

CSR Report
2009

On course...

Inspiration
on the wing

-essent 



On course...

Inspiration
on the wing



30 — *Conductor of business and marketplayer in 2009*

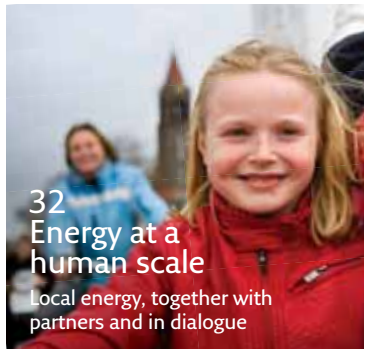
Essent, one of Europe's leaders in biomass



5 — *Introduction by Peter Terium*

“Doing things differently, more efficiently and with respect for the environment”

Working on a carbon neutral power supply in Europe



32 **Energy at a human scale**

Local energy, together with partners and in dialogue



41 **Working on tomorrow's transport**

Developing electric driving

Table of contents

**1 Doing things differently, more efficiently
and with respect for the environment**

Page 5

Introduction by Peter Terium

2 Essent profile 2009

Page 8

3 In the heart of society

Page 10

The essence of CSR

4 From CSR to CR

Page 15

Reflections by Marga Edens

5 We treasure our sustainable image

Page 20

Vision on sustainability

6 Corporate citizen in 2009

Page 24

Exploring the limits to our responsibility

**7 Conductor of business and
market player in 2009**

Page 30

Inspiration on the wing

8 Employer in 2009

Page 42

Working on diversity, safety and
employee satisfaction

9 Boundaries of the 2009 CSR Report


Page 46

Assurance report

Page 48

Publication details

Page 50

A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, a striped shirt, and a patterned tie, stands against a solid red background. He has his hands clasped in front of him. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

We will need
to implement
many partial
solutions
to effectively
realise our
ambition, under
the motto:
*Trying harder
and doing things
differently.*

1

Doing things differently, more efficiently and with respect for the environment

Fifty years ago, people had no idea that electricity would be as important to our society as it has become today. Electricity is a necessity of life nowadays. Similarly, today we find it hard to imagine how electricity will be put to use in fifty years' time. Still, of one thing we can be sure: electricity will be many times more dominant and important than it is today, available to all of us at any time.

Using existing production methods, we will not be able to meet future demand for electricity, which is set to grow exponentially. Nor should we want to. After all, it will imply exponential growth of the problems currently associated with electricity generation. We should do it differently, more efficiently and with respect for the environment.

The solution lies in smart electricity grids, in combining centralised and decentralised generation and in technologies as yet unknown but perhaps being developed somewhere.

As an energy major, it is Essent's responsibility to identify such nascent innovative trends and treasure them. Essent has always sought to do so and will continue to lead the way in this field.

Carbon neutral

Our energy policy is founded on three pillars: sustainability, affordability and security of supply. There is a certain tension between those fundamental principles. For instance, while generating renewable electricity is important, it is also more expensive than generating con-

ventional electricity and it may conflict with the principle of security of supply. After all, the wind does not always blow. As access to electricity increases globally, the importance of security of supply will grow.

Most electricity is currently produced using fossil fuels, which generates large amounts of CO₂ and other emissions. In 2009, Essent was a signatory to the Eurelectric Declaration, which embodies our ambitions to achieve a carbon neutral power supply by 2050.

We are currently investigating means to achieve that goal, fully aware that there is no single solution. Rather, we will need to implement many partial solutions to effectively realise our ambition, under the motto: *Trying harder and doing things differently*. This is reflected in the portfolio approach we take to our capital expenditure decisions. We do not bet on a single horse.

The economic crisis has shaken the world and the market to an unbelievable extent. And expectations are that the present turmoil is here to stay for some time to come.

The only thing we can be sure of is that there is nothing we can be sure of. We need to be prepared for anything. Our portfolio should encompass every possible option, ranging from fossil energy, renewable energy and, potentially, nuclear energy, to energy savings and energy efficiency. We should be able to use our entire toolbox in order to realise our objective of achieving a carbon neutral electricity supply by 2050, even under extreme conditions. This however requires consistent and coherent government policies, something that was sorely missed in the Netherlands over the past decade. With the rules of play changing all the time, companies have found it virtually impossible to implement a long-term vision. We would therefore favour setting up a Ministry of Energy Affairs, particularly given the challenges governments, companies and households are facing in the area of energy.

Practise what you preach

The challenges Essent faces are not just energy-related. We need to make important choices in a social context, too. One of those important choices is our membership of the UN Global Compact, which means that we choose to do business with respect for international human rights, labour conditions and the environment, as well as rejecting any form of corruption.

I believe in evidencing leadership, practising what you preach, acting on your beliefs. If you do not want any child labour in your own company, why do business with companies that practise child labour? That would not make any sense, so you should not do it. The scale of our operations allows us to negotiate with suppliers not just about price and quality, but also about human rights. Sometimes that is easier said than done, however, because some suppliers of commodities you just cannot do without hold monopolies or near-monopolies. So what do you do if their behaviour is less ethical than you would like it to be? It is my belief that dripping water wears away the stone. In other words, by never ceasing to insist that human rights be respected, you will be successful in the end.

Having said that, there are limits to our responsibility. Just as we do not want the government to run our affairs, we as a company do not wish to assume the position of the government. Essent is an energy company and not a development aid organisation. Who are we to decide which country should receive aid and which country should not? That is up to governments and NGOs. We do, however, want to realise the ideas we have as a company, which is why we set up or participate in projects that make a difference, such as Close the Gap in Africa or Stichting rmc Weekendschool, which offers supplementary education to children from underprivileged neighbourhoods in some of the larger cities in the Netherlands.

Where we choose to support a project, we do

so from the perspective of Essent as an energy company. Additionally, we wish to make contributions to society that cannot be realised with money alone. Just think of corporate voluntary work, with employees putting their knowledge and skills to good use.

Employees

Our employees expect us to play a meaningful role in society. To attract high-quality people who are able to turn in good results for the company, you need to look beyond the figures. Employees want engagement from their employer, expecting their personal values to be reflected in the company they work for. They want their company to be committed to society and engage in operations they can be proud of and that appeal to them.

I believe it is important for people to be able to work on the basis of their strengths. Man is a learning creature, with a natural need for growth. That is why, as an employer, you need to create the right conditions, as well as check whether people are in the right place. Keeping your people happy is about more than rewarding them.

They need to feel welcome in their company and at their workplace, which is why diversity is important. We wish our workforce to be a proper reflection of the society in which we operate, if only to keep in touch with it.

A pleasant working atmosphere also means safety at work. People should be able to come to work safely and arrive home at night safely. In the field of safety, Essent has made great strides, but it is a subject that demands our continuing attention. The real danger is that we sit back and become complacent.

RWE

A final word on RWE, the new owner of Essent. It is a pity we sometimes hear unjustified criticism of RWE's CSR policy. The company has operated successfully in the heart of Germany's

Rhineland for 110 years, something you cannot achieve if you are in conflict with your surroundings all the time. CSR is about more than sustainability. RWE employs over 60,000 people, making it one of the largest employers in the region, not to mention the great deal of indirect employment it creates.

RWE is of course also active in the field of environment. As is necessary when you operate in a densely populated region. That requires you to take a proactive approach in respect of the environment and collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders. Of course, this is not to say that RWE is perfect in all ways. The company still has room for additional steps to take in terms of sustainability. RWE has high ambitions in that field, which is one of the reasons why it is a signatory to the Eurelectric Declaration. The company is researching and experimenting in fields in which Essent is up and running. They demonstrate a great deal of interest in the way we approach things. This is one of the roles Essent fulfils inside RWE - that of a guide, a pilot vessel showing supertanker RWE the way and steering it once in while, ensuring that it keeps to its course.

Arnhem, the Netherlands
4 May 2010

Peter Terium
CEO Essent N.V.

2

Essent profile 2009

Over 90 years' experience

Headquartered in Arnhem, Essent is the Netherlands' largest energy company, serving Belgium as its second home market. For over 90 years, we have provided our 2.6 million private and business customers with electricity, gas, heat and energy services. Essent produces a large part of the energy it supplies. Our installed power generating capacity totals around 3,500 MW, 1,076 MW of which is renewable energy (660 MW in the Netherlands). Essent is the largest producer and supplier of renewable energy in the Netherlands. In 2009, 23% of all renewable energy generated in the Netherlands originated from Essent, which we supplied to over 900,000 'green' customers. Essent employs approximately 4,400 people and realised a turnover of EUR 5,710 million in 2009.

Joining RWE

In January 2009, Essent announced that it planned to join RWE, enabling it to safeguard its ambition to continue playing a leading role in the consolidating North-Western European market. All of Essent's former shareholders accepted the RWE offer, and Essent has formed a part of the RWE Group since 30 September 2009. Excluding the shareholdings in swb AG and EPZ N.V. and after the customary closing adjustments, the transaction value amounted to approximately EUR 7.3 billion. Within the RWE Group, Essent serves the Dutch and Belgian markets.

Changes in 2009

Essent's organisation underwent substantial changes in 2009. These changes were either imposed upon the RWE takeover or resulted from it, either directly or indirectly. The Essent Network business unit became independent with effect

Organisation chart Essent N.V.

Executive Board

Staff services /
Essent Support Group

Commercial cluster

Technology cluster

Marketing	Business Development
Sales portfolio management	Projects
Business-to-business	Production
Business-to-consumer & SME	New Energy
Essent Local Energy Solutions	
Essent Belgium	

from 1 January 2009 under the name of Enexis. The legal separation was completed by 1 July 2009. This unbundling was prompted by the Dutch Independent Grid Management Act (formerly the Unbundling Act), with one of its provisions being that, effective 1 January 2011, energy production, trading and supply companies may no longer form part of the same group as grid companies.

A condition for the takeover by RWE was that the 51% shareholding in the German energy company swb AG be sold. The European Commission imposed this condition in order to prevent RWE from gaining an overly dominant market position in Germany. On 21 October 2009, Essent's shareholding was sold to the German company EWE AG.

The Essent Milieu business unit and Essent's 50% shareholding in electricity production company EPZ N.V., which operates the Borssele nuclear power station, were kept outside the transaction. Essent Milieu became independent with effect from 1 October 2009 under the name of Attero. Attero and the shareholding in EPZ N.V. continued to be owned by Essent's former shareholders.

People, Planet, Profit, Power

	2009 ⁶	2008	2007	2006
People				
Number of employees ¹	4,387	10,324	10,223	9,832
% women ²	35	25	27	27
% women in management positions ²	16	17	14	14
% absence due to illness	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.2
DART rate ³	0.40	0.82	0.97	1.09
Planet				
Donations (approximate amount, in EUR)	300,000	380,000	300,000	300,000
Profit⁴ (amounts in millions of euros)				
Turnover	5,710	9,038	7,378	6,442
Profit attributable to equity holders	4,391	887	2,594	762
Total equity	6,274	5,253	5,175	3,414
Total interest-bearing liabilities	109	1,186	724	1,620
Capital employed	7,387	7,830	8,204	6,559
Power				
Total renewable energy generating capacity (MW)	1,076	1,098	1,042	1,065
Renewable energy as a % of total energy generation	17.3	12.0	10.0	15.2
Number of private and business customers purchasing green electricity in the Netherlands	920,000	916,000	927,000	936,000
Number of Green for Gas customers (<i>Groen voor Gas</i>)	34,800	35,000	25,000	15,300
CO ₂ -emissions (ktonnes) ⁵	9,381	14,322	14,625	14,496
% solid biomass with Green Gold Label	73	68	48	33

1 — Number of own and temporary employees, expressed in FTE, excluding associates.

2 — Own employees.

3 — Own employees and employees of contracted third parties.

4 — Profit figures taken from the 2009 consolidated financial statements of Essent n.v., filed with the Chamber of Commerce for central Gelderland in Arnhem.

5 — Emissions from the generation of electricity and heat.

6 — Due to changes in principles underlying the organisation and reporting caused by the takeover by rWE, the figures for 2009 are not immediately comparable with those for previous years. See also Chapter 9.

3

In the heart of society

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is important to Essent. Right from the start, it has played a role in our business operations, as well as in its management's and employees' beliefs and conduct. The CSR Report on 2008 entitled *Duurzaam duurt het langst* ('Sustainability Lasts Longest'; published in Dutch only with an English summary), which was issued last year, testifies to this. It provides a comprehensive overview under the motto of 'Ten years of sustainability'.

Questions

Ten years of sustainability represented a milestone for Essent. Although we did mark the occasion, we believed it was more important to look ahead. And we took the time to do so in 2009, as we felt the takeover by RWE was an appropriate time to reflect on a number of key questions. What should Essent's future CSR policy look like now that we are part of RWE? Should we go for a bare minimum? Should we do more, just enough to prevent our stakeholders from protesting? Or must CSR take centre stage in Essent's strategy? What are the consequences these options have? What does society expect from an energy company? How do we put the dialogue with society into practice? How do we engage our stakeholders in our CSR policy? What role should CSR play in Essent's licence to operate in the Benelux region? What is our new owner's view on corporate social responsibility? Are RWE and Essent on the same wavelength?

Clear fundamental principles

To be able to answer this last question, we first need to establish how both companies individually view CSR. Essent's view is clear. As an energy company, you are in the heart of society, which creates continuous interaction, with both sides

constantly affecting each other. The pillars supporting our CSR policy are a prime example of this: People, Planet, Profit and Power.

We do not aim to realise just Profit for our shareholder, but also wish to take the environment (our Planet) expressly into account, as well as the People inside and outside Essent. The better these three Ps balance each other, the more sustainably we operate. We felt these three Ps were inadequate to define the way we operate, however. For that reason, we decided to add a fourth P, representing the renewable energy (Power) that we supply to our customers, but perhaps even more the energy and drive with which we shape our commitment to society.

Our four roles in society

We have linked a role Essent plays in society to each of those four pillars. To People, we have linked Essent as an employer. Planet is linked to our role as a corporate citizen, a fellow citizen fully immersed in today's society. Profit stands for our role as a market player. Essent supplies its products and services on the market, as well as procuring products and services from other parties. Finally, Power represents Essent as a conductor of business, an energy company that produces products and services and tailors these to the wishes prevailing in the market. Those wishes may not always be unequivocal, however. For instance, Essent is one of the largest producers of CO₂-emissions in the Netherlands, as well as being the largest producer of renewable energy.

Nine spearheads

Based on our four roles in society, we have formulated nine spearheads on which our CSR policy focuses. They are subjects we feel responsible for and are, in fact, responsible for, both in a negative and in a positive sense. They are emission reduction, energy savings,

Clear fundamental principles

4P's	4 roles	9 spearheads		
People	▶ Employer	▶ Sound employment	Health, Safety and Environment (HSE)	
Planet	▶ Corporate citizen	▶ Human rights	Corporate citizenship	
Profit	▶ Market player	▶ Customer satisfaction	Energy savings	
Power	▶ Conductor of Business	▶ Emission reduction	▶ Renewable energy share	▶ Innovation

the share of renewable energy in the generation mix, innovation and knowledge management, sound employment, HSE (Health, Safety and Environment), customer satisfaction, corporate citizenship and human rights. Each of these is discussed briefly below.

Emission reduction

We are very aware that Essent makes a substantial contribution to emissions of harmful greenhouse gases. Far from accepting this as a fact of life, however, we feel responsible for our climate, aiming to reduce our emissions. To achieve that objective, we will be producing more renewable energy, save energy and make investments in more efficient power stations. Our ambition is to achieve a carbon neutral power supply by 2050.

The share of renewable energy

Essent is the largest producer of renewable energy in the Netherlands. We seek to double the share of 'green' electricity in our power generation to 25% in 2020, using mainly wind en biomass.

Energy savings

In addition to producing and selling energy, we also consider encouraging energy savings

to be part of our responsibility. This is why we help customers cut back on their energy consumption. We provide information to private customers on our website and in several other publications, while offering tailored solutions to business customers, such as energy scans and technical applications. As far as Essent itself is concerned, we are working on energy savings and reductions of CO₂-emissions from accommodation (lighting, heating and IT) and transport by 5% each year.

Innovation and knowledge management

Essent is not a research institute. What we do do, however, is invest in funds and collaborative structures that fund research projects in the areas of emission reduction, energy storage, energy management, generation of renewable energy, alternative fuels and energy efficiency.

Sound employment

Essent wants to offer its employees a safe workplace and inspiring work that allows them to achieve their full potential. In all echelons of our company, our workforce should be a faithful reflection of the society to which we supply energy, and its composition should be more balanced in terms of gender, age and ethnic background.



Sound employership

A safe workplace and inspiring work that allows employees to achieve their full potential.

Health, Safety and Environment (HSE)

As a diligent employer, we do everything needed to provide our employees with a safe and healthy workplace, throughout Essent, both on our production sites and in our office buildings. This covers both our own employees and those of companies and organisations we work with.

Customer satisfaction

Customer satisfaction is key. Essent seeks to increase customer satisfaction by providing clear and accurate invoices, in addition to working on high-quality services and optimising accessibility. We also consider assisting customers facing imminent payment difficulties to be part of our responsibility.

Corporate citizenship

As a corporate citizen, Essent participates in society. We feel a responsibility for society and wish to contribute to it. We make donations to a variety of social projects and causes, both in the Netherlands and outside Europe. Furthermore, we support our employees in their volunteering activities.

Human rights

It might not sound logical to associate Essent with concerns about violation of human rights. However, given that Essent forms part of a global commodity and fuel chain, we wish to be up to date on whether human rights are respected elsewhere in the world.

Our Responsibility

As is clear from the foregoing paragraphs, sustainability is a common 'green' thread in Essent's business operations. But what are rwe's views on corporate social responsibility? Fortunately, both companies are very similar in this area, with their CSR ambitions covering common ground. While Essent acts on the nine spearheads referred to above, rwe, under the motto of Our Responsibility, focuses on the following ten areas for action: climate protection, energy efficiency, technology, prices (customer satisfaction), demographic changes (aging population), chain responsibility, HSE, environmental protection, commitment to society and grid security.

We clearly click

We believe RWE's CSR ambitions are inspiring. It motivates us greatly to see how the company is working in a well-organised way to achieve those ambitions. In this area, too, RWE and Essent clearly click. We share our ambitions, our motives and our need to feel challenged by society. It is gratifying to see that Essent will be able to continue and intensify its CSR policy together with RWE in the years ahead.

What type of company?

Following the takeover by RWE in 2009, Essent took its time to consider its vision of the future. What type of company do we want to be? The result of this review is our aim to clearly distinguish ourselves from other energy companies in the following four areas: organisation, sustainability, customer and technology. These areas have a direct link with Essent's four CSR pillars: People, Planet, Profit and Power.

Essent aspires to position itself on the Benelux market with an excellent product, motivated and expert employees, innovative technology, as well as sustainability as the common denominator across our business operations. Essent wishes to be a reliable and sustainable energy company that is committed to society. Our CSR policy will enable us to enrich, support, encourage and supplement Essent's performance.

Assurance

Corporate Social Responsibility concerns everyone at Essent, ranging from the Executive Board and the management tiers below it to all other employees. This shared responsibility can only exist if it is based on individual, personal responsibility, borne by everyone, from the company's highest echelons to the lowest. This will guarantee that CSR is assured within Essent, both now and in the future. Sustainability also concerns RWE. Essent and RWE have laid down

agreements on this subject in a Sustainability Contract, with compliance being monitored by an independent foundation. Social responsibility and sustainability are however not only subjects for internal discussion. For this reason, Essent is setting up a CSR Council, whose members are independent external experts from a variety of disciplines, which will act as a sounding board and to which we will be able to submit our plans, ideas and dilemmas. This will be a good way for us to stay up to date and gain fresh inspiration.

Communication

Essent will continue to inform its stakeholders in the area of CSR. We will communicate in a range of ways, including this Report, our website and special meetings. This will ensure that we have a constant dialogue with society.



Energy is a
basic necessity
of life, an
essential
product for
humanity.
This makes all
aspects
of energy
important.

4

From CSR to CR

rWE. The first time I heard this name as potential new owner of Essent, I did not know a lot about the company, except that the acronym stood for Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk. The name brought up vague associations with grubby coal-fired power stations in the Ruhr area and villages being sacrificed to lignite mining. And that gave me quite a shock. Because, as someone from a family of millers and vicars, to whom working with the wind and the gospel was second nature, my message has always been that the energy industry should and can operate more sustainably. At that point in time, joining forces with rWE seemed to me like taking a step backwards. But that changed after I had googled some company info and saw that rWE occupied a prominent place in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. After that pleasant surprise, I started reading their sustainability reports and was impressed by the broad scale of rWE's sustainability activities, its ambitious objectives and its well-organised plans to achieve those objectives.

Just before the formal takeover, I met our Corporate Responsibility (CR) colleagues at rWE on a few occasions. We instantly understood each other, had a lot in common. All of us work in an energy company with a long-standing tradition and with mostly conventional power stations. Even so, all of us are more than willing to work on making our business operations more sustainable at a rapid pace. Also, it was a pleasant experience to note that our CR colleagues at rWE demonstrate a great deal of interest in Essent's approach on sustainability. They view us as a company with substantial expertise in the areas of sustainability and introducing sustainability into business operations. They are keen to learn from our experience, knowledge and skills. And we feel the same about them too.

Sustainable energy supply

Over the past few years, we have seen a commodity crisis (oil, gas, metals) and a financial crisis unfold, which both sparked a global economic crisis. What they have in common is that both crises were caused by short-term views and the pursuit of quick financial gains. They have led to a widely heard call for a moral compass and moral leadership, in order to find answers to such questions as: In what kind of a world do we want to live? How should we organise production? How should we reward people? Awareness is growing that aiming for short-term gains is not worthwhile if they are at the expense of generations to come. We should try and make the right choices now, so that in 2050 the world will still be a place worth living for everyone.

The need to make choices also concerns the energy industry. Energy is a basic necessity of life, an essential product for humanity. This makes all aspects of energy important. Particularly the way we produce it, given that production has a direct impact on the environment and our climate. The choices we make now will help shape the world as it will look 40 years from now. That places a great responsibility on our shoulders, one which Essent does not shun. We aim to achieve a CO₂ neutral power supply and have made that aim the focal point of our policy for the years to come. While making our business operations more sustainable is important, we will continue to keep an eye on striking the right balance, as the affordability of our products may not be jeopardised.

Human rights

Essent is active in various supply chains. We have always considered it self-evident to feel a responsibility for what takes place in those chains. Looking at the commodity chain, for instance, we considered it important that the biomass we use does not come at the expense

of primary forests, clean drinking water or food supplies. We still hold this view, but also believe we should take human rights in the supply chain into account, which is why we are a member of the UN Global Compact and include human rights in our Code of Conduct. This means human rights now figure prominently in Essent's policy. That too is sustainability.

Sustainability considerations

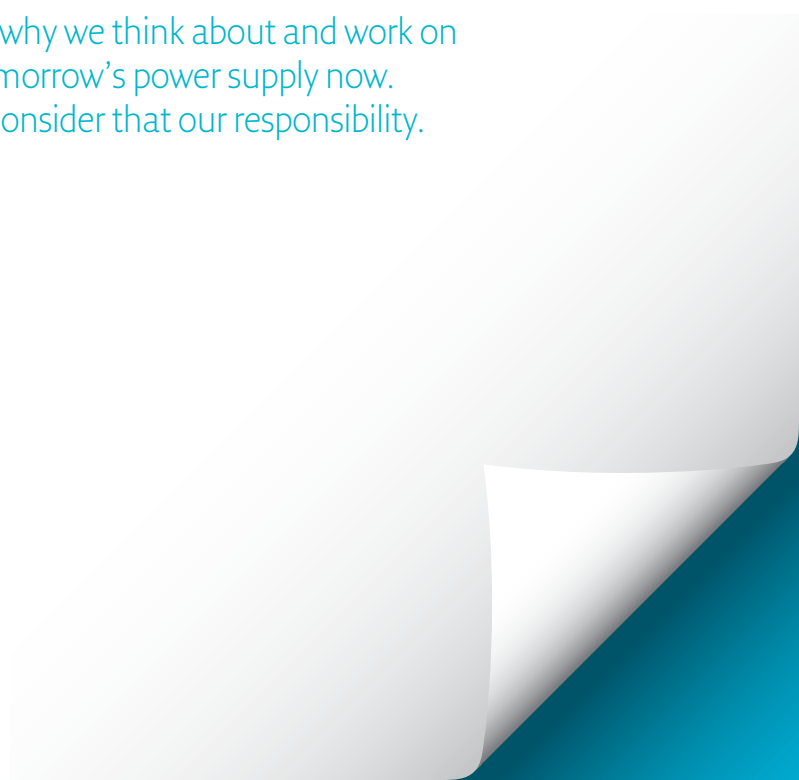
How should you organise production? How should you manage? How should you reward people? How should you deal with human rights? Questions like these are recurring aspects throughout our business operations. In answering those questions, sustainability considerations play a key role. That is why we will no longer be using the term Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) but use Corporate Responsibility (CR) instead, given that it places even more emphasis on the fact that, to Essent, assuming responsibility is an inherent part of doing business. Rather than focusing merely on short-term financial returns, we consider the consequences our actions have for society as a whole and for generations to come. This will be a start in creating a solution to the various crises we are facing. Teaming up with RWE will harness Essent's capability to turn those sustainability considerations into action because together we have the scale of operations to bring about meaningful change.

Marga Edens
CR Manager Essent N.V.

2010

Our objectives are ambitious.

That is why we think about and work on
tomorrow's power supply now.
We consider that our responsibility.



2020

25% renewable energy generation

as part of our total energy generation.
Doing more with biomass, expanding
wind energy.

2050
**100% carbon
neutral power
supply**

based on our portfolio approach.
Investing in energy savings, highly efficient fossil fuels,
renewable energy generation, carbon capture
and emissions trading.

5

We treasure our sustainable image

The Netherlands' largest energy company, Essent is also one of the major CO₂-emission producers. At the same time, however, Essent boasts a long-standing tradition in sustainability. Back in the nineties, we were the first to market green electricity. We have managed to retain that lead. Being the largest producer of renewable energy in the Netherlands, we have upwards of 900,000 business and private green electricity customers. Moreover, we offer sustainable-gas and energy-saving products and carry out projects in the fields of energy efficiency and decentralised power generation.

Sustainable image

We take pride in our sustainable image and treasure it. We feel a responsibility not just for our planet's climate, but also towards our customers. Accordingly, we believed it was only natural for us to sign the Eurelectric Declaration in 2009, together with over sixty other European energy companies that, between them, account for the lion's share of Europe's energy production. This initiative aims to achieve a CO₂ neutral power supply by 2050, calling on European and national policy-makers to support that aim.

RWE

The takeover by RWE did not affect our principles. RWE is one of the major European energy companies. It is responsible for a great deal of CO₂-emission, and some associate the company mainly with lignite, which given the company's history is not surprising. RWE started out in a region where coal and lignite were available and therefore logical fuels to use. RWE is however

also active in the field of sustainability. Its capital expenditure programme amounts to EUR 7 billion annually until 2013, two-thirds of which will be spent on carbon-free or low-carbon energy generation. This includes doubling the generation of renewable energy, among other things by building large-scale wind parks. Furthermore, in this period RWE will be building 12 Gigawatts of generation capacity in the form of highly efficient gas-fired power stations and more efficient, cleaner coal-fired power stations. By improving its carbon balance in this way, RWE aims in 2020 for emissions to be on a par with other important European energy companies, which had a better baseline position thanks to large-scale conventional hydropower or nuclear energy.

Ambitions

Essent has ambitious sustainability plans. In 2009, the European Union announced the ambition that 20% of all energy generated in Europe in 2020 should be renewable. Given the Dutch share in the European figure, this means our country should aim to generate 14% with renewable energy. Essent wants 20% to 25% of the energy it generates to be renewable by 2020. A guiding principle for its policy and capital expenditure over the years ahead is the ambition to achieve a CO₂ neutral power supply by 2050. Our focus is on producing more renewable energy, saving energy, improving energy efficiency, reducing CO₂-emissions from generating energy using fossil fuels and realising carbon storage. In sum, we are making an all-out effort to contribute to a more sustainable future. We consider that our responsibility.



Desertec

A prime example of rwe's far-reaching ambitions in the field of sustainability. It may well cover around 15% of the European energy needs by 2050.

Ambitions in abundance under the sun

Producing solar energy where the sun always shines - countries such as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt offer plenty of opportunities. Together with 11 other companies including Siemens, rwe launched the Desertec Industrial Initiative ("Dii") in late 2009. Its objective is to create a framework for large-scale investments in solar power stations, wind parks, local grid extensions and connections to the Western European power grid. Expectations are that mainly solar thermal power plants will be built. These plants are based on a long established technology that uses solar radiation to heat oil, which generates steam from water to produce electricity. While extensive experience has been gained with such plants in southern Spain and the United States, they have not been built on the scale possible in the Sahara desert. If successful, the initiative will provide for a large part of the local energy needs, as well as ensuring that some 15% of the European energy needs will be met from solar and wind by 2050. Preparations, including scheduling demonstration projects, will take place in the next few years, after which investments will gradually be made. Viewed over a timeframe of 40 years, these investments will lead to cost reductions.



Dii's CEO is former Essent managing director Paul van Son. He comments: "This may well be the best example of rwe's massive and far-reaching ambitions in the field of sustainability. Such long-term developments can only be realised in a collaborative structure encompassing companies and governments in the European Union and, first and foremost, in the desert regions where Dii wants to operate."

Investments

Essent and RWE plan to make multi-billion investments in the Netherlands over the next ten years. Over EUR 2 billion will be spent on a highly efficient coal-fired power station in Eemshaven, which will also be suitable for firing large amounts of biomass. Moreover, between EUR 1 billion and 1.5 billion will be available for wind energy. On top of that, existing conventional power stations, such as the Claus power station and the Moerdijk combined heat and power plant, are being expanded and modernised, thereby increasing their efficiency and reducing their emissions. Additionally, RWE is backing Essent's existing approved investment plans.

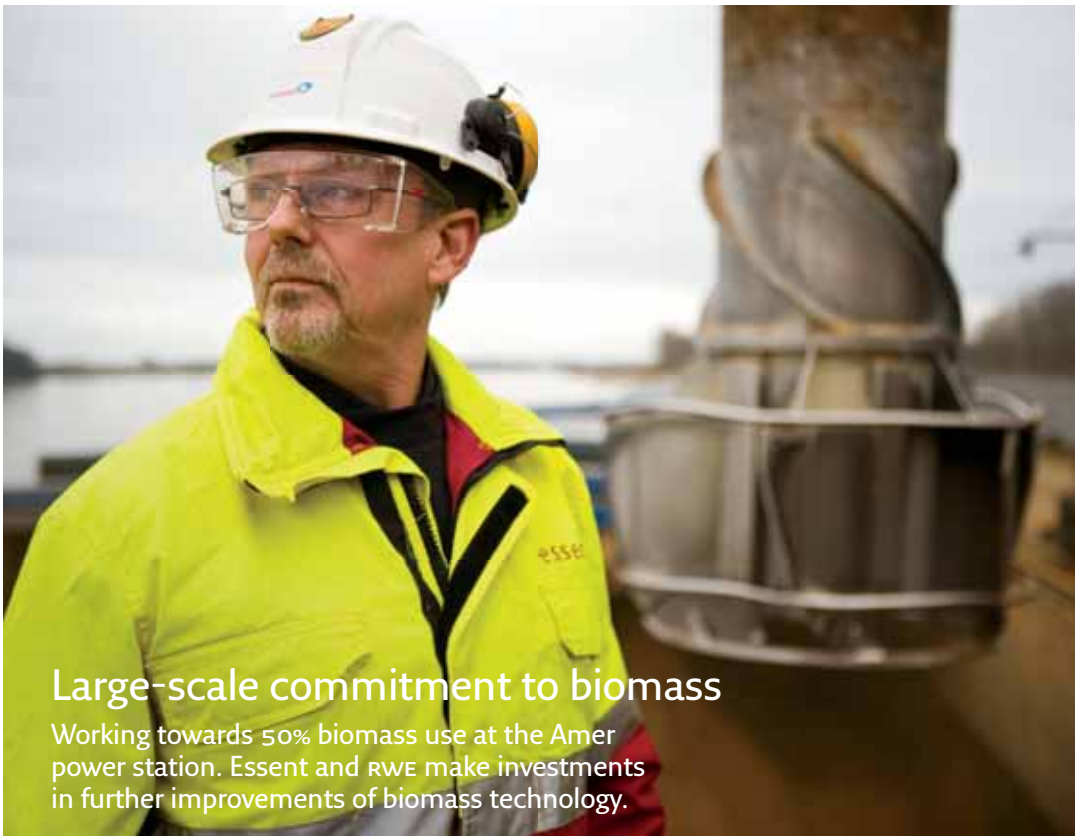
Nuclear energy

A nuclear power station provides an excellent energy production technology without any carbon emissions. Still, this technology is not without controversy. Issues pertaining to safety and the storage of radioactive waste are prominent aspects of the debate in society about the acceptability of nuclear energy. Essent does not wish to exclude the production of nuclear energy and, accordingly, it is investigating the options of building a nuclear power station in the Netherlands, either on its own or with partners. While looking into every possible opportunity, we are not undertaking any concrete actions.

Portfolio approach

As there is no single solution, we are exploring every avenue to realise our ambitions. This characterises our portfolio approach - investing in a range of technologies that are sustainable and use fossil fuel efficiently and cleanly, as well as, potentially, nuclear energy. We do not know yet in what proportion, i.e. in which mix, we will be applying the instruments in that portfolio. Nor can we know, for to determine the optimum mix, we depend on the wishes of our customers,

we are influenced by the market and we look at what other energy companies do. Perhaps the most important role is played by governments, both nationally and at a European level. What we expect from them most is an unambiguous long-term energy policy. They can provide guidance by making certain measures mandatory or granting subsidies to encourage them. In addition, governments must create a level playing field for all European energy companies. Only if these conditions are met can we make the right choices aimed at achieving our ambitious goals for a sustainable future.



Large-scale commitment to biomass

Working towards 50% biomass use at the Amer power station. Essent and RWE make investments in further improvements of biomass technology.



Investing in wind energy

The Westereems Wind Park was opened in 2009. It has enough capacity to provide green electricity to around 135,000 households. Essent and RWE are investing in expanding wind energy.

6

Corporate citizen in 2009

Essent is the largest energy company in the Netherlands. For over 90 years, we have been supplying our customers with energy. During that period, we have become an integral part of society. This brings with it responsibilities we are happy to assume as a good corporate citizen. We do so, for example, by donating funds to organisations, individuals and initiatives in the areas of nature conservation, sports, the arts and culture, close to home in regions in which our roots lie. But further away we also assume our responsibility. In developing countries, Essent supports a number of projects that are directly linked to its core business, the generation and sale of energy. We are currently exploring the limits to our responsibility as a corporate citizen. Should we focus on the markets and countries in which we operate, which are Belgium and the Netherlands, or do we indeed have a shared responsibility for what happens elsewhere in the world, for instance via the selection of our suppliers?

Global Compact

To a certain extent, we acknowledge that global responsibility. For this reason, Essent plays an increasingly active role in the Global Compact, a United Nations initiative. Our membership means that, like other affiliated government agencies, companies and organisations, we do business only with respect for international human rights, labour conditions and the environment, as well as rejecting any form of corruption. We believe that, to us, this is the best way of putting into practice the responsibility we have as an internationally operating company.

Ten Principles

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace the following “Ten Principles”.

1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.
2. Businesses should make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
4. Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.
5. Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.
6. Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
8. Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
9. Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

International supply chains

Energy companies such as Essent are generally not readily associated with human rights violations. Although we operate in the Netherlands and Belgium, supplying products and services to customers in these countries, we also operate in various international fuel and commodity supply chains. We are able to provide assurance that human rights are respected in our own links in the chain, but cannot always oversee what happens in other links.

The Ruggie Report

2008 saw the publication of a report prepared by Professor John G. Ruggie, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Business & Human Rights. The title of Professor Ruggie's report is Protect, Respect and Remedy: A Framework for Business and Human Rights. It contains recommendations to the business community on how to deal with human rights. The report has since been formally adopted by the United Nations and has been endorsed globally by companies, governments and ngos. According to Professor Ruggie, respecting human rights boils down to a simple motto: "Treat everyone fairly and do business with integrity".

Three recommendations

The Ruggie Report makes three recommendations: protect, respect and remedy wherever human rights are harmed. Or, in the words of the report:

1. The state duty to protect against human rights abuses, including those by business;
2. The corporate responsibility to respect human rights; and
3. The need for remedy when corporate-related abuses have occurred.

Companies and human rights

As far as companies and human rights are concerned, the Ruggie Report elaborates on recommendation number 2 above, as follows:

1. In principle, companies can potentially affect all human rights, which means that, in respecting human rights, they cannot exclude certain human rights from consideration.
2. However, given that companies are specialised legal entities, their responsibilities cannot be as extensive as those of states.
3. Therefore the base-line for companies' human rights responsibility is to 'do no harm' meaning to not have a negative

effect on human rights.

4. This implies that a company cannot compensate for human rights harm by performing good deeds elsewhere.

Research

So how can companies avoid harming human rights? The Ruggie Report describes a human rights due diligence process, consisting of the following five elements.

1. Adopt a human rights policy, so as to clearly state that the company acknowledges responsibility, and provide guidance to employees as to how to deal with human rights.
2. Perform a human rights impact assessment in order to understand how the company's operations may affect human rights.
3. Integration of human rights policy throughout the company and demonstrate leadership from the top.
4. Track the company's performance by means of monitoring and auditing.
5. Ensure the existence of effective grievance mechanism for reporting non-compliance.

Dutch chapter of the Global Compact

Since 2007, Essent has been an active member of the steering committee of the Dutch chapter of the Global Compact. This chapter focuses not just on the ten Global Compact principles, but also on the achievement of the eight Millennium Goals that were signed by 189 nations in 2000. Prompted by Professor Ruggie's report, Essent and nine other multinational companies that are members of the Dutch chapter set up the Business and Human Rights Initiative. Project participants perform assessments to monitor whether they are 'Ruggie proof'.



In the heart of society, producing more than energy alone

Generating and supplying electricity, heat and gas, for our customers requires us to look further than what meets the eye. To us, human rights, sustainability, chain responsibility and a diverse workforce are as important as investments in new, cleaner technologies and the affordability of our products.



State of affairs at Essent

Essent also commissioned such an assessment. Its outcome shows that, while we are well on track, there are a number of areas in which our policy can be improved. For instance, it revealed that Essent's top executives demonstrate commitment to human rights, whereas there is still work to be done in involving other management and employees in the subject.

Risk assessment

Essent will be assessing risks with respect to human rights inherent in its own organisation by considering three key questions:

1. In which countries do Essent and its business associates (including all its suppliers) operate, and what do we know about human rights violations in those countries?
2. How do Essent's operations affect human rights?
3. How does Essent contribute to human rights violations through its business associates and their operations?

This risk assessment should identify measures that must be given priority in order to reduce risks of human rights violations or prevent them from occurring in the future.

Best practices

The companies taking part in the Business and Human Rights Initiative also developed their own best practices, aimed at putting the Ruggie Report into practice. These have been compiled in a report that will be presented in New York in June 2010 in a meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the UN Global Compact. Essent takes pride in making this contribution. By taking part in this initiative, we demonstrate leadership in the energy industry in terms of human rights.

Foreign initiatives

While membership of the UN Global Compact is very important to Essent, we also support

practical initiatives, both nearby and far away. Energy4All, NICE, Close the Gap and Nabuur are examples of projects in Africa to which we devote attention.

Foundation Energy4All

People who lack electricity do not have access to the Internet and cannot use mobile phones, which only widens the gap with those who do have access to electricity. A not-for-profit organisation, Foundation Energy4All strives to close that gap by promoting and lending financial support to local entrepreneurs in African developing countries. Using renewable-energy facilities, it provides access to energy, IT, communications, education and other energy-related products and services. These activities are realised by an organisation named NICE, which stands for Nextdoor Internet Communication and Education. In 2009, Energy4All supported NICE's expansion in Gambia. In Macha, Zambia, a plantation was set up to start growing jathropa, a crop that can be grown on very poor soil and whose seeds, after pressing, provide oil to be used as biodiesel. In the future, the local hospital will be able to use this biodiesel to power its generators. Together with Rabobank, Essent is Energy4All's main sponsor.

NICE

NICE develops ICT centres in developing countries that operate on solar energy. These centres provide the very poor with access to ICT services such as the Internet and email. NICE has completed three such centres in Gambia and is making preparations for various projects. It plans to branch out into other African developing countries over the next few years.

Close the Gap

The Belgian not-for-profit organisation Close the Gap collects used computers and peripheral equipment, making them suitable for use in devel-

oping countries, where they are used in schools, offices and NICE centres. When no longer used, they are recycled in an environmentally responsible way. In 2008, Essent concluded an agreement with Close the Gap and is now providing computers to around seven schools in Uganda. In 2010, Essent plans to provide computers to seven special schools for dyslexic children. In 2009, Essent donated over 3,000 desktop and laptop computers. In addition, in tandem with DocentDirect – a supplier of IT and other training materials – we donated English software packages.

Nabuur

Nabuur is an internet platform connecting volunteer workers ('neighbours') to villages in Africa, Asia and Latin America. At www.nabuur.com, parties can communicate, exchange ideas and seek solutions for local issues.

Domestic initiatives

Essent also supports a number of projects in the Netherlands. Prime examples are IMC Weekendschool and activities we perform together with Robin Good. We not only provide financial resources but, perhaps more importantly, our employees are happy to roll up their sleeves and volunteer to turn these projects into a success.

IMC Weekendschool

Volunteering is a key part of corporate citizenship. In the Netherlands, Essent supports Stichting IMC Weekendschool. The objectives of this project are to help children aged 10 to 14 from under-resourced neighbourhoods to broaden their perspectives and gain self-confidence. Expert volunteers teach a variety of subjects on Sundays. Essent is the main sponsor of the weekend schools in Tilburg and Groningen, with our employees teaching energy and technology on a voluntary basis.

Robin Good

Since 2009, Essent employees have been able to do volunteer work in six care institutions for physically and/or mentally handicapped children in the northern and southern regions of the Netherlands. Essent developed this initiative together with Robin Good. Essent employees who are interested in doing volunteer work in one of these institutions with colleagues, their department, the management team or any other group, can check the intranet to see what needs to be done and sign up for specific jobs.

Companius

rWE supports a similar project in Germany, named Companius. Employees who wish to do volunteer work may ask rWE for a financial contribution for the project they are involved in. Since its launch in 2007, Companius has realised some 3,700 volunteering projects in pre-school facilities, schools, childcare facilities and nursing homes, as well as in such fields as sports, culture, energy, nature conservation and the environment.

Limits to our responsibility

Where are the limits to our responsibility? We are not exactly sure yet. On 12 January 2010, a heavy earthquake struck Haiti, leaving part of the country destroyed and killing hundreds of thousands of people. rWE employees immediately started raising funds, with Essent employees joining in. Together, they raised a large amount in financial support. Various Essent and rWE employees did not want to leave it at that and are currently exploring possibilities for travelling to Haiti and help restore the power supply. While Essent welcomes the initiative, the question arises as to whether such activities form part of our responsibility. We will be taking time in 2010 to consider that question and formulate a fitting answer.

7

Conductor of business and market player in 2009

Essent is a conductor of business on a daily basis. After all, generating electricity and supplying gas and heat are ongoing processes. We want the power supply to our customers to be reliable, affordable and as sustainable as possible. We base these ambitions on our CSR and sustainability strategy. The activities we undertook and

investments we made in this field in 2009 are the building blocks for tomorrow's energy.

Production of renewable energy

As a company, Essent went through significant changes in 2009, which also affected our production of renewable energy. While it would seem at first sight that we generated slightly less renewable energy, the opposite is true.

Essent Milieu and our shareholding in EPZ N.V. ceased to form part of the Essent Group in mid-2009. Because the figures for these companies have not been included, our production of renewable energy fell significantly. The business units that remain part of Essent, however, show a strong increase in the production of renewable energy.

Production of renewable energy

in GWh

	2009 ¹	2008	2007	2006
Wind energy	1,067 ²	843	755	696
Hydropower	26	30	34	33
Solar energy	—	—	0.01	0.05
Landfill gas and biogas	0	42	48	50
Stand-alone clean biomass	153	164	158	162
Fossil fuels replaced by clean biomass	1,669	1,512	1,135	2,473
<i>Of which:</i>				
Solid biomass	1,669	1,149	1,069	943
Liquid biomass	0	363	66	1,530
Other biomass (incl waste incineration)	0	465	386	344
Total	2,915	3,055	2,519	3,757

1 — Due to changes in principles underlying the organisation and reporting caused by the takeover by RWE, the figures for 2009 are not directly comparable with those of previous years. See also Chapter 9.

2 — Of which 606 GWh in Germany

The commissioning of the Westereems Wind Park marked a sharp rise in the generation of wind energy, while the Amer power station generated approximately 500 GWh more green electricity from biomass.

Emissions

Generating electricity and heat from fossil fuels produces emissions. Despite our expansion in wind energy, our greater use of biomass and the refurbishment of our power stations, CO₂-emissions continue to form an important part of our environmental impact. While seeking to reduce those emissions, they will however increase over the next few years due to the expansion of our total generation capacity (together with that of RWE).

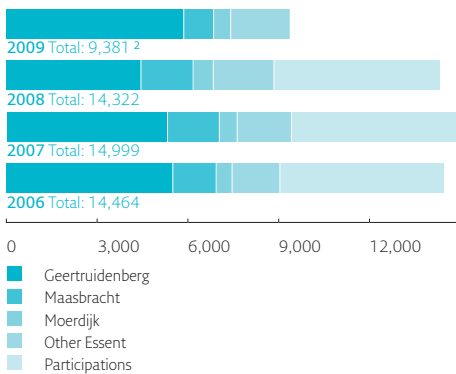
Capacity expansions will enable us to meet the increased demand for electricity.

Our policy aims to lower our average emission per kWh and we will report on progress in a transparent manner. Our lower emissions in 2009 compared with 2008 were mainly caused by changes to our organisation. The German company swb AG no longer forms part of Essent N.V. This also applies to EPZ N.V., which operates the nuclear and coal-fired power station in Borssele. We did not include the emissions from these companies in our report for 2009. Emissions from our principal power stations – the Amer, Claus and Moerdijk power stations – were in 2009 comparable to previous years. The use of additional biomass in the Amer power station led to a marked reduction in CO₂-emissions.

CO₂-emissions energy generation Essent

In ktonnes

2006 – 2009¹



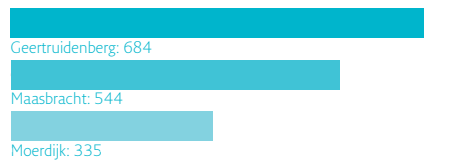
1 — Due to changes in principles underlying the organisation and reporting caused by the takeover by RWE, the figures for 2009 are not directly comparable with those of previous years. See also Chapter 9.

2 — Emissions from joint ventures and minority interests were 1,553 ktonnes.

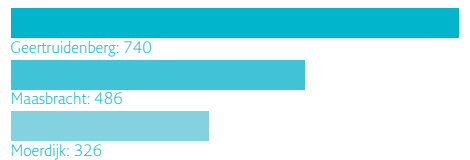
CO₂-intensity of major Essent power stations

In g/kWh

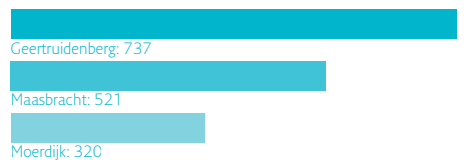
2009



2008



2007



Electricity Label

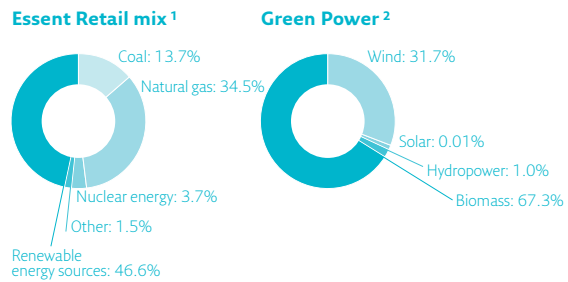
At first sight, electricity seems to be the same everywhere, but it can be very different. Differences between suppliers often go beyond the price they charge. The Electricity Label (*Stroometiket*) provides clear insight into the fuels used in generating electricity and it is different for each supplier. Essent has arranged for PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants n.v. to audit its Electricity Label. This way, customers know exactly and for sure how sustainable our energy is. Essent leads the way in providing its customers this type of assurance.

Of all electricity we supplied to our private customers in 2009 — the Essent Retail mix — more than 46% was produced using renewable sources, such as biomass and wind, with the remaining portion being generated mainly from the fossil fuels natural gas and coal. A small portion of the electricity we supplied came from nuclear power stations. Of the gas we used, most went to highly efficient combined heat and power plants. In terms of emissions, gas is one of the least polluting fossil fuels, while combined heat and power production is one of the most efficient ways of producing energy. All in all, for the Essent Retail mix, the CO₂-emission per kilowatt hour supplied was around 251 gram in 2009. For all electricity the Essent Group supplied, the CO₂-emission was 303 gram per kilowatt hour.

Our green electricity is produced in the Netherlands as far as possible, using mainly clean biomass and wind parks and, to a minor extent, hydropower. To ensure that the biomass we use is truly sustainable, we largely use certified biomass. Naturally, CO₂-emissions from the production of green electricity are negligible. The full label, containing information on the fuel mix of the entire Essent Group, the assurance report and the choices made with respect to the fuel label can be found on the Essent website.

Fuel mix for electricity supplied by Essent Retail

In percentages



Environmental consequences of fuel mix

- 1 — CO₂-emissions (g/kWh): 251
- Radioactive waste (g/kWh): 0.00011
- 2 — CO₂-emissions (g/kWh): 0
- Radioactive waste (g/kWh): 0

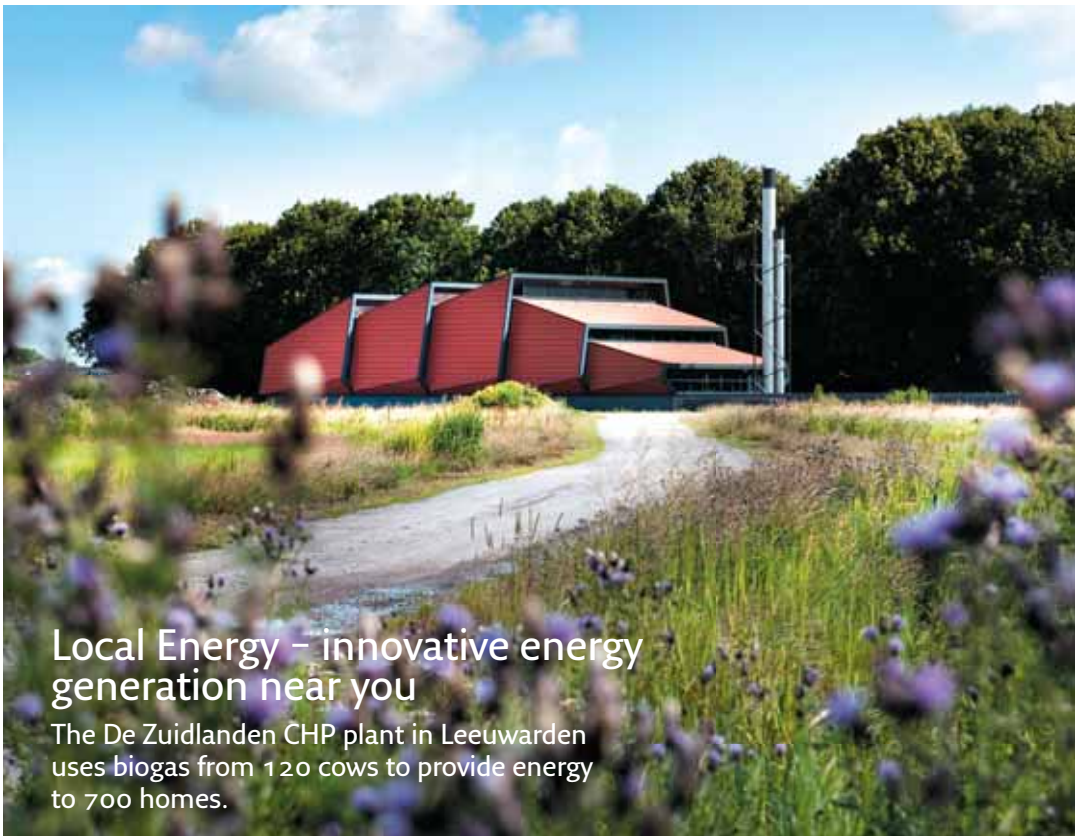
Local Energy

Energy has many forms and can be produced in many different ways. Nevertheless, most homes receive their electricity from large power plants, with their gas-fired central heating boilers providing heat. But it can be done differently. You can generate electricity when you need heat and vice versa. We often do this on a large scale, but there are also many small-scale possibilities for the sustainable production of energy – energy from the local area for the local area.

Gas from the farm

Biogas is perfectly suited for heating residential districts and producing electricity. This is exactly what Essent is doing in Leeuwarden, using biogas from the Nij Bosma Zathe experimental farm. Biogas is a carbon neutral, environmentally friendly gas that is produced naturally, by fermenting cows' manure.

The use of biogas saves on natural-gas consumption. In a nearby combined heat and power plant,



Local Energy – innovative energy generation near you

The De Zuidlanden CHP plant in Leeuwarden uses biogas from 120 cows to provide energy to 700 homes.

the biogas is converted into heat and electricity. In this way, some 120 cows meet the need for heat in around 700 homes. Of course, a special plant like this should look special. Shaped like an orange armadillo lying down in the landscape, the plant, which was commissioned in 2009, is a true eye catcher.

A similar biogas plant can be found in Zeewolde. This project, which is set to grow bigger than the Leeuwarden plant, was presented with the Innovation Award from the participants and the professional judges at the 2009 Heat Conference (*Warmtecongres*).

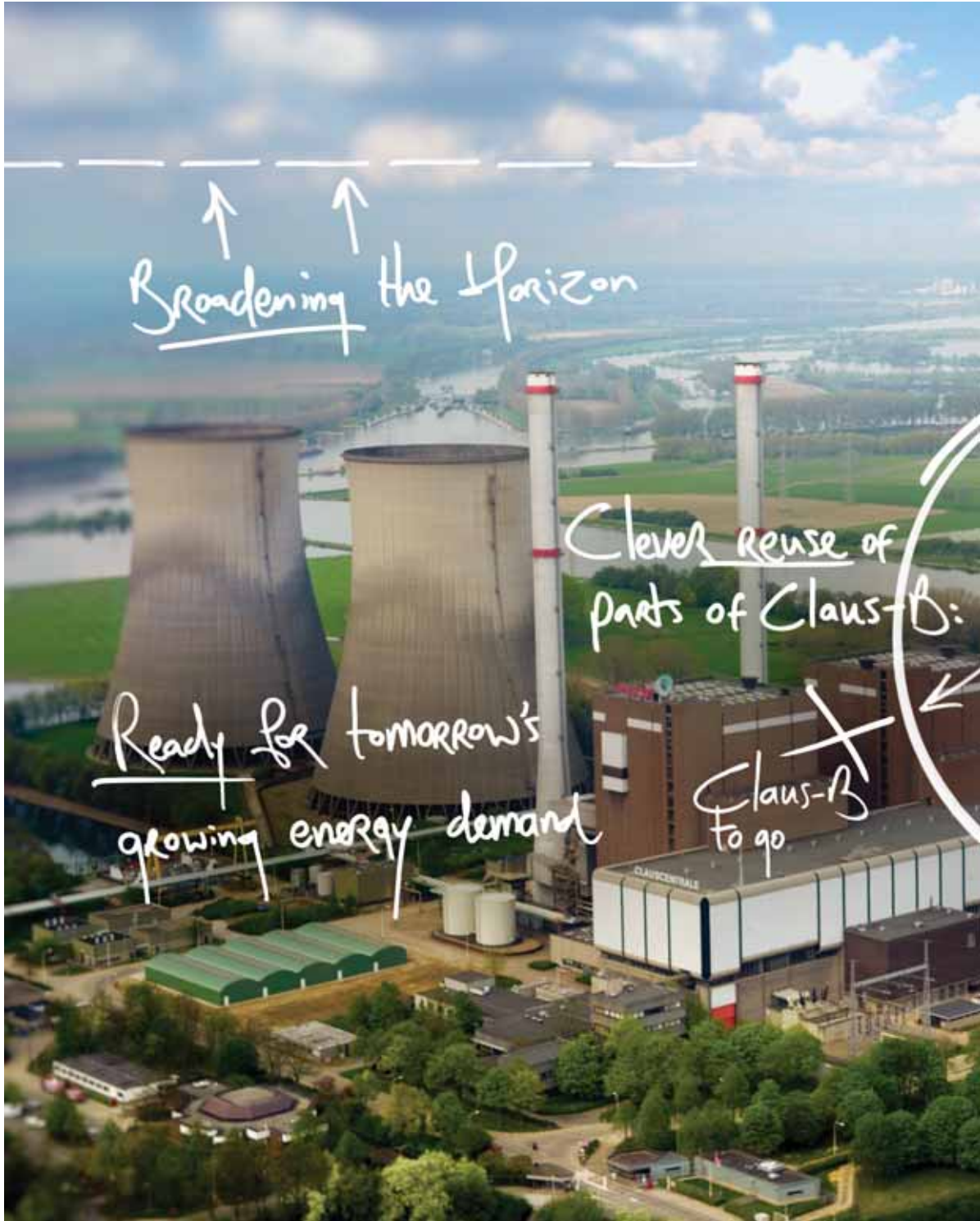
Dialogue

The projects described above are prime examples of decentralised and local energy generation, which we refer to as Local Energy. In 2009, Essent widely advertised Local Energy in a media campaign and on a dedicated website, aiming to create awareness of opportunities available for generating heat and electricity from sources that are available locally. Essent sought to hear the views of its customers and other parties involved. Does it tie in with how people think about

energy? What do people expect from local energy generation? Our dialogue with the public at large revealed that, while most people are supportive of Local Energy, they also need more information about it. Also, affordability was viewed as the most important short-term success factor.

Investments

In 2008, we started making investments in a number of large-scale projects. Although not all renewable energy projects, they do all contribute to reducing our CO₂-emissions per kilowatt hour. The expansion of our largest gas-fired power stations – the Claus power station in Maasbracht and the combined heat and power plant in Moerdijk – will significantly increase our generation capacity. This will enable us to meet the growing demand for electricity, while strongly reducing our CO₂-emissions per kilowatt hour.





Claus-C

Essent is making significant expansions to the Claus power station. After a start had been made with dismantling the old Claus-B unit and preparing the land for construction in 2008, construction work proper started in 2009. From 2012, the new unit will support the Claus-A unit, which is still in operation. This expansion will increase the Claus power station's total generating capacity from 1,280 MW to 1,920 MW, making it the Netherlands' largest gas-fired power station.

Moerdijk CHP

The Moerdijk combined heat and power (CHP) plant is also being expanded. It generates electricity from natural gas and steam from the nearby waste incineration plant. In addition, it supplies steam for industrial use to Shell Chemie. The plant, which was commissioned in 1997, will be expanded from 339 MW to 800 MW. After the final construction permit had been obtained in late 2008, Essent started construction work in 2009. The expansion is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.

Wind energy

The year 2009 was eventful in terms of renewable-energy projects as well. For example, we obtained a permit for building the 300 MW offshore wind park named 'Tromp', around 85 kilometres off the coast near IJmuiden. Once all computations are completed and if the government provides clarity about its subsidy, construction of the wind park, which will cost EUR 1 billion, will start in 2014. As a first step, an anemometer mast will be placed, perhaps as early as 2010.

In May 2009, the Westereems Wind Park was officially opened by the Minister of Economic Affairs. The 156 MW wind park, which comprises 52 wind turbines, has the capacity to generate electricity for well over 135,000 households. It was built on the site of a former wind park, which was demolished after having been in operation for 14 years.

Mini wind turbines

A wind park does not necessarily need to be large or off-shore. Essent has started researching mini wind turbines, small windmills that can be placed in gardens, or near or on top of buildings to (help) meet the need for electricity. Together with environmental organisation De Kleine Aarde in Boxtel, five different turbines are being submitted to practical tests over a five-year period. This will enable us to gain experience with such aspects as maintenance, outage and yields.

Highly efficient fossil fuels

Essent operates CHP plants and smaller cogeneration units with a total capacity of 1,062 MW, as well as an additional 452 MW share in joint ventures with industrial partners. Combining the generation of electricity and heat is much more efficient than generating both products separately. This means that CHP plants save fuels and thereby produce lower CO₂-emissions. Essent is one of Europe's largest users of this clean technology.

We have known for a long time that a CHP plant represents one of the most efficient methods for generating energy from fossil fuels. After all, we do not make significant investments in this technology for nothing – just think of the expansion of our CHP plant in Moerdijk and the construction of a large CHP plant in Antwerp. But how big exactly is the CO₂-reduction we make by operating a CHP plant? Essent commissioned the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN) to study this question. The European Union's CHP Directive defines how CO₂-savings should be computed. ECN produced figures of those savings for Essent's plants. Based on the available alternative technologies – gas-fired power stations of a similar age – Essent's natural-gas-fired CHP plants save 348 kilotonnes in CO₂-emissions, with joint ventures with industrial partners accounting for another 261 kilotonnes in CO₂-savings.

Biomass

Biomass is of great importance to Essent's generation of renewable energy. With around ten years' experience, we can justifiably regard ourselves as biomass experts. By far, most biomass is used in the Amer power station, where it replaces coal, thereby contributing to the generation of green electricity and the reduction of CO₂-emissions. During the initial years in which we used biomass to replace coal, we could only co-fire a few percent. This is because the characteristics of biomass differ from those of coal – it has a higher moisture content, a lower calorific value and a more fibrous structure. This makes different demands on storage, pulverisation and combustion. However, by making modifications to the furnaces and the feed systems, Essent has been able to make biomass a fully fledged coal replacement. Essent's present biomass co-firing rate of 30% on average in the Amer-9 unit makes it one of the leaders in Europe as far as co-firing biomass is concerned. Essent wishes to work towards using 50% biomass in 2015. The Amer power station is steady changing from a coal-fired power plant into a hybrid plant suitable for two fuel types.

Biofuels in 2009

Since 2001, we have used three million tonnes of biomass in the Amer power station. By making modifications to the station and the feed systems, we are able to add increasing volumes of biomass. We used more biomass in 2009 than in previous years. We accordingly generated significantly more green electricity. In 2009, Essent used only wood as a biofuel. In the Amer power station, wood pellets (compacted sawdust) were used, while chipped wood cuttings and residues from the wood-working industry were used in the Cuijk power station. In previous years, we carried out many experiments using other types of biomass. Many of these fuels, however, proved unsustainable, unavailable in large quantities or simply too expensive. Nevertheless, we continued our search for alternative sources

of biomass in 2009. We were almost able to perform tests with rice husk, bamboo and bagasse, which is a residual product in sugar cane production. In the end, we had to scrap the tests. Our requirements in terms of delivery, volume, price, quality and sustainability could not be met by the suppliers.

Biocoal

In 2009, Essent concluded an agreement with Stramproy Green Coal in Steenwijk for the supply of 90,000 tonnes of biocoal. This is biomass that has been torrefied. Torrefaction is a mild form of pyrolysis in the absence of oxygen, giving it the fuel characteristics of conventional coal. Accordingly, biocoal has a more consistent quality and a higher calorific value than wood pellets, which makes it even more suitable for large-scale use in coal-fired power stations.

Wood pellets facility

From 2011 we will be receiving biomass from our parent company, RWE. RWE Innogy, which is responsible for all innovative and sustainable developments in RWE, is investing around EUR 120 million in a wood pellets facility in Georgia, the United States. This State has many sustainably managed forests, from which the wood can be used as biomass, given that demand for paper has dropped. The facility will be one of the largest of its kind, with a planned production capacity of 750,000 tonnes of pellets per annum, of which a part is destined for use in the Amer power station.

Certification

Essent uses the Green Gold Label it developed with the World Wide Fund for Nature to audit biomass. On the basis of the Label's criteria, an independent agency certifies the biomass, so that its origin is clear and sustainability guaranteed. Among other things, this provides assurance that no protected forests were felled and that no

biomass was produced at the expense of the food chain. Essent wants the Label to cover as much of the solid biomass we use as possible. Back in 2006 only 33% of our biomass was certified, but in 2009 we achieved 73%. We aim to reach 100% certified biomass in 2015. The next milestone on the road to that goal will be 90% in 2012. RWE also acknowledges our ambition and expertise in the field of certified biomass. Together with all other companies in the RWE group, we expect to formulate a group-wide biomass policy in 2010, which will incorporate the principles underlying the Green Gold Label.

Sharing knowledge

To share our expert knowledge of biomass, we organised an international two-day conference under the title 'Mastering Biomass' in September 2009. Over 200 interested individuals from across the globe, ranging from research scholars to staff at other energy companies, learned how Essent deals with biomass. The conference highlighted all aspects of biomass, ranging from investments in technical modifications needed to co-fire biomass, procurement and logistics to certification and the role policy-makers play.

Subsidies to support biomass

The use of biomass not only benefits Essent's green-electricity customers. Its large-scale use is also a prerequisite for achieving the Dutch climate goals by 2020. However, as long as electricity from biomass is more expensive than energy generated from fossil fuels, the use of biomass depends on subsidies. Our current subsidies will expire soon or have expired. As long as new government policies are unclear, the use of biomass is not economically feasible. For example, the special bio-energy power station in Cuijk, which generates green electricity for over 40,000 households, stopped receiving support in August 2009. In early April 2010, Essent decided to shut the plant down, although biomass is a very cost-effective alternative to other types

of sustainable energy generation. The subsidy per megawatt hour needed to generate green electricity in Cuijk is half that needed to generate green electricity using wind at sea and one-sixth of that needed to generate solar energy. This is why Essent calls on the government to pursue a consistent policy, based on a stable set of rules governing subsidies or other incentives. Only then will long-term investment in biomass and the generation of renewable energy continue to be affordable.

Progress of the coal dialogue

Despite our large-scale use of biomass, we cannot do without coal. Transparency and chain responsibility are important in the field of coal, too. In late 2008, Essent organised a round table conference for energy companies. In 2009, we invited the participants to meet again and formulate an industry-wide view on coal. Unfortunately, views and priorities appeared to differ rather widely. Although Essent believes chain responsibility and transparency cannot be practiced by one party alone, we remain open to dialogue and further steps. As part of the much larger RWE group, we will continue to investigate ways to give more substance to our chain responsibility. Within this context, RWE was the first DAX-listed company to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in April 2010. This initiative aims to bring more transparency to payments made by companies to government authorities in countries in which commodities such as oil and gas are extracted.

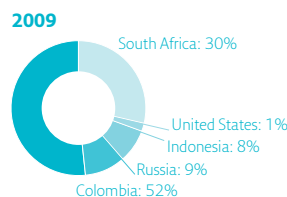
Carbon Management Plan

In 2008, Essent introduced the Carbon Management Plan, aiming for our office accommodation and vehicle fleet to become carbon neutral. We planned to achieve this by reducing our CO₂-emissions by 5% annually over a five-year period. Because we have committed ourselves to achieving this aim, we included it in

our Balanced Scorecard. This creates a direct link between achievement of our target and remuneration of our top executives. The reduction target was amply met in 2009, given that CO₂-emissions were 9% lower than in 2008. The largest contribution was made by the reduced energy consumption in our offices, resulting from the sale of property. Our vehicle fleet, however, did not yet show a marked reduction in emissions. Remaining CO₂-emissions were offset by purchasing CO₂-credits of the highest quality, Gold Standard Certificates, which we also use for our Green for Gas (*Groen voor Gas*) product.

Origins and consumption of coal

In percentages



Total coal consumption in the Amer power station, generating electricity for Essent costumers, was 2.3 million tonnes in 2009.



Coal increasingly replaced by renewable fuels

Working on more renewable energy using biocoal, more clean biomass and research into new biofuels.



Coal dialogue

Transparent about origin and volumes.
Engaging in a dialogue about responsibility.



Experience with electric transport

Essent drives various electric cars and is investigating the best ways to use them. On the road today, powered by electricity.



Generating local energy

Clad with Delft blue tiles, this CHP plant in the rebuilt Roombeek district in Enschede provides the district with electricity and heat.

Electric cars

Essent has high expectations for electric cars. What we need is experience, which is why, together with Enexis, we signed an agreement with Electric Cars Europe (ECE) in April 2009 for the supply of 45 electric Volkswagen Golfs, 30 of which went to Essent. In total we signed agreements in 2009 for the supply of 50 cars of various makes. To promote the use of electric cars, we set up various collaborative structures with a number of parties. Together with the municipalities of Den Bosch, Amsterdam and Leeuwarden, we are looking into possibilities for creating an infrastructure for recharging electric vehicles and associated payment systems. To share our expectations of the future of electric transport, we published the vision paper entitled 'The Netherlands starts driving on electricity' (*Nederland gaat elektrisch rijden*), inviting readers to join us in leveraging the opportunities electric transport offers.

The Road to Copenhagen

To mark the climate summit held in Copenhagen in December 2009 and investigate the practical use of electric transport, around 100 youngsters drove from Den Bosch to Copenhagen on electric motor scooters. Essent organised the road trip, supported by various partners. During the trip, the participants worked on a manifesto calling for electric transport to be encouraged as part of the solution to the climate issue. The manifesto was presented to the Dutch Minister for the Environment.

Sustainable customer developments

With over 1.9 million electricity customers and 1.6 million gas customers, Essent is one of the largest players in the Dutch energy market. Essent is also market leader in green products, with more than 900,000 business and private green electricity customers. Over half of our customers choose renewable energy. The number of private

customers purchasing green electricity fell slightly in 2009, with the number of business customers purchasing green electricity growing compared with the year before.

Gold Standard

With all green products being 'products of trust', we wish to meet the strictest criteria. Since January 2009, we use the best CO₂-offset available, Gold Standard certificates, for Green for Gas, which is natural gas for which CO₂-emission is offset using CO₂-certificates. These meet the most stringent demands for climate compensation. Gold Standard projects must be additional - without investments in climate compensation, they would not have existed. This not only makes gas consumption CO₂-neutral, but also contributes directly to generating more renewable energy.

Green gas

Essent also offers green gas, which is virtually CO₂-neutral gas, produced from organic materials, for example during wastewater treatment. After purification, the gas is treated to give it the quality of natural gas and fed into the network. Business customers may also opt to purchase green gas. Similar to green electricity, certificates are used to ensure that green gas is produced in the same volume as it was purchased. Essent procures green gas from various suppliers, to which it added Suiker Unie in 2009.

Green gas provides excellent opportunities for the use of natural gas in transport. Regrettably, green gas is insufficiently available for large-scale regular use. Urban public and commercial transport has already been made cleaner by using natural gas, which, unlike diesel, does produce soot and has much lower nitrogen dioxide emissions. The use of green gas certificates makes it completely clean. Green gas is used by 43 buses in the province of Zeeland, 23 cars of the Utrecht provincial authorities, 23 cars of TNT Post and 45 buses in The Hague.

8

Employer in 2009

As an employer, Essent underwent significant changes in 2009. The grid operations were unbundled and went their own way as Enexis. Essent Milieu became Attero and, following our takeover by RWE, our shareholdings in swb AG and EPZ also ceased to form part of Essent. As our organisation became smaller, we had to part from many colleagues. In 2008, Essent employed well over 10,000 people, whereas, by the end of 2009, they numbered around 4,400. At the same time, the many changes also resulted in the addition of more than 60,000 new RWE colleagues across Europe.

Prestigious accolade

Despite all the changes, Essent continued to perform well as an employer. We are still a sought-after employer in the labour market. Essent was awarded the CRF 2009 Top Employer award. The Corporate Research Foundation (CRF) researches best employer practices each year in ten countries across three continents. Assessment took place on the aspects terms and conditions of employment, training, opportunities for promotion, working atmosphere and conditions and corporate culture. Our rating was an impressive 24 out of 25.

Popular employer

Our position as a good employer was again confirmed in the Labour Market Conduct Survey (*Arbeidsmarkt Gedragsonderzoek*). This survey, conducted by the Intelligence Group among 16,000 individuals, showed that Essent was the fifth most popular employer in the 'Industrial Companies' category. Our traineeship programme was likewise highly appreciated. The programme was named Best Management Traineeship of 2009 during the Sp/its Nobiles Career Event.

Essent had scooped the same title the year before. Essent also provides excellent facilities for working parents. The magazine Lof, whose readership are mothers combining a career with taking care of their families, publishes its Lof List each year, researching companies that are most accommodating to their employees' family lives. Together with 76 other businesses, Essent is one of the companies in the list, which shows at a glance how we perform compared with others in terms of leave arrangements, childcare, work/life balance, corporate policies, corporate culture and flexibility.

We could not have achieved all these excellent results if we had not clearly communicated our identity and what we have to offer as an employer. For that, Essent received the Golden Cursor, an award for the best recruitment website, presented during the 'Successful Recruitment' (*Succesvol Werven*) seminar.

Health and trust

As an organisation, Essent's performance was predominantly good in 2009. Absence due to illness fell from 3.9 to 3.7%. There were no reports under the Whistleblowing Procedure. Our confidential staff counsellors received 16 reports, which related to such issues as bullying or intimidation in the workplace. None of the reports were filed as formal complaints. They could all be resolved in mutual consultation or by means of mediation.

Working on diversity

The many changes to our organisation have caused the male/female ratio to shift. While in 2008, 25% of our workforce were women, the now smaller Essent has 35% women. Based on its participation in the Talent to the Top Charter, Essent had formulated specific diversity objectives in 2008. We stated that by 2009 44% of our new recruits should be women and that by



Working even harder on diversity

Using unambiguous objectives to achieve a better reflection of the society to which we supply energy.

2013 25% of our top management – the first two echelons below the Executive Board – and of the lower-tier management should be women.

We did not manage to achieve all of these objectives. On our first objective we achieved an influx of women of 39%. We made some progress, however, with regard to the second objective. In our top management, the percentage of women fell from 17 to 16%, but in lower-tier management, it improved from 13 to 18%. This gives us good reason to raise our sights, aiming to achieve our objective of having 25% women in top and lower-tier management in 2012, which represents a one-year acceleration. The Executive Board has already taken the first step in 2010 by appointing a woman to its ranks.

In addition to gender diversity, Essent will expand its diversity policy in 2010 to include cultural diversity. It will be launching the 'Whole Essent Loves Diversity' initiative (Dutch acronym: HELD or hero in Dutch) to highlight the diversity issue throughout its organisation. We will do so to ensure that our company becomes a better reflection of the society to which we supply

energy, as well as to position ourselves towards customers and potential new recruits.

HSE

We often take a safe and healthy working environment for granted. But we need to devote attention to this subject every single day and be prepared for anything. For example, Essent had to be prepared for the possibility of a massive outbreak of the 'swine flu', not just to offer its employees maximum protection, but also to safeguard the energy supply.

Furthermore, risk assessments were made in surroundings less likely to be prone to hazards, such as office buildings. Such as how we should deal with the hazardous effects of toner residues and ozone from our copiers. Other types of risk are more obvious, and we prevent them by monitoring compliance with safety rules in construction sites and offering 'defensive driving' training for example. We do not only monitor our own employees, because we also consider the safety of our contractors' and subcontractors' personnel part of our responsibility.

DART rate

A strict safety policy should go hand in hand with strict targets. Essent expresses these targets in a DART rate, representing the number of accidents involving absenteeism or a change in work duties per 200,000 hours worked. It is a good indicator: the lower the figure, the better the score. We will expand our assessment methods in 2010 in order to bring them into line with the safety methods used by RWE. When setting our DART targets for 2009, we took the planned organisational changes into account, deciding that the Essent Netwerk, Essent Milieu and swb AG business units, which traditionally perform a great deal of high-risk work, would report their results separately. The remaining part of Essent had as a result a better DART rate as starting point. The target for 2009 was tightened further by 20%, aiming to achieve 0.30. With a result of 0.40 we failed to meet this target. In spite of strict safety requirements and information provision, accidents still occurred. In 22 cases, which involved both Essent employees and personnel of companies working for Essent, this led to absenteeism or a temporary or permanent change in work duties. An assessment shows that accidents are predominantly and increasingly attributable to contractors Essent engages. In 2009, various workshops in the area of safety were held together with contractors. Experience gained will be used in 2010 to tighten our policy and elaborate on our supervision of contractors. On the upside, no fatal accidents occurred, as in the previous four years, and the absolute number of DART accidents fell.

HSE Award

In 2009, Essent presented the fourth annual HSE Award, highlighting the best initiative in the promotion of health, safety or environmental care. With 30 submissions from all parts of our company, participation was much wider

than the year before, which testifies to the fact that safety awareness is high among our employees. The prize of EUR 5,000, to be donated to a charity selected by the winner, went to a project in the Claus power station. During the demolition works in the old Claus-B unit, all electric equipment was taken off the grid without causing any impact on business operations. This enabled around 600 kilometres of cable to be removed safely, resulting in a significant reduction in the risk of electrocution. Which was a comforting thought, given that those cables could have been under 120,000 Volts.

Contractor Safety

The external variant of the HSE Award, the Contractor Safety Award, likewise involves a prize of EUR 5,000, to be donated to a charity of the winner's choice. Essent attaches great importance to safe working methods among its contractors, if only because they have a large impact on the achievement of our own safety targets. For this reason, Essent organised the second annual competition among its contractors. The Contractor Safety Award was presented to Hofstede/BIS, also for a project in the Claus power station.

Employee satisfaction

Each year, we survey our employees to hear their views in the Essent Employee Survey (Dutch acronym: EMO), conducted by research agency TowersPerrin. How satisfied are they with how things go at Essent? What should we do differently? But also, how does Essent relate to other major Dutch companies in terms of employee satisfaction? To encourage participation, Essent makes a donation to various charities if the participation rate exceeds 80%. This worked well in 2009, so that Colombinehuis, Villa Pardoës and WigWam Valleï – all charitable organisations – each received an amount of EUR 4,935.

Results

The results of the EMO show an improvement almost across the board, compared with 2008. Employees feel more committed to Essent, which, given the turbulent year, is quite a feat. Similarly, subjects such as communications, remuneration and appreciation, and employee satisfaction show improvement. Our ambition to do better in 2009 in terms of development, and customer and result focus was realised. That being said, the discrepancy between top executives and employees in terms of openness, flexibility and decisiveness remained wide, if slightly improved compared with previous scores.

Among top companies

We like to compare ourselves with the very best. This is why the results of the EMO are compared with those for similar Dutch companies and internationally operating energy companies. Compared with other companies, Essent performed better over the past few years. Additionally, its scores reveal solid improvement compared with the previous year. If a comparison is made with the top companies - those that post above-average scores in terms of financial performance and employee commitment - discrepancies are less pronounced. At any rate, Essent scored better in 2009 than in the year before. In terms of image and empowerment (giving employees the freedom to work autonomously) we perform markedly better than other top companies.

Flexible working methods

For some time now, Essent's offices have had flexible workplaces. Our employees no longer have their fixed place of work. We tailor our office space to the need for workplaces, thus avoiding the use of unneeded office space. This enables us to achieve savings in terms of square metres that we do not need to lease, light and heat. Essent is investigating further action in the area

of flexibility, because not everyone always needs to work in an office building. Working at home or in a place close to home offers many benefits. It limits CO₂-emissions and commuting time, improves the life/work balance and helps cut back on energy consumption in offices.

Working Differently

These are enough reasons for Essent to start a pilot project named 'Working Differently' (*@nders Werken*). The pilot enables some 250 employees to gain experience with working at home or at a different location. In order to also investigate their mutual collaboration, we invited teams to participate rather than individuals.

A sound IT infrastructure is a prerequisite for staying in touch with colleagues. Other aspects that are being looked into include the output of the work and the culture needed for Working Differently. Expectations are that the culture will be a particularly decisive success factor. This is because managers and employees no longer see each other on a day-to-day basis. This makes trust and responsibility as important as technological prerequisites.

Although Working Differently is still in its infancy, we are expecting a lot from the pilot project, believing we can offer our employees innovative work forms. The results of the project will be announced in 2010.

9

Boundaries of the 2009 CSR Report

As the Essent organisation changed and joined RWE in 2009, the boundaries of the CSR Report likewise changed. Business units that used to form part of the Essent Group and were disposed of in the reporting year, no longer fall under the scope of the Report. Additionally, given the takeover by RWE, we have opted to conform as far as possible with our new parent company's reporting principles. This means that, in some cases, figures cannot be directly compared to those of previous years. What does remain the same, however, are the fundamental principles on which we base our CSR reporting. Our four roles in society – conductor of business, market player, employer and corporate citizen – are recurring themes.

GRI

In preparing its 2009 CSR Report, Essent uses the guidance provided by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the G3 reporting guideline. Also, we used the GRI boundary protocol as a reference in establishing the report's scope and the relevance of the data it presents. We chose to present the indicators most relevant to an energy company, which means that not all GRI indicators are addressed. A more complete presentation of all indicators and references to available data will be published on the Essent website in 2010.

Subjects presented

The Report reflects Essent as a Dutch energy company for the 2009 calendar year. In selecting the subjects presented, we considered such aspects as relevance, topicality and continuity as regards activities started or objectives formulated in previous reporting years. The starting point is Essent's CSR policy. As an energy company,

we report on CO₂, which is our most important emission. In addition, we address the generation of renewable energy, the number of customers for green electricity and gas, and progress in investments in new generation capacity. We devote attention to our human resources policy by discussing our diversity and safety policies, as well as the results of our annual employee survey. We address our role as a corporate citizen by describing the increased attention we pay to human rights. Financial figures are presented in abridged form, providing the background against which we put our CSR principles into practice.

The printed copy of the CSR Report shows Essent's principal CSR efforts, activities and policy choices. To be able to report more frequently, respond to topical issues and engage in a stakeholder dialogue on such issues, Essent will be using the Internet as a means of more frequent publication. By mid-2010, more background information (environmental data, supplemented by topical developments) will be made available online.

Scope

In deciding which business units should come under the scope of the Report, we chose to apply the structure Essent N.V. was given after it had joined RWE with effect from 30 September 2009, with the exception of the financial figures. RWE's activities in the Netherlands, which are mainly the sale of electricity and gas, were not included. Business units that were disposed of in 2009 or ceased to form part of the Essent Group due to the takeover by RWE have not been included in the Report. These are Enexis (formerly Essent Netwerk), the 51% shareholding in the German energy company swb AG, Attero (formerly Essent Milieu), the 50% shareholding in EPZ N.V. and the controlling interest in the German company KomStrom. The shareholdings in swb AG and KomStrom were sold in 2009. Enexis, Attero and

the shareholding in EPZ continued to be owned by Essent's former shareholders following the sale of Essent to RWE. Essent's business operations that became part of other RWE business units due to the takeover by RWE have been included. These are Essent's wind energy operations in the Netherlands and Germany, which now form part of RWE Innogy.

Consolidation

For 2009, a choice was made to adopt the basis RWE uses for consolidating data in its CR reporting. Its controlling-interest approach means that business operations (and their results) are included in full if they belong to Essent or if Essent holds an interest exceeding 50%. An exception applies to the Essent employees who work in majority interests, which have not been included. In some cases, for reasons of completeness or comparability, generation and emission data of minority interests have been separately included and explained. In addition, given that Essent attaches special importance to safety, safety data are reported not only for Essent itself, but also for third parties contracted by Essent.

Consequences

The various changes Essent has gone through have consequences for the comparability of data in multiple year comparisons throughout the report. We have opted not to recalculate prior-year data in connection with changes in our organisation and our fundamental principles for 2009 as described above. This means that some of the data reported for 2009 is not directly comparable with those of previous reporting years. In a general sense, the changes affect the emissions, generation of renewable energy, employee data and financial figures we report. For the data we report, tables and charts are accompanied by explanatory notes. Essent no longer publishes its own financial annual report. Specific notes to the financial figures can be found in the 2009

financial statements of Essent N.V., filed with the Chamber of Commerce for central Gelderland, in Arnhem.

Data sources

The data presented in the Report originate from various sources, often using existing management information and reporting systems. In some cases, data from such systems is restated or summarised for purposes of reporting them in this Report, in which case we guard against any loss of information value of data. Other information was gathered in dialogues with stakeholders and from their views of Essent's initiatives. Apart from factual data and dialogues with third parties, information was obtained from discussions with former and present members of the Executive Board, members of Essent's and RWE's senior management and Essent's employees.

Validation

In pursuing and reporting on its corporate social responsibility policy, Essent seeks to provide transparency and assurance. This is why we have requested PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. (PwC) to issue an assurance report on the 2009 CSR Report and the narrative and quantitative information it contains. The full assurance report from PwC is included in this Report on page 48.

Assurance report

To the Executive Board of Essent n.v.

Scope and responsibilities

We were engaged to audit the contents of the Corporate Responsibility Report 2009 (hereafter: 'the Report') of Essent n.v., Arnhem. In the Report Essent n.v. (hereafter: Essent) renders account of its pursued policies and its performance related to corporate responsibility in the year 2009.

Our engagement is confined to the information in the Report that relates to activities, events and the performance of Essent in the year 2009. Comparative data concerning previous years have not been audited, unless stated otherwise. We do not provide any assurance on the assumptions and feasibility of prospective information, such as targets, expectations and ambitions, included in the Report.

The management of Essent is responsible for the preparation of the Report. It is our responsibility to provide an assurance report on the Report.

Reporting criteria

Essent developed its reporting criteria on the basis of the 'G3 Guidelines' of the Global Reporting Initiative, as explained in chapter 9 of the Report. We consider these reporting criteria to be relevant and sufficient for auditing the contents of the Report.

Work performed

We planned and performed our audit work in accordance with Dutch law, including Standard 3410N 'Assurance engagements relating to sustainability reports'. According to this standard our audit procedures need to be planned and performed in such a way, that reasonable

assurance is obtained on the Report being free of any material errors. Our most important audit procedures were:

- analysing Essent's business environment and obtaining insights into the industry and relevant characteristics of Essent;
- assessing the appropriateness and application of the reporting criteria, also in relation to the information needs of intended stakeholder groups;
- as far as necessary, evaluating the design and effectiveness of relevant internal controls for collecting and processing information, including the aggregation of data to the information in the Report;
- verifying the information in the Report through tests of detail aimed at establishing the reliability of underlying documentation, amongst others by determining on the basis of sampling whether the reported information reconciles with source data;
- evaluating the overall presentation of the Report, in accordance with Essent's reporting criteria.

We believe that the evidence obtained from our audit procedures is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Conclusion

On the basis of our audit procedures we conclude that the Report provides in all material respects a reliable and adequate presentation of the policies, operations, events and the performance of Essent related to corporate responsibility in the year 2009, in accordance with Essent's reporting criteria.

Recommendation

Our audit procedures have led to a number of important recommendations for the Report. Without qualifying our conclusion above, we believe that the following requires attention:

In the Report Essent discusses the new circumstances that have arisen from Essent's entry in the RWE Group. Essent ascertains that the ten 'areas for action' of the RWE Group fit well with Essent's nine focal points. For next year's corporate responsibility report it is our recommendation to Essent to intensify the dialogue with Dutch stakeholders in the coming year and to use the outcomes of this dialogue to turn the ambitions of the RWE Group with regard to corporate responsibility into measurable targets for Essent and to affirm already existing targets.

The Hague, 4 May 2010

PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V.

Originally signed by
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Paper

FSC — Mixed sources.
Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fibre.
www.fsc.org

Ink

BCS ink. This bio-ink contains a vegetable binding medium, resulting in 10-20% lower ink consumption and improved degradability characteristics.

Abbreviations used

W Watt, unit of actual power

Wh Watt hour, unit of number of
Watts supplied per hour

k kilo = 1,000 (e.g. kV = kiloVolt,
kWh = kiloWatt hour, kW = kiloWatt).

M mega = 1,000 kilo

G giga = 1,000 mega

FTE fulltime equivalent;
unit for expressing workforce based
on a full working week

CO₂ carbon dioxide

HSE Health Safety & Environment

DART Days Away Restricted or Transferred