

CEO Statement

Joining the UN Global Compact

As of the beginning of October 2008, Geberit is participating in the United Nations Global Compact, a joint initiative between companies around the world, UN agencies and groups representing labor interests and civil society. It seeks to advance responsible corporate citizenship so that business can be part of the solution to challenges related to globalization. The UN Global Compact is structured around ten principles relating to the areas of human rights, labor practices, environmental protection and combating corruption.

Geberit's motivation for joining the UN Global Compact is based on the fact that many of its principles make good business sense, while others are directly related to Geberit's core business activities and its competitive position in the marketplace. Treating employees in a fair and respectful manner is a matter of course for a well-managed company, and contributes to Geberit's ability to attract and retain the best talents. Maintaining safeguards against corruption or human rights violations is the decent thing to do, and protects Geberit from legal liabilities. Optimizing the environmental performance of the company's operations is a key business responsibility, and helps Geberit reduce material and energy costs. In addition to these general precepts of good business management, it is in particular the ninth principle of the Global Compact — "encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies"— that is tied in directly with Geberit's core business activities.

Water-saving as core competence

The technologies we have developed and are marketing successfully around the globe provide innovative solutions for water management in buildings.

Our products accomplish substantial water savings in a manner that is both hygienic and convenient for users and easy for our customers to install. These qualities have contributed to our continued success in the markets of Europe and North America as well as to our increasing penetration of emerging markets such as China and Singapore, where water saving is a key issue.

Achievements and transparency

The use of our water-saving products has already led to an estimated savings of more than 4.5 billion cubic meters of water as of 2006. With the continued growth of our business, and our numerous ongoing product innovations, we are convinced that Geberit's substantial contribution to combating water scarcity will continue to increase in the future. In addition, we have set clear targets for our internal environmental performance. These include a 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions in relation to value added by 2009, compared to 2006 values.

Geberit wishes to be meticulous in providing customers, employees, suppliers and other stakeholders with information about our sustainability goals and performance. Geberit's sustainability reporting is based on the GRI guidelines. We will integrate the regular Communication on Progress (COP) related to the Global Compact with this ongoing sustainability reporting, providing optimal transparency for all our partners.



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