



Brighter Lives, Better World: Philips Lighting's journey towards carbon neutrality

Philips Lighting is working towards achieving its 2020 sustainability goals by partnering with South Pole to minimise its environmental impact and invest in high-quality, brand-aligned emission reductions projects in emerging economies.

Philips Lighting contracted South Pole for support on meeting a range of ambitious sustainability measures set out in its 'Brighter Lives, Better World' program, including achieving carbon neutrality and sourcing 100% renewable electricity by 2020. Thanks to South Pole's broad portfolio of international offsets and renewable energy certificates and its ability to develop tailored projects, the company was able to select the range of actions that best match its sustainability strategy and brand. Philips Lighting will not only offset its carbon emissions, it will also highlight the potential of light to improve lives by introducing innovative technologies to developing economies.

ABOUT THE CLIENT

PHILIPS Lighting

Philips Lighting is a global leader in lighting products, systems and services. It delivers innovations that unlock business value, providing rich user experiences that help improve lives. Serving professional and consumer markets, it leads the industry in leveraging the Internet of Things to transform homes, buildings and urban spaces. With 2016 sales of EUR 7.1 billion, it has approximately 34,000 employees in over 70 countries.

"During our search for a carbon offsetting partnership, South Pole showed the best understanding of our key drivers for wanting to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as 2020. Our common values provide a solid foundation for our partnership to build on."

Robbert Slooten

Program Manager, Sustainability Strategy & Reporting,
Philips Lighting



WHY WORK WITH US

Global team

We are a truly global provider of sustainability solutions and services. Our team is made up of over 200 skilled and enthusiastic professionals from over 20 different countries, based in offices spanning 6 continents.

Proven impact

Since 2006, we have measured the climate impact of countless companies and products worldwide. We have screened USD 1 trillion of investments for their climate impact and we have developed 500+ projects in renewables, forestry, agriculture, industry and households. Through our efforts, 80 million tonnes of CO₂ have been saved, almost as much as the annual CO₂ emissions of the country of Portugal.

Added value

We help you grow with groundbreaking solutions that benefit your business, the environment and society.

The Goal

The Brighter Lives, Better World program encompasses Philips Lighting's company vision to minimise their impact on the environment and unlock the extraordinary potential of light for brighter lives and a better world. This sustainability goal is built on a range of concrete commitments including, but not limited to, achieving carbon neutrality and 100% renewable electricity use by 2020.

The Challenge

Having already reduced its carbon footprint by 54% since 2007 by improving energy efficiency throughout its manufacturing processes and switching to renewable electricity across many countries of operation, Philips Lighting wanted to take further ambitious steps. It aims to compensate for the emissions generated by combustion in operations, purchased electricity, logistics and business travel to become carbon neutral by 2020.

The Solution

With South Pole, Philips Lighting built a portfolio of carbon offsetting projects from which to source carbon credits. To maximise the impact of their carbon finance investments, they included different types of projects, all of which reduce carbon emissions by applying innovative technology in emerging economies across the world. By offsetting with a run-of-river hydropower project in China, a biogas project in Thailand and an avoided deforestation and sustainable communities project in Zimbabwe, Philips Lighting were able to promote renewable energy generation and environmental protection globally. In addition to this, supporting these projects provides jobs, improves health conditions and creates better livelihoods for communities in emerging economies.

The Key benefits

In 2016, Philips Lighting financed three carbon offset projects with South Pole to compensate for unavoidable company emissions and further their journey towards carbon neutrality by 2020. In total they sourced 122,000 metric tons of carbon credits, offsetting 23% of their 2016 operational carbon footprint. Sustainability performance is of increasing importance to Philips Lighting. They found customers across their broad B2C, B2B and B2G industries are more interested in products that are sustainable and from a company with a good reputation for sustainability. Having a well-designed carbon offsetting program lends credibility and gives Philips Lighting an advantage in the supplier market.

These steps towards carbon neutrality also had internal benefits. South Pole prepared videos of three projects that Philips Lighting employees could select via an online global voting event. By showing leadership in the journey towards carbon neutrality, Philips Lighting employees took an active role in defining its sustainability strategy and are now motivated to become ambassadors for action on climate and development.