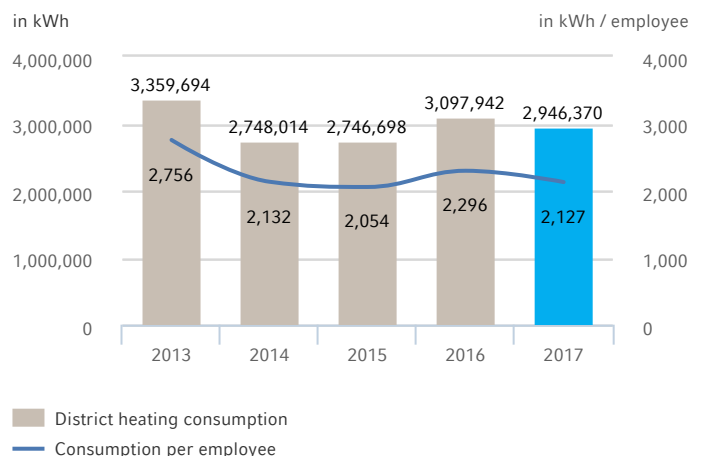
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Electricity consumption



Our district heating consumption in 2017 was significantly lower than in the previous year at 2,946,370 kilowatt hours (3,386,632 kilowatt hours adjusted for weather conditions).

District heating consumption (not adjusted for weather conditions)



In 2015 we modernised the glass facade of our main office building at Karl-Wiechert-Allee 57 and installed a weather-based, proactive heating management system. Analysis of the district heating consumption data shows that these measures have reduced consumption – adjusted for the effects of weather conditions – by 512,495 kilowatt hours since 2016 compared to the base year of 2014. This is equivalent to cutting CO₂ emissions by 42.7 tonnes.

Paper consumption

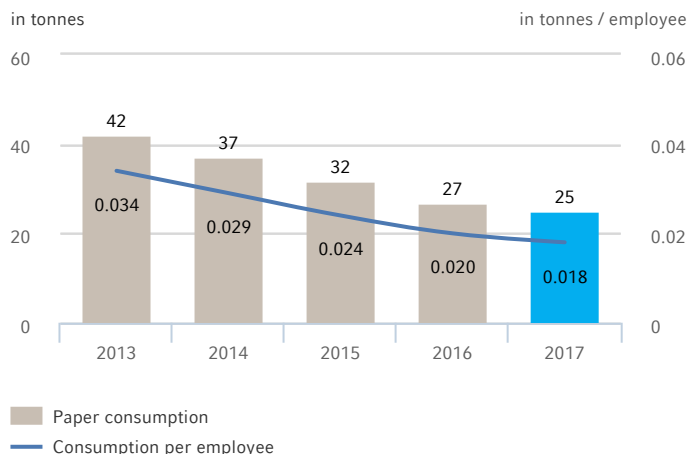
As a company operating in the reinsurance industry, we do not make any appreciable use of physical materials. Only the paper consumption at our offices is a relevant use of resources, and we therefore measure and manage this. It amounted to 25 tonnes (5,317,310 sheets) for the Hannover location in the year under review and – with a drop of 7.4% – was thus significantly below the level of the previous year. Our electronic administration system "Ruschlikon by ACORD" played a part here. The system makes possible the paperless processing of official documents. In 2017, for example, we were able to electronically process roughly 101,000 communications, including almost 36,000 loss advices and 220,000 attachments.

Above and beyond this, we were also able to cut paper consumption in 2017 by digitalising additional work processes: with the aid of our document management system we have successfully mapped posting releases while adhering to and documenting the principle of dual control. The implementation of a digital signature solution also generated savings.

More revealing than the paper consumption in absolute terms is the relative paper consumption per employee. Since 2010 we have consistently reduced our per capita consumption. Whereas in 2010 the figure was around 0.04 tonnes per year and employee, this number had dropped to 0.018 tonnes in the year under review. We have achieved this reduction inter alia by rolling out notebooks as part of our "Next Generation Workplace" programme. Instead of paper-intensive print-outs, members of staff now frequently take their notebook to meetings. We avoid unintended print jobs by means of the "Print to me" solution

implemented in 2015. Print jobs are not executed immediately, but instead have to be actively initiated by the user at the device. If this is not done, the computer deletes print jobs automatically after three days.

Paper consumption



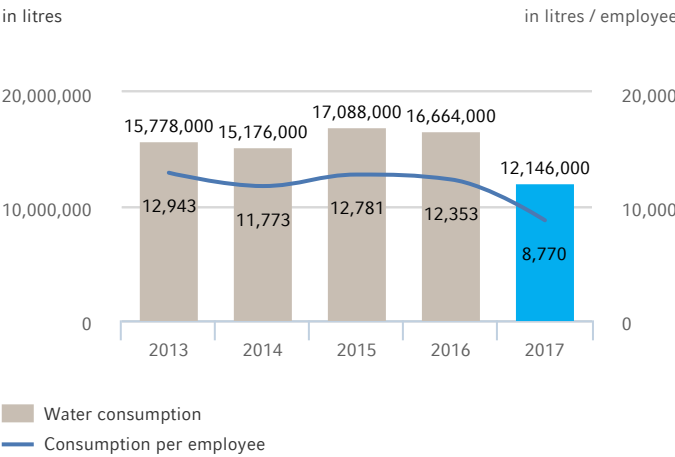
Since 2012 we have used exclusively printer paper bearing the "Eu-roblume" European environmental seal. This quality seal is awarded to consumer goods which are manufactured with reduced emissions and low energy consumption as well as the restrictive use of chemicals and auxiliary materials. Furthermore, the paper used in our printers has the lowest possible wood content. We have used solely FSC-certified paper in the creation of printed products since 2011.

Water consumption

Our water is supplied exclusively by the regional water utility company. The total water consumption in the year under review amounted to 12,146,000 litres and was thus clearly lower than in the previous year. This can be attributed, among other things, to the fact that only one of the two canteens was operated in the reporting period due to renovation work. Repairs to a damaged fire water line also helped to reduce water consumption.

As a provider of insurance services, the issue of water discharge is of minor relevance to us. The volume of water discharged in the reporting period corresponds to the volume of water consumption and thus totalled 12,146,000 litres. Our water is discharged into the municipal sewage network. Environmentally critical effluents are not discharged in connection with our business operations. As a non-manufacturing enterprise, our company has not taken any steps to recycle or reuse water.

Water consumption



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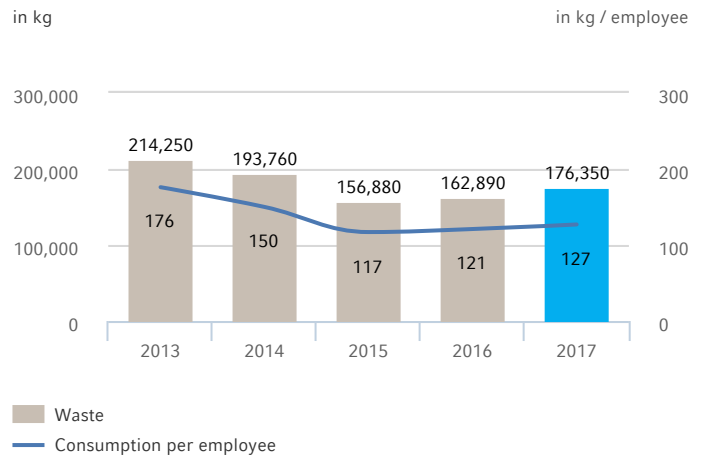
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Waste

The total quantity of waste grew by 8.3% in 2017 to 176,350 kilograms.

Roughly half of our total waste in 2017 was recycled. All catering waste produced at Home Office in Hannover that requires disposal for hygienic or legal reasons is used to generate energy (sent to a biogas plant).

Waste



Waste by method of disposal

in kg	2017	+ / previous year	2016	2015	2014
Recycling	81,330	-1.57 %	82,630	84,100	98,910
Composting	28,080	+125.00 %	12,480	5,040	5,400
Residual waste	65,670	-1.59 %	66,730	66,690	83,940
Electronic waste	1,270	+47.67 %	860	860	5,270
Hazardous waste	0	-100.00 %	190	190	240
Total	176,350	+8.26 %	162,890	156,880	193,760

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More information

 Engagement in initiatives

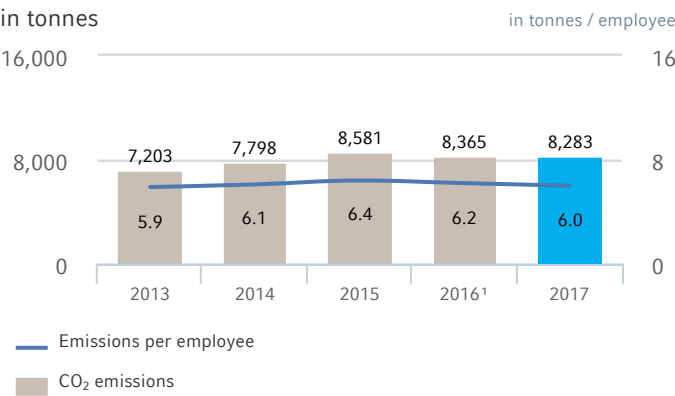
Emissions

Our CO₂ emissions in Hannover in the year under review amounted to 8,283 tonnes, a decrease of 1% year-on-year. The measured emissions are considered indirect CO₂ emissions as per the Greenhouse Gas Protocol classification of emissions and result from the consumption of energy (Scope 2) or business trips (Scope 3). The calculation is based on the consumption figures for district heating and paper as well as our business travel. Given that we have obtained our electricity in Hannover exclusively from renewable sources since 2012, no emissions are caused in this regard. We plan to progressively expand the purchasing of green energy worldwide.

As a service provider, we do not produce any direct CO₂ emissions (Scope 1) such as those caused by industry through plant operations.

We have fully achieved our goal of operating with a net zero carbon footprint at the Hannover location since the 2016 financial year.

CO₂ emissions

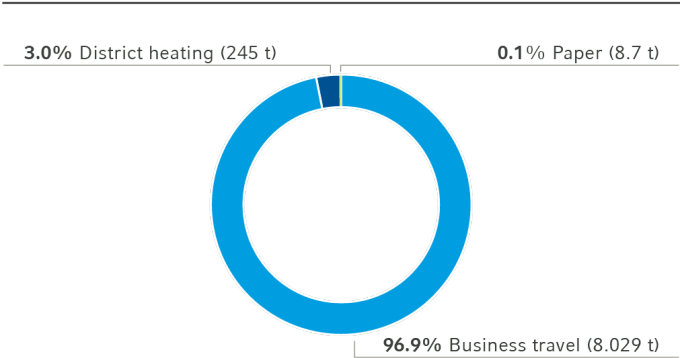


¹ The present figures differ from those published in the Sustainability Report 2016 due to retrospective adjustment of the number of kilometres actually flown on business trips. This in turn necessitated an adjustment of the data on CO₂ emissions.

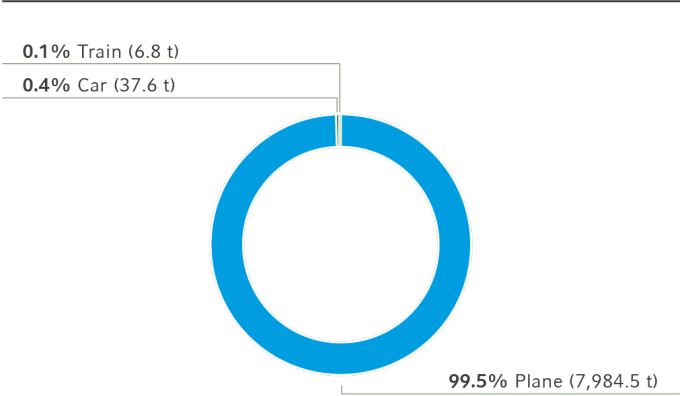
Business travel accounts for around 96.9% of our total emissions. Since 2007 we have therefore worked together with the climate protection organisation atmosfair to calculate, control and offset them.

We also offset the smaller portion of our CO₂ emissions (4%, corresponding to 299 tonnes of CO₂), which is attributable to district heating, business trips made by car and paper consumption, by making compensatory payments to atmosfair.

CO₂ emissions in 2017 according to causation

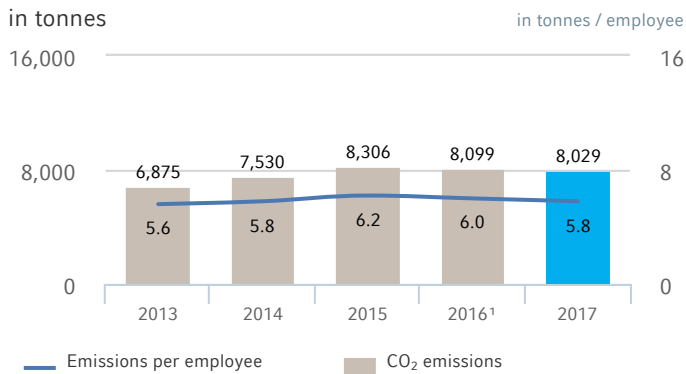


CO₂ emissions from business travel by means of transport



The CO₂ emissions from business travel decreased in the year under review to 8,029 tonnes (previous year: 8,099 tonnes¹).

CO₂ emissions from business travel



¹ The present figures differ from those published in the Sustainability Report 2016 due to retrospective adjustment of the number of kilometres actually flown on business trips. This in turn necessitated an adjustment of the data on CO₂ emissions.

We remain committed to making greater use of videoconferences and, where possible, we replace business trips with videoconferences. The roll-out of a new unified communication platform means that web conferencing is now possible from all workstations. In this way we want to further reduce the number of business trips made within the Group. In order to ensure that not only small but also larger meetings involving several participants per location can be held in the form of a web-based conference, more than 40 web conference rooms have been set up worldwide; along with a camera and video technology, these are also equipped with remote white boards, thereby making it possible to share sketches and drawings made at the meeting across all locations.

The option of teleworking also offers potential savings. Emissions can be cut by eliminating the daily commute. 33.4% of the workforce employed in Hannover already makes use of this possibility.

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More information

- [Website: atmosfair](#)
- [Website: Sustainability Strategy](#)

Offset payments

Since mid-2017 we have provided targeted support for projects designed to cut emissions through carbon offsets that we pay to atmosfair.

In Rwanda, for example, the payment of household subsidies for efficient ovens cuts firewood consumption by 80% in an effort to bring down CO₂ emissions. In addition, overexploitation of forests through logging is reduced and the habitat of endangered mountain gorillas is protected.

In Nepal we work together with atmosfair to promote small-scale biogas systems for households that currently use non-renewable energy resources. These small biogas systems are installed in households that own at least two livestock, such as cattle, buffalo etc. The biogas is channelled to gas cookers through pipes, hence removing the need for firewood. Moreover, by connecting the toilet to the system it is also possible to improve the hygiene situation in the households and prevent the build-up of fumes.

In 2017 we spent a total amount of EUR 89,312.74 on the projects in Rwanda and Nepal.

Paper-intensive publications such as our Group Annual Report, brochures and the documents for the Annual General Meeting are printed on a carbon-neutral basis. Other publications such as this Sustainability Report, for example, are made available to our stakeholders only in paperless form as HTML and PDF versions. We have committed ourselves to this approach in our internal Corporate Design Manual. The measures that have brought about the reduction in paper consumption are described in detail in the section entitled "Paper consumption".

Thanks to our decreased paper consumption, the CO₂ emissions for this item also fell to 8.7 tonnes (previous year: 9.2 tonnes).

Engagement in initiatives

We actively support the work of local and international initiatives for climate protection. In 2017, as in the previous years, we participated in the survey conducted by the CDP. Information related to climate change is published here with a special orientation towards the capital market. In 2017 we achieved a "B" score (corresponding to the second-best level) and thus retained our rating from the previous year. In 2018 we shall again participate in the CDP survey.

As part of the "Climate Alliance Hannover 2020" initiative we have undertaken to emit altogether 40% less harmful greenhouse gases by 2020 than in 1990. Under the "Climate Alliance" we additionally participate in the Business Strategy Group of the "Master Plan 2050 for the City and Region of Hannover, 100% for Climate Protection".

Since 2007 we have also taken part in the "Ecological Project for Integrated Environmental Technology" (Ecoprofit) of the Greater Hannover region. The underlying idea of the project is to combine economic gain and ecological benefit through preventive environmental protection. The participating companies are regularly involved in work on specific topics such as "Ecoprofit in the Urban Development Process" and "Current Changes in Energy Management". The energy-saving successes already achieved are regularly publicised in the relevant project publications.





More information

 Dialogue formats

In addition, we are a member of the "Ruschlikon e-administration in (Re)insurance" initiative of the Association for Cooperative Operation Research and Development (ACORD). ACORD is a global non-profit organisation working to improve data quality and information exchange standards for the (re)insurance industry and related financial services providers. Among other things, its system makes possible the paperless processing of official documents and hence opens up potential savings in paper consumption. In the year under review one large broker and a primary insurer were connected to the system. It is envisaged that another large broker will be connected by the end of 2018. The goal is to process most loss advices and posting transactions electronically in the future.

Our subsidiary E+S Rück has published detailed analyses of approaches to biodiversity damage in its "Schriftenreihe" series of publications (issue numbers 14 and 15). The studies show that even slight impairments of biodiversity can give rise to considerable environmental damage. Our goal is to inform about these risks and raise awareness of them. As we see it, it is the responsibility of society as a whole to identify biodiversity risks as quickly as possible, recognise them as such and eliminate them.

We also participate actively in the Geneva Association working group on "Extreme Events and Climate Risks". For further information please see the chapter on "Product responsibility".

-  Website: CDP
-  Website: Climate Alliance Hannover 2020
-  Website: Ecoprofit
-  Website: "Schriftenreihe" series of publications E+S Rück (German)

Supplier management

As a provider of insurance services, our business activities have lower impacts on the environment than other industries. Through our selection of suppliers and based on specifications for the production process used by our suppliers, we are nevertheless able to influence labour practices or emissions generated in the manufacturing of preliminary products, such as paper, IT products or food items for the canteens.

Supplier management is therefore an approach that we consider important and essential, in the first place with a view to monitoring our procurement costs and reducing them wherever possible and, secondly, because we are able to ensure observance of our compliance principles and mitigate associated ESG risks.

At the Hannover location three different areas are responsible for the procurement of a diverse range of products and services: Facility Management (FM), Information Technology (IT) and the group consisting of the various specialist units. Goods are purchased either directly from the manufacturer or through distributors. In this context a Code of Conduct for Suppliers safeguards adherence to environmental and social standards. We carry out a corresponding evaluation of our suppliers at regular intervals. All new and existing core suppliers are required to sign our Code of Conduct for Suppliers. We evaluate our suppliers based on self-reporting and using an application-supported process; those that are assessed critically in an ESG risk category are assigned to a blacklist, as a consequence of which no further orders are placed with them. In this way we seek to minimise the risk of commissioning suppliers that cause adverse social impacts. No suppliers were identified as critical in the year under review.

Altogether, we procure goods for IT, the operation of our premises and the conduct of our business from some 360 active suppliers. Roughly two-thirds of these suppliers are from Germany or indeed the Greater Hannover region. In addition, we purchase IT products from primarily the EU and the United States. A mere 3% of our suppliers are based in Ukraine, Bahrain, South Africa, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Belarus and Bermuda.

By engaging in an active dialogue we are able to build sustainable and robust relationships with our suppliers. Furthermore, the ongoing professionalisation of our procurement assures our competitiveness. We are currently taking steps to give greater consideration to cost/benefit aspects, improvement of service quality and the standardisation of services and conditions. Not only that, through consolidation of the portfolio of IT service providers we are also able to reduce our costs. Our systematic supplier management brings about efficient and transparent processes and serves to accelerate procurement.

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[Website: Code of Conduct for suppliers](#)

Code of conduct for suppliers and supplier evaluation

Since mid-2012 our Code of Conduct for Suppliers has been in force for large parts of the company at the Hannover location. The Code of Conduct was developed by the areas of Facility Management (FM) and Information Technology (IT) with the support of Group Legal Services. It requires, among other things, compliance with environmental and social standards and forms an integral contractual component in, for example, the tendering and contracting by Facility Management of infrastructure services as well as various construction projects.

management system and is factored into the selection of suppliers when placing future contracts; furthermore, these criteria are also used for the regular evaluation of suppliers. Contracts with critically assessed suppliers are not renewed; an early-warning system ensures that an adequate lead time is available to select and as necessary familiarise an alternative vendor.

The evaluation of IT suppliers at the Hannover location is carried out using the service management system "ServiceNow". This system enables us to assign all vendors to one of the following categories:

- Strategic (A-Supplier)
- Bottleneck (B1-Supplier – high strategic importance but low volume)
- Leverage (B2-Supplier – high volume, low importance, easily replaceable)
- Noncritical (C-Supplier)
- Blacklist (Suppliers are in violation of our requirements and will receive no further orders).

All non-IT core vendors are evaluated along similar lines using a separate supplier management tool.

Specifically, the Code of Conduct for Suppliers requires respect for human rights and compliance with the core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The evaluation and selection of new suppliers by the areas of Facility Management (FM) and Information Technology (IT) also ensures that the risk of child, forced and compulsory labour can be ruled out. The Code of Conduct for Suppliers further requires that the right of freedom of association, e.g. to join trade unions and the employee council, must be safeguarded.

Based on the criteria of the Code of Conduct for Suppliers, we have also developed an application-supported process for self-reporting by suppliers and service providers. The procedure is used on a regular basis by Facility Management.

The review of suppliers in the year under review produced a positive outcome. We did not identify any suppliers at which freedom of association or the right to collective bargaining is significantly jeopardised or a substantial risk of child labour or forced / compulsory labour exists.

In the context of an assessment process carried out in 2014 we wrote to all IT vendors and evaluated them using a checklist. Criteria such as corporate structure, ownership structure, location of the company's head office, annual sales, size of the workforce, framework agreements, services portfolio and observance of compliance requirements were taken into account. This evaluation was stored in the supplier

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[Website: Code of Conduct for suppliers](#)

Social Commitment

As the fourth-largest reinsurer in the world, we are aware of our responsibility to society. For us, this means not only sharing knowledge with various research institutes and universities but also showing cultural engagement and supporting relevant institutions and projects. In so doing, we generate positive effects for society that go beyond our own business activities. While we are unable to make a quantitative impact assessment of our social involvement, our commitment to society nevertheless remains one of our most important concerns – one that we support through our sustainability efforts.

Our activities extend beyond the Hannover location to our subsidiaries and branches, which engage in their own individual projects in response to social issues in the various countries. For example, we support universities as well as educational and research projects with a bearing on reinsurance business. Not only that, for many years we have been a sponsor of art, culture and music at our Hannover loca-

tion. We encourage the dedication shown by our staff in countless projects around the world and we support international projects in accordance with our Donations Guideline. Our investment in the community is regulated by our Group-wide Donations Guideline, which rules out donations to political parties and churches or other political or religious organisations as well as organisations for the protection of historical monuments and animal welfare. Consequently, neither in the period under review nor in prior years have we made contributions to political parties, politicians or organisations associated with them. Compliance with this guideline is verified by the Group Auditing function.

Responsibility for Hannover Re's social engagement rests with our company's entire Executive Board, the members of which are jointly accountable for implementation and refinement of strategic issues relating to sustainability.

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 Product responsibility

Research

When it comes to the management of natural catastrophe risks, we work together with governments, universities and research institutions and provide financial assistance to appropriate initiatives.

For example, Hannover Re has been a long-time supporter of the Geo Research Center in Potsdam and the Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation, whose mission is to develop a global earthquake model and hence make it easier to evaluate earthquake risks. By promoting science and establishing consistent standards worldwide, the public understanding and awareness of earthquake risks is improved and the impacts of earthquakes on populations can be mitigated through appropriate measures.

Through our active role in the Geneva Association working group on "Extreme Events and Climate Risks" we promote the development of initiatives to improve insurance protection for poorer sections of the population in order to ensure that natural disasters, in particular, do not lead to a loss of livelihood. The working group supports, among other things, the development of methods for assessing meteorological risks (heavy rainfall, flood and drought) and for better evaluation of the worldwide impacts of climate change.

With a view to also promoting the growth of legal disciplines relevant

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to the reinsurance sector, we have helped to fund a visiting professor position at the University of Göttingen with a concentration in Anglo-American contract and tort law since 2006. In this way we are seeking to encourage a more international approach to the study of law. With the establishment of the new "House of Insurance" in January 2018, we are working together with six other Hannover-based insurers to step up our cooperation with Leibniz University of Hannover. In addition to two new endowed professorships in insurance mathematics and insurance law, there are also plans to hold events for scientific and professional further training as well as graduate employment fairs and to arrange internships in the insurance industry.

Furthermore, we support the work of thematically relevant Associations of Friends at various universities, including for example the Förderkreis des Instituts für Versicherungswesen at Cologne Technical University and the Verein Braunschweiger Finanz- und Wirtschaftsmathematiker e.V. at the University of Braunschweig. We are also a member of a similar society at Leibniz University of Hannover and support the University of Ulm's association Studium und Praxis e.V. that fosters cooperation and contacts between students and graduates and the business world. Above and beyond our aforementioned involvement, we regularly offer field trips for students and systematically place various projects and topical issues with university departments.

 Website: Geo Research Center Potsdam
 Website: Global Earthquake Model (GEM) Foundation
 Website: Center of Excellence for Risk and Insurance

Support for art, culture and music

Hannover Re Foundation

Supporting contemporary art has traditionally been a cause for our company. In 1991, to mark the company's 25th anniversary, we set up the Hannover Re Foundation to benefit the Sprengel Museum in Hannover. The foundation's mission is to acquire contemporary works of art and make them available to the Sprengel Museum on permanent loan – thereby also promoting Hannover as a centre for art. The foundation also funds publications and events to accompany the exhibitions.

Opened in 1979, the Sprengel Museum ranks among the most prominent museums of twentieth-century art with its extensive collection and diverse programme of exhibitions. The works acquired by the foundation and provided to the Sprengel Museum Hannover on permanent loan include pieces by Gerhard Richter, Donald Judd, Ronald B. Kitaj, Georg Baselitz, Sigmar Polke, Bernd Koberling and Alice Muiol. In 2014 the Hannover Re Foundation also acquired the sculpture "Another Twister" by the American artist Alice Aycock. This sculpture was similarly handed over to the museum on permanent loan and installed in front of the Sprengel Museum to mark the opening of the new museum extension in September 2015.

Hannover as a centre for art

We are a sponsor of various art institutions in Hannover. Along with the Sprengel Museum, we also support the Wilhelm Busch Museum, the Kunstverein Hannover and the Kestnervesellschaft Hannover. Since its founding in 1916 the Kestnervesellschaft has sought to profile internationally important artists and their latest works. The spotlight here is just as much on fine arts, architecture, fashion and design as it is on current music and literature or philosophy and the humanities. In its role as a "Kestnerpartner" Hannover Re is able to promote the society's work on a continuous and lasting basis.

Art collection

It was in the mid-1980s that our former Chief Executive Officer Claus Bingemer set about building the foundation of our company's own art collection.

Since that time the collection, which now numbers more than 400 exhibits by over 80 artists, has been continuously expanded. These days, decisions on acquisitions are taken by a Board of Trustees that has dedicated itself specifically to promoting contemporary art. We realise that such collections can give expression to the unmistakable identity of an undertaking and we see great potential in the field of tension between art and business. The works are divided into three major groups:

ings: abstract art of the post-war modern era, figurative contemporary art and international art of the twentieth century. A special quality of the pieces in the collection is that they are not tied to one of the many diverse currents of modern and postmodern art, but rather – with exhibits by Werner Heldt, Hans Uhlmann, Ernst Wilhelm Nay, Georg Meistermann and HAP Grieshaber – they reference artistic positions that were ostracised during the Third Reich. A further exceptional point of emphasis is on works by artists of the former GDR, such as the Leipzig-based Bernhard Heisig and Wolfgang Mattheuer and their pupils.

The exhibits that make up the collection are displayed in the company's main premises at the Hannover location as well as in the surrounding garden areas and inner courtyards of the office complexes.

Exhibition series "Masterclass Students"

The series of exhibitions dedicated to "Masterclass Students" has been held since 2014. It profiles the work of students at Braunschweig University of Art on an annual rotating basis. Current works by four young artists taking the masterclass course are displayed in the foyer of our Home Office building in Hannover. Along with the art collection, which is split into the three aforementioned work groups, contemporary art is thus just as much a focus for Hannover Re. In this context, the company's cultural engagement also extends to promoting young artists from the Lower Saxony region. Selected works from the graduating class are prominently displayed to staff and visitors alike in the foyer of the company's premises for intensive contemplation and exploration. The cooperation with Braunschweig University of Art thereby not only serves to promote young artists but also fosters mutual dialogue.

Guided tours of the exhibition and artist talks are offered for the workforce. At the end of the exhibition certain pieces are selected and purchased for the company's own collection.





Advancement of talented musicians

Every year since 1998 E+S Rück, Hannover Re's subsidiary with responsibility for the German market, has organised an examination concert for graduating soloists in cooperation with Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media. This support gives "master students" a particularly valuable opportunity to take their final examination with a large orchestra.

At the same time the concerts enable E+S Rück to offer its clients a musical highlight as part of the "Hannover Forum" event.

More information

 Social Commitment

-  Website: Sprengel Museum Hannover
-  Website: Kestnervesellschaft
-  Website: Kunstverein Hannover
-  Website: Wilhelm-Busch-Museum (German)
-  Website: University of Art Braunschweig

Employee engagement and donations

By making regular donations and enabling corporate volunteering, i.e. releasing employees for charitable activities during working hours, we support social projects all around the world. In so doing, we contribute our expertise in the area of reinsurance, whenever possible.

With our guidelines on donations, which are applicable Group-wide, we have defined our own policies for this social engagement. Along with individual employee donations, we lend our support each year to projects in the following five different categories:

- Commitment to society, science, art and culture
- Commitment to the environment and climate protection
- Commitment to employees
- Commitment to the welfare and protection of young people
- Commitment to advances in medicine / humanitarian projects

In our Sustainability Strategy we have set ourselves the goal of reviewing these guidelines and recording the social activities undertaken Group-wide. We attach crucial importance to the common public interest of the social groups and projects supported by our company. A small selection of activities illustrating our social engagement in 2017 is described below.

We support universities by, among other things, contributing to the funding of an endowed junior professorship for insurance mathematics at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg.

Our employees in Charlotte support the "Bethlehem Center", whose mission is to provide education opportunities for underprivileged children and low-income families in order to improve their quality of life.

More information

 Social Commitment






For the first time in the year under review we made a donation to the non-profit women's rights organisation "Terre de Femmes". It focuses on issues relating to, among other things, domestic and sexualised violence, trafficking in women and misogynistic advertising.

Since 2009 our employees in Milan have supported the "Comitato Maria Letizi Verga Onlus", which provides financial support for a centre for paediatric haematology. The centre offers children optimal medical and psychosocial care so as to enhance their chances of recovery and quality of life.

In Sydney we support the organisation "SuperFriend", which focuses on creating positive, healthy and safe workplaces for the reduction of mental illness. In addition, our branch organises a tea party every year in order to collect donations for cancer research in cooperation with the Australian Cancer Council.

The employees at our subsidiary in Orlando support the "Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida". This local chapter of the national organisation gives almost 14,000 children aged between 6 and 18 safe places to learn, grow and have fun.

Our branches in the United States take part in the annual "Walk to End Alzheimer's" in their home cities and collect donations for the Alzheimer's Association. The goal is to provide optimal support and care for people living with dementia and their families.

-  Website: St. Joseph Kinder- und Jugendhilfe (German)
-  Website: Maria Letizi Verga Onlus
-  Website: SuperFriend
-  Website: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida
-  Website: Walk to End Alzheimer's