

Press release

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Deloitte Belgium cuts CO2 emissions by one third in three years

Deloitte Belgium exceeds sustainability targets and aims for carbon neutrality in 2030

Brussels, Belgium - 5 November, 2020 – Deloitte Belgium has succeeded in cutting its CO2 emissions by one third in a period of three years. The milestone achievement was the result of diverse initiatives in mobility, travel and real estate. The drop in CO2 emissions even exceeds the targets Deloitte Belgium had set for itself, putting the firm on a clear roadmap towards carbon neutrality in 2030. Programmes to achieve this goal include a 100% electric car fleet by 2030 and a 65% reduction in CO2 emissions per square metre in Deloitte’s buildings.

By addressing the areas of business that cause the highest CO2 emissions, Deloitte is taking tangible steps to make meaningful change and realise its role as a sustainability pioneer. By setting targets in areas such as mobility, offices and travel, the organisation aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030.

“When we embarked on our sustainability journey in 2017, our fleet made up almost 70% of our carbon footprint, making mobility the biggest opportunity for reducing CO2 emissions. If Deloitte had 10% fewer cars on the road, it would have tremendous impact on traffic and congestion,” says Piet Vandendriessche, CEO Deloitte Belgium.

Key sustainability achievements of Deloitte Belgium include (benchmarked to 2017):

- An overall reduction of CO2 emissions by 33% (23% when simulating a normal behaviour during the Covid-19 months)
- Car mileage by Deloitte employees consultants down by 33% (17,2% when simulating a normal behaviour during the Covid-19 months)
- Today, electric and hybrid cars make up 8,3% of Deloitte car fleet, aiming for a fully electric fleet by 2030. As from 2026, every new ordered car will be an electric one.
- 31% less air miles flown by Deloitte employees (excluding impact of COVID-19 lockdown)
- Printed paper use at Deloitte down by more than 80%

Mobility

Strong start to lowering CO2 emissions by company cars by 30% and over achievement of reduction of kilometres driven by 33%

To meet the firm’s ambitious target to cut 25% of the firm’s general CO2 emissions by 2021 and reduce car use by 10%, Deloitte launched a ground-breaking, multimodal approach to mobility to offer its employees a wide range of mobility options to meet their needs and achieve its sustainability goals.

“We’re extremely proud that we have achieved a reduction of 30% in CO2 emissions by company cars in 2020, a gigantic leap forward. Most impressively, we’ve reduced car mileage by 33%, more than three times our target. In 2023, we want to further reduce the car mileage by 50%”, adds Piet Vandendriessche.

While the pandemic has restricted movement in 2020, over the past three years results show a consistent reduction of CO2 reduction as well a significantly reduced average employee mileage. Simulating a normal behaviour during the COVID-19 months, Deloitte Belgium's CO2 emissions in general decreased by 23% compared to 2017. Average employee mileage decreased from 24,116 km to 19,977 km (almost 6.9 million kilometres less), a 17.2% decrease compared to 2017. This led to savings of 274,000 litres of petrol compared to last year, representing a 989-tonne CO2 reduction, equivalent to 38,000 trees. While it is hard to predict what will happen post-pandemic, the firm will continuously track and further adjust its aims to reflect evolving conditions.

"We know that it is not possible to be a leader in today's world without prioritising sustainability. Working alongside Deloitte Global to achieve its aim of net-zero emissions by 2030 and aligned with the SDG's goals, we have a responsibility and an opportunity to positively contribute to a more sustainable world. As an important employer in Belgium, we are taking a pioneering and proactive stance to lead the way," says Piet Vandendriessche.

Setting an example by structurally integrating e-cars into fleet

Apart from encouraging its people to make conscious choices for sustainable mobility alternatives and drastically decreasing its car list to a small number of preferred options, Deloitte is taking important steps towards a greener fleet by investing in electric and hybrid cars and EV infrastructure. In addition to vehicles with limited CO2 emissions, employees who opt for electric cars can have a charging station installed at home or a smart cable to charge their vehicle. By 2021, electric vehicles will make up 5% of its fleet and future targets are to increase that number to 10% by 2023 and to 100% by 2030. As from 2026, every new ordered car will be an electric one.

Flexible mobility packages encouraging biking and public transport

In addition to the car, Deloitte's mobility programme offers its employees a whole range of mobility options such as (e)-biking, smart parking and public transport. Employees pick the package that best suits their personal needs; and they can make a new selection every six months. Ever since Mobility@Deloitte was launched in June 2018, 51% of its employees have opted for a change towards more sustainable mobility. As part of its sustainability considerations, the organisation envisions a 20% increase in kilometres by those who come to work by bike in 2023 and a 35% growth by 2030.

"Over the past several years, our firm has taken bold action to be one step ahead with an adaptable mobility programme designed to adhere to future regulatory changes and technological advances," explains Piet Vandendriessche. "Not only is greener mobility key to meeting our sustainability aims, it's part of our commitment to do the right thing and make a positive difference in daily lives."

Travel

Exceeding its target of a 25% reduction in air travel by 2021

Committing to its target of a 25% reduction in air travel by 2021, Deloitte established a new travel policy to increase the amount of versatile modes of transportation, encourage flexible work arrangements and video and phone conferencing whenever possible. So far, in 2020, Deloitte has achieved a reduction of kilometres per headcount of 41% (including lockdown) and 31% (simulating normal travel behaviour during the COVID-19 months). Looking further into the future, its aim is to reduce the number of kilometres flown per traveller by 55% by 2023 and 60% by 2030, and to have 100% of all business trips to cities in neighbouring countries, within a 500km radius, made by train by 2023.

Offices

Moving to more renewable real estate

Beyond greener mobility, Deloitte is investing in a low-carbon future on its way to becoming a greener firm. As a customer-centric company, Deloitte has 12 offices spread across Belgium to be closer to our clients but has made a pledge to locate offices closer to public transport. Downsizing from four buildings to one central location near Brussels Airport in 2017 means that the CO2 consumption of the new premises is 40% of the combined total. In the future, the firm aims to produce 40% by 2023 of its own renewable energy compared to its total consumption and 100% by 2030.

Transitioning to a cleaner enterprise through waste reduction and green initiatives

Sustainability to Deloitte is more than just CO2 reduction or offsetting. In addition to the above ambitions, Deloitte is striving to become a cleaner firm by working on eco-friendly endeavours focused around the following three areas: waste reduction, sustainable procurement and green certifications.

Employing a digital-first mindset around all aspects of its business, Deloitte is taking steps to reduce its waste production. From 2017 to 2020, it has cut its printed paper consumption by an impressive 82%, far exceeding its FY21 target of 50%, and is well on its way to achieving its FY30 target of 95%. What's more, it has taken on several cleaner-energy initiatives revolving around single-use products such as centralising printing and replacing plastic bottles with reusable ones.

Deloitte Belgium has obtained the EcoVadis certification, which provides holistic sustainability ratings, covering Environmental, Labor & Human Rights, Ethics and Sustainable Procurement impacts. With a score of 64/100, Deloitte Belgium obtained an EcoVadis 'gold' rating certification in 2017. This 'gold ranking' was maintained in 2020 with an increase of 9% to achieve a current score of 70/100. Ambition for 2023 is to achieve 75/100 and 85/100 in 2030. In June 2018, Deloitte Belgium received the BREEAM "Very Good" certificate for its Gateway building. For each of its new buildings, it intends to reach a 'Very good' level by 2023 and keep this standard into 2030.

Deloitte in Belgium

A leading audit and consulting practice in Belgium, Deloitte offers value added services in audit, accounting, tax and legal, consulting, financial advisory services, and risk advisory services.

In Belgium, Deloitte has more than 4,500 employees in 12 locations across the country, serving national and international companies, from small and middle-sized enterprises, to public sector and non-profit organisations. The turnover reached 607 million euros in the financial year 2020.

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