

## Press release

### RWE boosts sustainability: new projects to promote biodiversity

- **Company joins Science Based Target Network's Corporate Engagement Program**
- **Target for 2030: New assets to have positive net effect on biodiversity**
- **Well-received sustainability activities are proof of success: Having achieved gold status, RWE is among the top five per cent of organisations in the EcoVadis ranking**

Essen, 29 March 2022

**Dr Jens Wiggershaus, Head of Sustainability, RWE AG:** "Sustainability is an integral part of RWE's corporate strategy. We are focusing on biodiversity in particular. When constructing a new onshore wind farm, for example, we are aiming to improve biodiversity compared to before the start of the project. We want to be able to measure these improvements and exchange our experiences with others through the Science Based Target Network's Corporate Engagement Program to develop relevant criteria."

RWE is further refining its commitment to biodiversity and has joined a global initiative by the Science Based Target Network (SBTN). Around 100 companies, associations and experts are working on developing scientific criteria to measure the effects on biodiversity as part of the SBTN's "Corporate Engagement Program". RWE's target for 2030 is for new assets to have a positive contribution to biodiversity in their vicinity overall. Sustainability is an integral part of RWE's corporate strategy, with a particular focus on biodiversity.

Third-party evaluations confirm RWE's enhanced efforts to boost sustainability. The independent rating agency EcoVadis recently elevated the company's standing by awarding it gold status, which means RWE is now in the top five per cent of all assessed companies. Having achieved the strongest improvement in its sector worldwide, the S&P Global credit rating agency named the company "Industry Mover 2022".

#### **Miniature nature reserves under wind turbines**

Another biodiversity research project has recently started. RWE is currently assessing how various animal species can use the spaces around four onshore wind turbines as "steppingstones for biotopes" at the Garzweiler recultivation area. These miniature nature reserves will connect

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two existing biotopes with each other. Small, man-made water bodies, heaps of stones and flower strips were established to create species-appropriate habitats for yellow-bellied toads, sand lizards, wild bees and others. The results from the research are to be used as a blueprint for all onshore wind farms across the RWE Group and thus enhance biodiversity at many of its sites.

In the Rhenish mining district, RWE can avail of the experience within the recultivation research centre, which has been monitoring and improving recultivation measures since 1994. Up to now, 23,000 hectares have been recultivated and more than 1,500 plant as well as 3,100 animal species have been identified.

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## RWE

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

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