

CEO Statement: Sustainability is part of our DNA

Sustainability is an integral part of everything we do at Geberit. For decades, we have been proving that long-term business success is compatible with environmentally friendly and socially responsible action. For example, resource-efficient products contribute significantly to Group sales, energy efficiency measures save costs and targeted compliance measures reduce our risks. This has paid off again, with Geberit – as in prior years – once again among the 100 most sustainable companies in the world in 2012 according to the ranking of the Canadian media company Corporate Knights.

Resource-efficient products in vogue

Increasing world population, migration, urbanization, climate change and natural disasters can lead to regions which now have a reliable supply of water becoming problem regions in the future. As a result, water-saving, resource-efficient products are becoming increasingly important. In terms of water consumption, nearly 100% of Geberit's ecological footprint is attributable to the product usage phase. The decisive step is therefore taken during purchasing. The product classification system «WELL» for water-saving and resource-efficient products helps when it comes to selection: The seven product groups represented in the top A class already account for almost 20% of Group sales.

Green building as a market of the future

Our products are resource-efficient, meet the latest standards for green building and at the same time feature modern designs. We are therefore an important supplier when it comes to green building, an area that is a high priority on the EU political agenda and is stimulated by strict building specifications. More and more transparency is required from suppliers in the construction industry regarding the certified performance of products. With the publication of our first Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for lavatory taps in 2012, we are preparing today for the standards of tomorrow. As the leading system provider of sanitary solutions, we are already offering products for numerous reference buildings. At the same time, we are also intensifying our efforts in India and China in order to ensure that the Geberit dual-flush concealed cistern and other water-saving technologies are also considered the benchmark in these markets.

Measurable environmental performance in production

We consequently pursue the «best-in-class» principle. All 16 production sites and logistics are subject to systematic, Group-wide environmental management and are certified in accordance with ISO 14001 and ISO 9001. In 2012, the culmination of a wide range of measures resulted in a

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drop of 9.3% in the overall environmental impact per sales, which was calculated as part of the corporate eco-balance. Examples such as promoting the regional production of biogas for use in our largest plant in Pfullendorf (DE) underline our approach of jointly finding the best solutions together with stakeholders.

Accepting social responsibility

More than 6,100 employees worldwide appreciate their outstanding working conditions and high level of training. In 2012, a Group-wide process was developed that combines the sub-processes of performance assessment, development and compensation. This will help further develop the performance culture at Geberit and improve the fostering of talent. As of 2013, the newly developed «Geberit Integrity Line» will enable all employees worldwide to report internal incidents anonymously. Geberit realizes its corporate responsibility within the scope of global social projects relating to the topic of water and sanitary facilities as well as in cooperation with partners – such as its cooperation with the Swiss WaterKiosk Foundation, which was initiated in 2012.

Ambitious goals for the future as well

In the coming years, we want to continue to roll out new products that set new standards in water conservation and water quality. At the same time, we are pursuing ambitious goals throughout the Group. By 2020, we want to reduce absolute CO₂ emissions by 20% compared with the year 2000 (based on organic growth) and to halve the accident rates compared with the year 2010.

Statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact

Geberit has been a member of the UN Global Compact since October 2008 as a sustainability leader in the area of environmental protection, responsible labor practices, human rights and the prevention of corruption. We provide customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders with information on our sustainability goals and performances in a transparent manner. Our reporting on sustainability is therefore based on the GRI G3 Guidelines with the highest degree of transparency – the A+ Level – which also includes a review by an external stakeholder panel for the first time. The UN Global Compact Communication on Progress report for the financial year 2012 can be found at [→ www.geberit.com](http://www.geberit.com) > [Sustainability](#) > [UN Global Compact](#).



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