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Buildings should be central to EU emission-reduction plans

The VELUX Group is ahead of its ambitious goal to cut its global CO₂ emissions by 50% by 2020 compared to the 2007 level. In 2020, the Group expects to be nine years ahead of the EU 2degree target. Nonetheless, the Group believes there should be much more focus on buildings as a part of the overall solution.

More and more attention must be given to housing when it comes to reducing CO₂ emissions and energy consumption. Buildings today account for 40% of the energy consumed in Europe.

"In the work for reducing energy use and CO₂ emissions, buildings are an overlooked potential. Based on 21 experiments across Europe, we have shown that it is possible to meet the 2020 targets with the technology available today," says CEO of the VELUX Group, Jørgen Tang-Jensen.

The VELUX Group has built 21 houses, in 12 countries with different climatic conditions, to develop sustainable solutions for future buildings.

"These experiments have proved that the solutions for tomorrow's buildings are already here. But we should not only look at future housing; 90% of the buildings we will be using in 2050 have already been built, and most of them are in need of modernisation to improve comfort as well as energy efficiency," says CEO of the VELUX Group, Jørgen Tang Jensen.

The total energy spend in Europe on buildings accounts for 37% of CO₂ emissions. But 75% of those buildings are energy inefficient. The VELUX Group has therefore embarked on a project to renovate an existing building in Brussels – at an affordable price and meeting the energy standards of 2020.

"The central focus must be on ensuring that the health and well-being of residents is not compromised when existing buildings are updated to 2020 energy-efficiency standards," says CEO of the VELUX Group, Jørgen Tang-Jensen.

The VELUX commitment on CO₂ reductions

In 2007, the VELUX Group committed itself to help preventing the negative impact of climate change by setting the ambitious goal to reduce its total CO₂ emissions by 50% before 2020.

Today, the VELUX Group is far ahead of this goal. In 2014, CO₂ emissions had been reduced by more than 29%. Currently, its carbon footprint has been reduced by 15% more than that

required by the EU, which puts the Group nine years ahead of EU emission-reduction targets.

Furthermore, a VELUX roof window provides net CO₂ savings over its complete life cycle of 162 kg. CO₂ (the CO₂ emissions from the raw material usage and the production of the window is lower than the CO₂ savings from passive solar heat gained the use of the window).

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About the VELUX Group

For more than 70 years, the VELUX Group has created better living environments for people around the world. Making the most of daylight and fresh air through the roof. Our product programme includes roof windows and modular skylights as well as a range of decoration and sun screenings, roller shutters, installation solutions and intelligent home controls. These products help to ensure a healthy and sustainable indoor climate. For work and learning. For play and pleasure. We work globally – with sales and manufacturing operations in more than 40 countries and around 10,000 employees worldwide. The VELUX Group is owned by VKR Holding A/S, a limited company wholly owned by foundations and family. For more information, visit www.velux.com.

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