

Press release

Making Corporate Climate Protection Happen – myclimate Publishes Annual Report

Zurich, 11th May 2021 – myclimate is today publishing its annual results for 2020. The Swiss climate protection foundation's three business areas – Education, Consulting and Solutions, and Carbon Offsetting – generated total income of 27.8 million francs in 2020, an increase over the previous year. One particularly encouraging factor is that widespread uncertainty did not prevent companies, organisations or individuals offsetting around two million tonnes of CO₂ with myclimate in a single year. This translates into an increase of around 500,000 tonnes compared to the previous record-setting year.

In 2020, companies were looking for more than specific solutions and measures to boost climate protection. A growing number of them were also seeking out holistic and strategic ways to integrate climate protection into business processes. This interest sparked a marked increase in demand for myclimate services, with demand for measures to mobilise and empower individuals being just as strong as that for consulting and solutions on CO₂ management in business processes. In addition, the volume of voluntarily offset CO₂ reached a new record of almost two million tonnes. Stephen Neff, myclimate CEO, comments: “Despite the predictions of gloom and doom, 2020 did not force companies to choose between survival and sustainability. On the contrary, many businesses responded to this unprecedented situation by stepping up their commitment to climate protection.”

myclimate 2020: Overall result

The Foundation's total income amounted to 27.86 million francs. In 2019, myclimate had reported income of 27.25 million francs. myclimate's Carbon Offsetting unit contributed 23.56 million francs to the 2020 result. Income from Education and Consulting and Solutions, the other key areas, amounted to 1.57 and 2.1 million francs, respectively. myclimate web calculators, which are used to calculate donations and offsetting payments for individuals and small companies, generated two million francs – the second-best result in the calculators' history.

The climate protection and education projects have been shown to help achieve all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). At the end of 2020, the myclimate Climate Protection Portfolio included 144 projects in 41 countries, projects that have helped to prevent more than ten million tonnes of CO₂ emissions since myclimate started. Since 2002, myclimate's activities have benefited 8.5 million people worldwide. Over 27,000 school children, more than 10,000 apprentices and 1,400 students worldwide have been galvanised to take action. myclimate projects created roughly 16,600 jobs. myclimate contributes heavily to clean water and sanitation – the focus of Sustainable Development Goal 6 – by treating 5.5 billion litres of waste water, providing access to 3.3 billion litres of clean water and saving more than 20 billion litres of drinking water. myclimate is demonstrably committed to protecting biodiversity and preventing extreme weather events by protecting 43,000 hectares of forest and other nature reserves.

myclimate's annual report for 2020, including detailed consolidated accounts audited by KPMG AG, can be accessed at the following link: www.myclimate.org/information/about-myclimate/annual-reports

New partnerships and selected success stories from the 2020 annual report

Ricardo, an online platform, organised Switzerland's first-ever "Second-Hand Day" in September and was joined by myclimate in its appeal to reuse second-hand goods. In the run-up to the event, myclimate had already calculated the potential CO₂ savings through second-hand purchases of Ricardo's range of products. The purchases made on this single day of action saved an impressive 1,458 tonnes of CO₂.

myclimate is launching more and more carbon offset projects in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. The Foundation's expertise in developing efficient local carbon offset projects dates as far back as 2007. There are already 36 carbon offset projects in Switzerland and two in Germany and Austria, which means that local projects account for over a quarter of myclimate's portfolio. Eight new projects were added in Switzerland in 2020 alone.

Last year, myclimate's educational programmes focused heavily on the "professional" world. Workshops were held as part of several company challenges to motivate company executives, employees, and apprentices to exploit the huge potential for greater sustainability and climate protection that their own profession opens up to them.

After relaunching the myclimate flight calculator in 2019, the myclimate experts updated a wide range of other CO₂ emission calculators last year. The car calculator, for example, was expanded to include new powertrain technologies and fuel types. The result: Electric cars have the lowest values on average.

Making the future happen – Stephen Neff looks ahead to the 2021 financial year

"The time for climate action is now – even more so today than during the COVID-19 crisis. There are many different ways in which business actors and even individuals can make a climate friendly future happen. We expect that we will be supporting many more partners on this journey in the years to come," says Stephen Neff, looking ahead with optimism.

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About myclimate

myclimate is a partner for effective climate protection, globally and locally. Together with industry partners and private individuals, myclimate wants to shape the future of the world through advisory services and educational programmes, as well as its own projects. It does so in a market-oriented and customer-focused way as a non-profit organisation.

This international initiative with Swiss roots is one of the world's quality leaders in voluntary CO₂-compensation measures. Its customers include large, medium-sized and small companies, public administrations, non-profit organisations, event organisers and private individuals. Via its partner organisations, myclimate is represented in other countries such as Germany, Austria, Sweden or Norway.

The high-quality projects promote quantifiable climate protection and greater sustainability worldwide. CO₂ emissions are currently compensated voluntarily by means of 144 climate protection projects in 41 countries. Emissions are reduced there by replacing fossil energy resources with renewable energies, and by implementing local afforestation measures with smallholder farmers and energy-efficient technologies. myclimate climate protection projects meet the highest standards (Gold Standard, Plan Vivo), which are not only proven to reduce greenhouse gases locally and regionally, but also make a positive contribution to sustainable development.

myclimate encourages everyone to make a contribution to our future, through interactive and action-orientated educational programmes. With this aim in mind, myclimate has already reached more than 27,000 school children and 10,000 trainees in Switzerland, and established a global network of 1,600 students and young professionals. Moreover, the foundation also advises on integrated climate protection with tangible added value. In the field of CO₂ and resource management, myclimate supports companies with advice, analyses, IT tools and labels. The portfolio ranges from simple carbon footprints (emissions calculations) at the corporate level through to comprehensive life cycle assessments for products. Our experienced advisors help with identifying and tapping into potential in the areas of energy and resource efficiency.

Since the foundation was established, the myclimate climate protection projects have created thousands of jobs, protected biodiversity and improved the general living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people. Not least because of this, the German Federal Environment Agency is explicitly showcasing myclimate as a supplier for voluntary CO₂ compensation. In both 2015 and 2012, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognised two myclimate projects as "game-changing Climate Lighthouse Activities", which were subsequently honoured by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the UN climate conferences in Paris and Doha. In addition, the myclimate education project "KlimaLokal" was awarded the Milestone Prize in 2012, the Swiss tourism industry's highest distinction. In May 2016, myclimate received the Swiss sustainability award PrixEco.

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