

A background image showing a person in a white lab coat reading a newspaper. The newspaper has the headline 'THE NEWS REPORT' and a sub-headline 'Climate change and professional services'.

Press Release

KPMG in Ireland

KPMG in Ireland chooses “Carbon Neutral” for 2007

19 February 2007

KPMG announced today it will become the first carbon neutral professional services firm in Ireland. The firm, with offices in Dublin, Cork, Belfast and Galway, is confirmed "carbon neutral" for 2007 in accordance with a rigorous programme undertaken with The CarbonNeutral Company, London and their science partners at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management (ECCM).

KPMG in Ireland has undertaken an assessment with ECCM to measure the firm's carbon footprint for 2006 and projected its 2007 requirements. The process includes an analysis of all energy use, waste production and emissions related to business travel. The result is an independent report of the firm's CO₂ emissions levels. KPMG's Managing Partner, Terence O'Rourke, says that reducing sources of unnecessary emissions and offsetting the remainder through supporting various high quality offset projects is the first step in a major campaign planned by the firm.

“KPMG recognises its responsibility to its community and its environment. This commitment builds on the current programme of Corporate Social Responsibility activities already underway at KPMG. We've been hearing from our partners, our employees and our clients that our environmental impact is a key issue for them, so we're setting out to make our impact a positive one.”

The firm has significantly increased waste recycling, reduced unnecessary energy consumption and managed the use of paper and consumables. According to KPMG, simple measures such as double sided printing, power-saving equipment and recycling bins can have a significant impact. They now plan to step up efforts significantly in the coming years to further reduce emissions. The next steps include a review of employee transport arrangements, the operation of an in-house intranet suggestion scheme and an enhanced specification for KPMG's proposed new building.

According to Terence O'Rourke, KPMG is already a leader in the Business in the Community initiatives, including Junior Achievement and a variety of charitable programmes where KPMG partners and employees give both their time and resources to assist good causes. The focus on the environment is a logical extension of this commitment based on growing concern among governments, environmentalists and our people, in this important area.

“It’s patently clear that Irish businesses are going to have to address how their operations affect our environment. Although professional firms would not be among the major contributors to global warming we are keen to take a lead in the areas we can control. We’ve deliberately extended the carbon offsetting beyond just our premises; we’ve taken into consideration the carbon impact of our partners’ and staff’s commutes as well as their business travel. We’re proud to be the first professional firm to seek Carbon Neutral status and we’re going to work to remain leaders in environmental responsibility.”

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Notes to Editor:

- KPMG is a global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. We operate in 148 countries and have more than 113,000 professional working in member firms around the world.
- KPMG in Ireland has 78 partners and more than 1600 people in offices in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast.
- The CarbonNeutral Company is one of the world's leading carbon offset and climate consulting businesses, set up in the early 1990s with a vision captured in our CarbonNeutral® trademark. They help thousands of people and 100s of major companies around the world, to measure, reduce and offset their CO2 emissions.