

Bertelsmann
Energy & Climate Policy

Preamble

Bertelsmann sees climate change as a serious challenge for society and business. The company supports the international community's goal of limiting global warming to below 2°C.

Against this backdrop, Bertelsmann and its companies are committed to the sustainable procurement and generation of energy as well as its responsible and efficient use. In that respect, Bertelsmann regards digitization as an opportunity to avoid and decrease emissions in its value chains.

Sustainable procurement, production and use of energy

It is Bertelsmann's objective to reduce direct and indirect emissions from its business activities in the mid and long term, always in compliance with the relevant legal requirements and other binding commitments.

Saving energy and energy efficiency are still the most important measures to protect the climate. Bertelsmann strives to further increase energy efficiency in its businesses, e.g. by consequently using energy-saving equipment and increasing eco-conscious behavior by its employees worldwide.

The company's purchasing behavior in the procurement of energy can directly influence the demand for climate-friendly options, and thus contribute to the shift to sustainable energy markets. Where it is economically viable, the energy obtained should come from regenerative sources. The energy purchased by Bertelsmann companies should generally have lower greenhouse gas emissions than the respective national average.

A contribution to the restructuring of local energy markets can be made by the decentralized generation of electricity and heat through renewable energies and, on a transitional basis, with highly efficient natural gas-powered combined heat and power plants. Bertelsmann does not use lignite or coal in its own power generation and expects its energy suppliers to gradually phase out fossil fuels.

Energy data management

The roll-out of an IT-supported energy data management platform supports the local energy management at Bertelsmann companies. The regular measuring and auditing of energy consumption against defined objectives are designed to promote the improvement of energy efficiency throughout the company.

Energy-intensive sites have implemented their own local energy management systems.

Transparency and stakeholder dialog

Since 2004, *be green* is Bertelsmann's international platform for cross-divisional exchange on energy, climate and other environmental topics. Knowledge transfer on energy and climate-related topics is to be promoted in local networks.

As part of Bertelsmann's global *be green days*, employees get involved with energy and environmental topics through awareness-building and information events and activities.

Bertelsmann seeks dialog with customers, business partners, suppliers and other stakeholders to encourage climate protection and responsible energy use in its supply chains. Together with its customers, Bertelsmann strives to expand its range of eco-friendly products and services. The company aims to gradually increase transparency about its indirect emissions and actively use its influence to contribute to climate protection.

The standards set out here are reviewed regularly and updated through the Bertelsmann Corporate Responsibility Council.

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