



SUSTAINABILITY

FOR SURE

DEAR READERS,

Sustainability is one of the most important topics of our time. In order to protect our planet, more and more sustainable goals are being adopted. Companies also need to rethink and act in a more sustainable way.

As Rhenus Office Systems, we are tackling this issue in the same way. In our business units, we provide different services, but when it comes to sustainability, we all pursue a common goal: We want to be carbon-neutral by 2045.

Some projects have already been put in place, and others will follow. To improve our environmental performance, we will bring the issues of social, economy and ecology more closely in line with one another.

In this brochure, we would like to give you an overview of the main issues that concern us at all our sites. From electric cars to renewable energies and paper recycling – because Rhenus Office Systems is ‘sustainable for sure’.



Christian Schulte-Ontrop
Managing Director of Rhenus Office Systems

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WITH E-MOBILITY ON THE ROAD OF THE FUTURE



TRUCKS

Rhenus Office Systems is increasingly relying on alternative propulsion methods to make its vehicle fleet more sustainable. Instead of conventional combustion engines, CNG and electric vehicles are integrated into the fleet. Using alternative propulsion methods helps reduce CO₂-emissions and offers additional benefits such as a reduction in fine particle matter, nitrogen oxides and noise levels. This contributes to cleaner air and a better living environment, especially in cities. All CNG-vehicles used are powered by biogas to protect the environment. Bio-CNG is nearly CO₂-neutral, since burning the gas releases only as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as was absorbed during plant growth. Additionally, Rhenus Office Systems employees receive eco-driving lessons, in which they are taught optimal driving behavior, minimizing their environmental impact.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Driving electric cars has a number of advantages. They are more efficient, emit no local emissions and have a better carbon footprint than conventional combustion engines. The EU therefore has a clear goal: 30 million electric vehicles should be registered by 2030. We provide our employees with EV charging stations at our sites. We also regularly add more electric cars to our vehicle pool. Since many emissions are already generated in the production of the vehicles, it makes sense in terms of sustainability to first replace the oldest vehicles. We are therefore gradually converting our vehicle fleet. In this way, the vehicles our employees use on the roads will become locally emission-free over the next few years. This will have several positive effects: on the one hand, this conversion will help to reduce direct emissions. On the other hand, it gives our employees the opportunity to experience driving an electric car themselves, thus increasing acceptance and awareness of the use of electric vehicles..



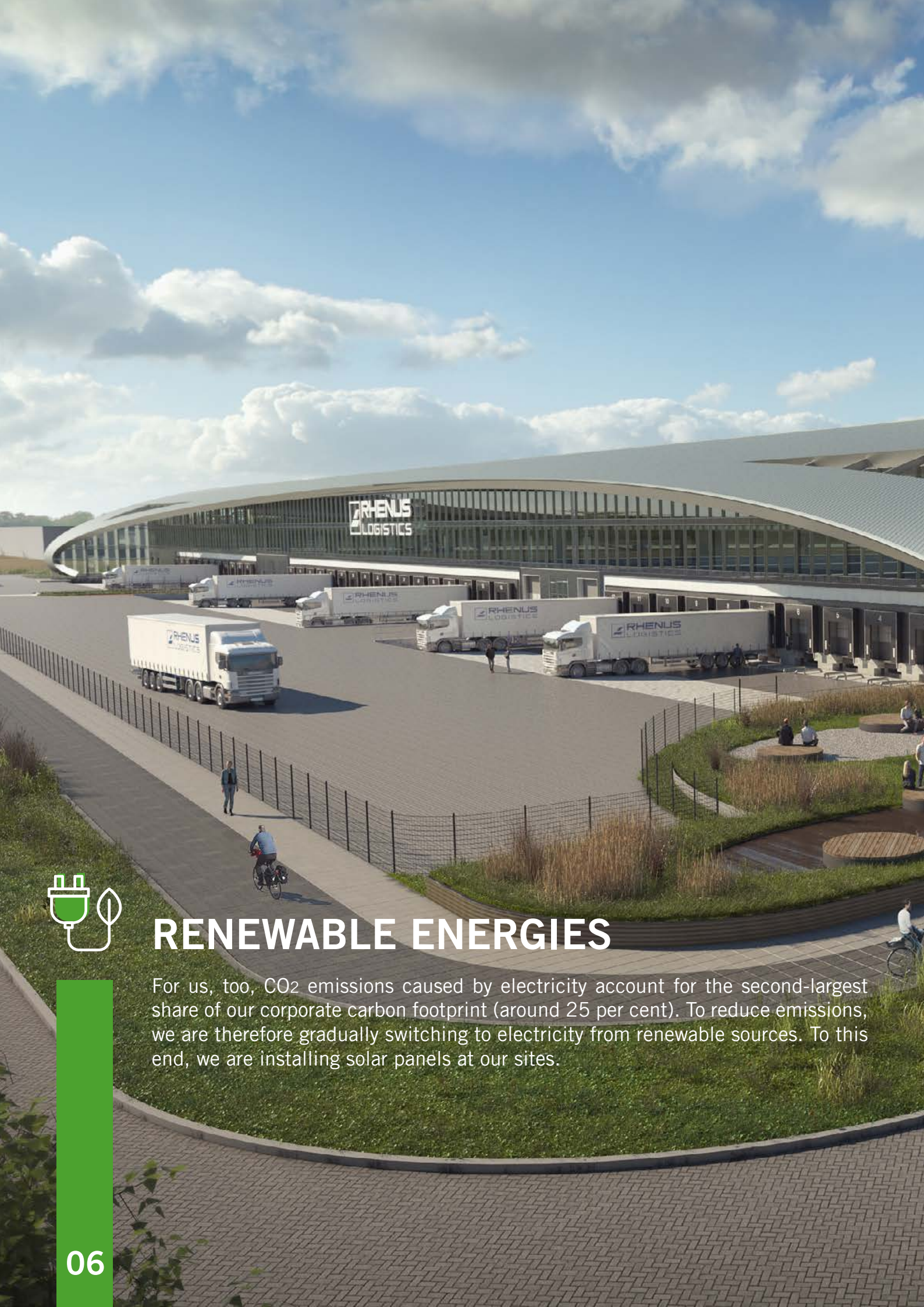
RHENUS BUSINESS BIKES

Leaving the car at home for a while and cycling to work is not only good for your health, but also ecologically sound and emission-free. At Rhenus Office Systems, employees can easily purchase a business bike (conventional bicycle or e-bike).



SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

The EU Commission estimates that six million charging stations will be needed across Europe by 2030 in order to be able to reduce CO₂ emissions by another 50 per cent. Rhenus supports the expansion of sustainable solutions in the B2B as well as B2C sectors and thus contributes to a better charging infrastructure.



RENEWABLE ENERGIES

For us, too, CO₂ emissions caused by electricity account for the second-largest share of our corporate carbon footprint (around 25 per cent). To reduce emissions, we are therefore gradually switching to electricity from renewable sources. To this end, we are installing solar panels at our sites.



RHENUS
LOGISTICS

Electricity generation causes high CO₂ emissions. In 2020, renewable energies accounted for 20 per cent of total energy consumption in the EU. Globally, electricity generation causes 26 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions and is therefore not compatible with sustainable development.



DIGITALISED PROCESSES WITH RHENUS

Rhenus Office Systems supports companies in the process of digitalisation and helps its customers to optimise their processes and make them more sustainable. The digitalisation process can save a lot of paper, among other things. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have learned that meetings and training sessions can in part also be held online. In addition, this further reduces the amount of travel, which results in decreased CO₂ emissions.

Rhenus Office Systems digitises business processes and ensures the technical prerequisites and data security for implementation. The carbon footprint is demonstrably improved. However, we are not only driving digitalisation forward for our customers. We are also constantly working on our own expansion. In recent years, for example, we have significantly reduced the number of face-to-face meetings and replaced them with digital ones.

Digitalisation offers a lot of opportunities and advantages. Especially during COVID, we realised how important it is to be able to also perform analogue activities digitally.







PAPER AND IT RECYCLING FROM OLD TO NEW

Saving resources is an essential consideration. The recycling process protects the forests because it eliminates the need for increased deforestation. The lower environmental pollution caused by the production of recycled paper is also advantageous. Rhenus Office Systems takes care of the destruction of files and data carriers throughout Europe and hand over the destroyed paper for recycling. This process produces a lot of pulp (120,000 metric tonnes per year).

As a result, we save around 255,000 trees every year. We also give IT products a fresh start. First, the data on old devices is deleted in compliance with the data protection regulations before the devices are refurbished. Thus, they are given a second life and can be used again. This is how we are making a significant contribution to the circular economy.





Estimates suggest that more than 15 billion trees are logged each year. This is leading to a rapid decline in the world's tree cover. It is a matter of fact that, even though digitalisation is gaining ground, physical documents will continue to exist. These must be disposed of after the retention periods have expired, not least in the interests of environmental consciousness. When the files are no longer needed, recycling can begin.



SAVING ENERGY WITH LED LIGHTS

Gradually, conventional light bulbs are being replaced by LEDs at all our sites. In general, we make sure that the lights are always switched off in rooms that are not being used. A lot of electricity is used in our archives every day. In order to save as much electricity as possible, we

have installed motion detectors to avoid unnecessary power consumption. This way, we ensure low power consumption at all our locations and thus reduce the energy output of the SEUs (significant energy uses).



The use of LEDs is considerably more environmentally friendly than the use of conventional light bulbs. LED lights do not contain any substances that are hazardous to health (e.g. mercury) and their carbon footprint is better due to their low power consumption (up to six times less than a conventional light bulb).



QUESTIONS TO OUR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER



Tanja Eickelberg is the main representative at Rhenus Office Systems when it comes to sustainability issues. In this interview, she explains the goals and approach of Rhenus Office Systems.

1 WHAT DOES RHENUS OFFICE SYSTEMS UNDERSTAND BY SUSTAINABILITY?

Rhenus Office Systems defines sustainability as the careful use of resources oriented towards natural regeneration.

Sustainability is therefore a prerequisite for economic stability and long-term growth. For us, sustainability always encompasses three areas: the environment, social issues and the economy. We ensure compliance with

social and ethical standards (labour and human rights) and are committed to environmentally conscious procurement. This is also confirmed by the annual certification by the EcoVadis rating platform, which has awarded Rhenus gold status for the second time in a row.

2 WHAT ROLE DOES SUSTAINABILITY PLAY FOR RHENUS?

As an internationally operating family business, Rhenus is aware of its social

responsibility. That is why the topic of sustainability is a central pillar of the corporate philosophy. The guiding principle is: actions speak louder than words. For this reason, the Rhenus Group does not prescribe any rigid concepts, but deliberately relies on a flexible approach. Innovative projects in the individual units can thus be implemented quickly and flexibly and generate immediate added value. The Rhenus Green Logistics Wiki, to which all of our employees have access, bundles information on the topic of sustainability. In this way, Rhenus ensures that the issue of sustainability is firmly anchored throughout the entire company. In addition, Rhenus pursues a continuous improvement process in order to constantly advance the resource-saving performance of its services. Rhenus aims to develop efficient and ecologically sound logistics solutions for its customers and partners.

3 WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY OF RHENUS OFFICE SYSTEMS?

Rhenus Office Systems offers a variety of document and information management services, which provide for different requirements and levers for sustainable development.

The first step in our sustainability strategy is to measure our corporate carbon footprint. This takes into account the greenhouse gas emissions generated by our services. The result of the annual analysis shows us which areas are the main emitters of greenhouse gases and thus offer the greatest levers for improvement. This analysis forms the basis for deriving concrete projects and measures for reduction in order to achieve the reduction targets we have set ourselves. Rhenus Office Systems perceives sustainability as a topic that must be anchored and practised in the corporate culture. It is therefore an

important part of our sustainability strategy to involve employees and stakeholders in the development process. This is the only way to guarantee sustainable development.

4 WHAT SPECIFIC PROJECT DOES RHENUS OFFICE SYSTEMS PURSUE?

As a whole, Rhenus has set itself a clear goal: carbon neutrality by 2045. To achieve this goal, specific measures and projects are required, which are described in more detail in this sustainability brochure. First, we try to avoid greenhouse gas emissions. This can be achieved, for example, by holding meetings digitally when it makes sense to do so. In this way, we avoid some of the emissions caused by business travel. We try to reduce the emissions that cannot be avoided as much as possible. To stay with the example of business travel, this could be done, for example, by using the train instead of a car. To achieve our goal, we are putting our processes to the test and promoting innovation. This is happening in all our business units. By using a filling level sensor, for example, we have been able to optimise the route utilisation of our trucks in the document shredding area. We only drive to the companies to pick up the containers when they are filled to a sufficient level. This avoids empty runs and significantly reduces unnecessary CO₂ emissions. Our aim is to contribute to sustainable development and to offer our customers sustainable services.



FIVE TIPS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE



Acting sustainably is not that difficult. A lot can already be achieved with a few small steps and everyone can make their own contribution.

01 LESS MEAT, MORE GREENS

Many people are shifting to a healthy diet that does not include animal products. How about a visit to the farmer around the corner? This is not only more sustainable, but also supports local agriculture.



RIDING A BIKE

Riding your bike to work takes some effort. But it's much more efficient and better for your health. And if you can't yet motivate yourself to commute to work, you can switch to cycling in your free time as a first step, e.g. for grocery shopping.



02



03



PROPER WASTE SEPARATION

The topic of proper waste separation is important because waste separation is sustainable. Why exactly? Most of the recyclable materials in waste can be recycled if they are separated correctly. For example, biowaste can be used to produce organic gas, which in turn can be used to generate electricity and compost. A high proportion of waste paper can be reprocessed into new paper.

JOB TICKET

More and more employers are providing their employees with a job ticket. This enables them to leave their cars at home and to use public transport. This also leads to a smaller carbon footprint and is easy on the wallet given current fuel prices.



04



05



INSECT HOTELS

Whether in public places in the countryside or in one's own garden – insect hotels are becoming increasingly common. They make an important contribution to nature conservation by offering an alternative to declining natural habitats.



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