

Why caring for nature is part of our DNA

One world, one life – we care.

As we've done for many years, we celebrated the United Nations World Environment Day in June 2017 at our company. In the spirit of this day and its motto "Connecting people with Nature," we challenged our employees to submit photos that showcased their personal engagement with and attitudes towards nature.

The idea was to motivate people to think about the natural world and our obligation to preserve it, and to raise awareness of environmental protection and corporate citizenship. After receiving hundreds of great photos, we selected 14 most beautiful and relevant ones for an exhibition in Munich. On February 5, 2018 I had the opportunity to participate in the opening ceremony of the exhibit at our headquarters in Munich. After the ceremony, I spent some time reflecting on our company's environmental protection efforts and what we've achieved over the years.

Responsible behavior has always been an unquestionable part of the entrepreneurial mindset and the values of our company founder Werner von Siemens. Caring for health, safety, and the natural environment has therefore become deeply rooted in our corporate DNA, and that's never changed. As early as 1971, our company established its first Corporate Environment Office. Our introduction of company-wide environmental reports in 1995 and our membership in the UN Global Compact of 2001 were part of the legacy of Werner von Siemens' understanding of corporate responsibility. In 2017 our company achieved the highest ratings for its environmental programs in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. From my perspective, this is undisputable proof that our company is on the right path to becoming a "Future Maker" in the area of environmental protection.





Over the past five years our employees have developed and implemented more than 8,000 environmental measures. We improved energy efficiency in total by 14 percent. Our recycling rate is above 90 percent, and we aspire to sending zero waste to landfills. Sixty percent of our sites have already replaced ozone-depleting substances. We've detailed the ecological footprint of 1,000 products in our Life Cycle Assessments. We've also made great strides in our CO₂ reduction efforts. We have reduced our CO₂ emissions by 578,000 tons since 2014. And at nearly 70 percent of our sites, we've conducted local water quality and availability assessments to drive further actions to save this life-giving natural resource.

Because caring for the natural environment is part of our DNA, we'll continue to develop and implement new ideas for reducing waste, saving water, and cutting CO₂ emissions. We intend to continue to improve our energy efficiency and control 100 percent of our emissions. We plan to implement local strategies at 100 percent of our sites to save water, and we're working to reduce our processing of critical materials. We contribute with measures to protect oceans against pollution by plastics and we promote and support closed-loop materials management.

In my opinion, every individual and every company is responsible for questioning the impact of their actions on the environment and contributing to making our planet a healthy environment for mankind. What does your company do to reduce its environmental footprint? I'm looking forward to hearing from you and continuing our journey together!

Dr. Ralf Franke

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralf Franke'.

Head of EHS

