

BERTELSMANN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Preamble

Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA is a leading international media and services group. We aspire to provide our customers with excellent content and media services.

Our ultimate purpose is to contribute to the advancement of society. We acknowledge the obligations to society that follow from the nature of media business and economic success. We believe that our entrepreneurial endeavors lead to socially useful outcomes. As active corporate citizens, we are dedicated to the wellbeing of the communities, in which we do business.

Responsibility for the Environment

Environmental protection is an integral part of our corporate responsibility. We keep the principle of sustainable development in mind in every activity we undertake. It is our objective to create and sustain a positive legacy to future generations.

We strive:

- for a responsible use of natural resources in the production and distribution of our products and services,
- to ensure environmentally responsible procurement.

This applies in particular to materials and processes in the procurement, production, storage and distribution of printed products, digital content, storage media, TV and radio programs, and to logistics services. In line with our activities, we put a particular focus on the responsible procurement, use and transport of paper.

To ensure the environmental compatibility of our activities, we strive for responsible use of energy, water, materials and space. We are committed to decreasing negative impacts on the environment.

In and beyond compliance with existing environmental laws and in recognition of the importance of environmental issues, Bertelsmann aims at continually reviewing and improving its environmental performance. We biannually measure and publish our carbon footprint since 2009 and use the biannual measure as a key indicator for continuously improving our environmental performance.

Environmental Organization in a Decentralized Group

In line with Bertelsmann's decentralized corporate organization, all operational processes are the responsibility of the divisions and companies. Each of our operating subsidiaries has senior managers responsible for environmental operational details, as with all other operational procedures.

Appropriate to the varying environmental issues that impact upon our business operations, our divisions and companies already have specific environmental guidelines and the accompanying management systems in place or are in the process of establishing them. However, as part of its environmental policy, Bertelsmann encourages and supports its divisions and companies to continue to implement, review and further develop their environmental operational procedures.

Chaired by Bertelsmann Corporate, environmental representatives from all corporate divisions form the so called "be green" team and practice a regular exchange on current environmental developments and concerns. This international expert group – reporting to the Executive Board – develops, reviews and oversees the implementation of the "be green" strategy. The international experts seek to identify measure, evaluate and reduce the negative environmental impact of our activities. Bertelsmann also uses this platform to ensure a group-wide transfer of knowledge and "best practice".

Involvement of employees

Active involvement of our employees is an important pre-condition for a high environmental performance. As our employees are our best ambassadors for environmentally sound behavior, we regularly raise their awareness on environmental issues and expect them to behave responsibly towards the community and the environment.

Transparency and Stakeholder Dialog

Bertelsmann is a partner in civic society. Thus, we undertake to maintain an open and mutually constructive dialog with customers, business partners and other interested parties. We seek to achieve environmentally responsible solutions that satisfy the requirements of our external stakeholders, while at the same time safeguarding the competitiveness of our divisions and companies. We, therefore, discuss and work with governmental as well as non-governmental organizations, experts, auditors and other interested parties for the effective development and implementation of environmental policies. In addition, Bertelsmann is a member of the Global Compact since 2008.

Information

Bertelsmann will issue regular reports to keep our employees, customers and other interested stakeholders factually informed about our environmental activities. This includes a separate section on these issues in our corporate intranet for our employees, regular updates of our activities on www.bertelsmann.com/responsibility as well as the biannual publication of a Corporate Responsibility Report.

About this policy:

In 2008, the Executive Board initiated the “be green” strategy, a company-wide strategy on environment and climate protection. The present Bertelsmann Environmental Policy specifies the standpoint of Bertelsmann, its divisions and companies regarding environmental protection. It was first adopted in 2004 and last updated and improved in December 2011. It is subject to an on-going process of review and improvement.