

Media release

Swisscom becomes a climate-neutral company

Zurich, 26 August 2020 – Swisscom has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 80% over the past decades. The telecommunications company offsets its unavoidable emissions in full via myclimate. This means that Swisscom is now a climate-neutral company.

With the help of myclimate, Swisscom has calculated the CO₂ emissions produced by its operations. By offsetting these, Swisscom ensures that the same amount of emissions are saved elsewhere. To do so, the telecommunications provider supports a myclimate biogas project in India, for which it has been awarded the “climate-neutral company” label by the Zurich-based climate protection foundation”. Climate-neutrality is the next step in the company's comprehensive climate strategy, and a progression in its longstanding partnership with myclimate.

The climate and environment-friendly development of the telecommunications industry is one of the main long-term goals of Swisscom's corporate philosophy. “Swisscom has been committed to sustainability for over 20 years. And successfully so. In 2020 we received several awards (from Sustainalytics, Boston Consulting Group and World Finance) as the world's most sustainable telecoms company. However, given the current huge environmental challenges, we cannot simply rest on our laurels. We all need to continue to take consistent action,” Urs Schaeppi, CEO of Swisscom, explains the motivation behind its commitment to climate-neutrality.

myclimate CEO Stephen Neff adds: “We have been working together with Swisscom for many years on various climate protection and sustainability projects. This partnership embodies the myclimate principles of avoiding, reducing and offsetting emissions, and has continually developed to become a climate-neutral company. For us, this is a prime example of corporate responsibility and climate protection.”

CO₂ calculation

The basis for calculating the CO₂ emissions to be offset is the externally verified Swisscom climate report. Swisscom offsets both in-house emissions and upstream emissions, such as those from energy and fuel production. Some downstream emissions incurred by Swisscom customers are also included in the calculation.

To offset its emissions, Swisscom supports the myclimate project “biogas for rural households” in India. The aim of this climate protection programme is to build biogas plants as a clean, sustainable energy source for households throughout the subcontinent. The biogas produced from cow manure and kitchen wastewater is intended to replace the current fuels used such as firewood and kerosene. “We have reduced our CO₂ emissions by more than 80% in the past decades. We are now taking the next logical step to become a climate-neutral company by offsetting our remaining emissions with our partner myclimate. We are still aware of our responsibility to continue reducing our CO₂ footprint, thus offering our customers environmentally

friendly solutions for their work and home life”, says Res Witschi, Head of Sustainability at Swisscom.

Longstanding partnership for the environment

myclimate and Swisscom are working together on various climate protection and sustainability projects. myclimate is the implementing partner of the long-term “Energy and Climate Pioneers” educational programme started by Swisscom. As part of the Energy and Climate Pioneers” project, more than 25,000 schoolchildren throughout Switzerland have already been made aware of what they can do to protect the environment. As an external expert organisation, myclimate reviewed and validated the climate calculations for Swisscom. Swisscom was one of the first major customers in this area to implement the myclimate software solution “myclimate smart3” in its company. myclimate also assisted Swisscom in drawing up meaningful comparisons of green ICT solutions. Customers can use these to help them buy particularly environmentally friendly products.

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Images and links:

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[myclimate “biogas for rural households” climate projection project](#)

About myclimate

myclimate is a partner for effective climate protection – both globally and locally. Together with partners from the business world and private individuals, myclimate aims to shape the future of the world through advisory and educational offers as well as its own projects. myclimate pursues this aim as a non-profit organisation that operates in a market-oriented and customer-focused way.

The international initiative with Swiss roots is a global quality leader in voluntary CO₂ offsetting measures. Its customers include large, mid-sized and small companies, public administrations, non-profit organisations, event organisers and private individuals. myclimate is also represented in other countries such as Germany, Austria, Sweden and Norway through partner organisations. At the same time, myclimate looks after business and private customers around the world from its office in Zurich.

With projects of the highest quality, myclimate drives forward measurable climate protection and sustainable development worldwide. The voluntary offsetting of CO₂ emissions currently takes place in more than 125 climate protection projects in 37 countries. Emissions are being reduced by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, implementing local reforestation measures with small-scale farmers, and introducing energy-efficient technologies. myclimate's climate protection projects meet the highest standards (Gold Standard, Plan Vivo) and not only serve to reduce greenhouse gases but also a demonstrable, positive contribution to sustainable development on a local and regional basis.

myclimate encourages everyone to do their bit for our future with action-based, interactive educational offers. With this aim, the foundation has already reached more than 25,000 schoolchildren and 10,000 apprentices in Switzerland, and established a global network of 1,600 students and young professionals. It also provides advice on integrated climate protection measures with tangible added value. In the field of CO₂ and resource management, myclimate supports companies with consultations, analyses, IT tools and labels. Its offering ranges from simple carbon footprints (emissions calculations) at corporate level to extensive life cycle assessments for products. Experienced advisors help to identify and exploit potential in the areas of energy and resource efficiency.

Since the foundation started, myclimate's climate protection projects have created thousands of jobs, protected biodiversity and improved the general standard of living for hundreds of thousands of people. Not least because of this, the German Environment Agency specifically elevates myclimate as a provider of voluntary CO₂ offsetting. In both 2015 and 2012, two myclimate projects each were named by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as "game-changing climate lighthouse activities" and honoured by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in person at the UN climate change conferences in Paris and Doha. Furthermore, the myclimate educational project "Klimalokal" received the Milestone Prize in 2012, which is the highest award in Swiss tourism. In May 2016, myclimate was awarded the PrixEco Swiss sustainability prize.

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