

Corporate responsibility

Another step forward

Key points

- > ING becomes carbon neutral
- > Green electricity used in offices in US and the Netherlands
- > Successful 'ING Plant a Tree' campaign
- > Internal lending guidelines made public
- > Chances for Children programme exceeds expectations

Corporate responsibility (CR) is an integral part of ING's business. We want to pursue profit on the basis of sound business ethics, respect for key stakeholders and in full compliance with laws, regulations and ethical standards. As a global provider of financial products and services, ING plays an important role in society and strives to meet the financial and social expectations of its stakeholders. We have an impact on society and the environment both directly through our operations and indirectly through the provision of financial services. In 2007, another step forward was taken to achieve our objectives in the four areas to which our CR strategy applies: the social and environmental impact of our products and services, our people, community benefits and direct environmental impact.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is widely considered to be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. ING believes that it has a role to play in dealing with this challenge. In February 2007, ING signed the 'Joint statement by the Global Roundtable on Climate Change; the Path to Climate Sustainability'. This Global Roundtable was an initiative of the Earth Institute at Columbia University in the US and convened more than 100 high-level stakeholders and experts to explore areas of potential consensus on the core scientific, technological and economic issues critical to shaping public policies on climate change. ING has been a member since its launch in 2004.

Carbon neutral

ING pledged to take action across its business operations and became 'carbon neutral' in 2007, further diminishing its direct impact on the environment. By reducing and/or compensating its global carbon emissions, ING succeeded in bringing its net CO₂ emission to zero by energy efficiency measures, by purchasing green energy and by extending our current offset programme.

Most of our business units have started to implement or improve energy efficiency programmes. Furthermore, in the US, the Netherlands and several other countries, ING switched to green electricity for all its offices. This means that a substantial part of the energy used by ING in 2007 came from renewable sources, such as wind and water power. The remaining CO₂ emissions were compensated for by the planting and rehabilitation of 600 hectares of degraded tropical rainforest in Malaysia.

'ING Plant a Tree'

A global environmental awareness programme called 'ING Plant a Tree' was implemented to involve employees in the promotion of a cleaner environment. This was a result of the growing interest from ING staff around the world in environmental issues. The campaign makes the joint commitment of staff to environmental care even more tangible. On 18 March 2007, the Global ING Plant a Tree campaign was launched in Malaysia by the CEO. Selecting Malaysia for the kick-off was a logical step: ING already supports a tree-planting programme in one of the country's tropical rainforests to compensate for the company's global CO₂ emissions. A toolkit was developed to help business units to set up their own ING Plant a Tree campaign.