

Dutch Companies Showing Senior Level Commitment to Climate Change

Yet more companies need to be setting greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets

Dutch companies are taking the lead globally in demonstrating senior level commitment to tackling climate change, by assigning responsibility for this issue at board level. This is one of the findings of a new report launched today by the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) at an event hosted by ING in Amsterdam.

Yet whilst a high proportion (81%) of these companies have greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans in place, only 52% are setting actual targets and just 16% are forecasting future emissions. With moves towards greater regulation making climate change an increasingly material issue, Dutch companies need to be focusing on their future carbon exposure and putting reduction targets in place.

This is the second year that CDP, an independent not-for-profit organisation holding the largest database of self-reported corporate climate change information globally, has requested information from the largest 50 companies in the Netherlands. This year's report, sponsored by APG Asset Management and the Doen Foundation, details a response rate of 64% (up 12% from 2008), a higher level of companies (90%) reporting Scope 1* and 2 emissions and an increasing number of companies participating in emissions trading.

Paul Dickinson, Chief Executive Officer of CDP said: "A striking number of Dutch companies are now assigning board level responsibility for climate change, which demonstrates the commitment that is being taken on this issue and the findings are also showing greater action in this area. Despite this, more companies need to be setting emissions reduction targets and as we approach Copenhagen an international framework is essential for businesses to set these targets."

Logica, Reed Elsevier, Royal DSM and Unilever were amongst the highest scoring companies in this year's Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI), which highlights the companies within the Netherlands 50 which have displayed the most professional approach to corporate governance in respect of climate change disclosure practices.

There are significant opportunities to be gained from tackling climate change and this is recognised by the majority of respondents, with 90% seeing regulation as a way to increase demand and to benefit from their achievements in energy efficiency. Interestingly, the report also showed that six companies, Draka Holding, ING Group, Unilever, Philips, Royal BAM Group and Royal DSM, have reported a decrease in emissions, significantly due to renewable energy purchases and energy reduction initiatives.

Rob Lake, Head of Sustainability at APG Asset Management said: "In order to fully assess the impact of climate change on our investments we depend on high quality information concerning companies' emissions and reduction targets, so that we can understand the extent to which companies are preparing to tackle the risks from climate change and respond to the opportunities. CDP is playing a vital role by providing a global platform for reporting these data and we encourage companies to support the initiative."

About CDP

The Carbon Disclosure Project, founded in 2000, represents some 475 global institutional investors, with more than US \$55 trillion in assets under management. As an independent not-for-profit organisation, CDP collects key climate change data from some 2,500 companies around the globe and has assembled the largest corporate greenhouse gas emissions database in the world. CDP also works with multinational organisations to facilitate the collection of climate change relevant data for their supply chain. For further information please visit www.cdproject.net.

* Scope 1: GHG emissions generated through the direct burning of fossil fuels

Scope 2: GHG emissions generated from purchased electricity

Scope 3: all other indirect emissions that include sources stemming from the company's activities not owned or controlled, such as supply chain emissions and business travel

Contacts:

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)

Lisa Lee

Lisa.lee@cdproject.net

T: +44 (0)20 7415 7196

M: +44 (0)7554 430 962

APG

Corporate communication

Thijs Steger

thijs.steger@apg.nl

Voor meer informatie www.cdproject.net