

Warsaw, 19 June 2012

Making green offices even greener

It is not common knowledge that as much as 75 percent of materials used in offices can be recycled. Apart from paper and glass, materials which are recyclable also include CDs, batteries, pens, plastic packaging, aluminum cans, and even PC screens. What matters is that offices which collect recyclable materials can benefit in financial terms. When segregating and dispatching waste for recycling, it is also possible to make sure that recyclables really get to where they are processed to the benefit of the natural environment – that is to specialized sites where various fractions can be recovered. Such a solution has been applied by Skanska Property Poland, whose office at the Warsaw Deloitte House was the first in Poland to receive LEED environmental certificate. Skanska Property Poland is an office property developer that currently certifies all its projects under the LEED system. The company's philosophy is to keep raising the bar in implementing ambitious environmental solutions. In March 2012, the company launched an advanced waste collection and segregation system in its Warsaw office.

Scandinavian approach to sustainable development

Skanska found common language with another Scandinavian company – STENA. The two established cooperation in comprehensive waste management at the Warsaw office of Skanska Property Poland. The STENA system is based on three pillars: modern, convenient and well-designed containers, precise and environmentally efficient logistics, and systematic counsel and user education. Ultimately, as many as 13 fractions of waste will be collected. The two companies want the project to become a model example of corporate involvement in sustainable development. Already now, it is the most ambitious project of its kind in Poland, with 10 fractions of waste collected, including office paper, newspapers and other print materials, aluminum, PET bottles, plastic foil, white and coloured glass, plastic caps, beverage cartons, batteries, electronic waste and hazardous waste (glue, markers, cleaning agent containers, CDs, aerosols, solvents, paints etc.). As a next phase, STENA is going to collect remaining plastics and organic waste, as well as cardboard.

The results of cooperation with a specialized recycler were visible after just one month. During four weeks, an office of 50 employees collected 26 kg of newspapers, 1 kg of office paper, 13 kg of glass, 4 kg of plastic foil, and 20 kg of electronic waste. What does it exactly mean? As many as 9 polar sweatshirts can be made of the plastic bottles collected. Re-using the collected glass bottles will save as much electricity as 1 energy-efficient 100W bulb uses during 700 hours, that is 1 month. Recycling of the collected PC screen will save the energy needed for sending 70,000 e-mail messages.

Tenant education

Skanska Property Poland decided to promote the waste collection system applied at its Warsaw office also among the tenants of the office buildings the company develops. The developer and STENA offer comprehensive support and necessary infrastructure to tenants who decide to launch the system at their offices. Tenants' office space is then equipped with containers for the collection of various waste fractions (white and coloured glass, newspapers, office paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic foil, beverage cartons, PET bottles, pens, batteries and electronic waste). The developer also goes to great lengths to raise recycling awareness among its tenants, property managers and building maintenance staff. Special events are organized for that purpose, combined with the collection of bulky electronic and white goods. The collection and recycling of waste are then confirmed with a "recycling certificate", giving the developer control over the process, as well as certainty that the waste does not go to a landfill, but to specialized recycling sites.

„We do not only want to deliver quality green office space to our tenants, but also want them to fully understand and make use of the advantages of their offices. All our office buildings are equipped with innovative solutions minimizing their impact on the environment and bringing savings to the tenants. For optimum result, tenant awareness is a key factor. This is why at Skanska we say: “Change your small habits to have an impact on big issues”, says Katarzyna Unold, sustainable development manager with Skanska Property Poland

Skanska Property Poland also introduced an innovative educational program to help the users of its green offices learn about the advantages of the energy efficient and innovative solutions applied in the buildings. As part of the “Skanska Green Initiative”, the company offers user-friendly education on sustainable development to the staff of tenant companies. When the first tenants: Ernst & Young and Allegro Group moved into the Green Towers in Wrocław in April 2012, Skanska developed an interactive computer game presenting how water consumption at Green Towers was reduced by 40% compared to reference buildings, and what the users can do themselves to reduce the consumption of electricity, water or paper.

Skanska Property Poland

Skanska Property Poland is an innovative developer of green office buildings which create friendly environment for business growth. The company has been operating in Poland since 1997 and is part of the Skanska Group, world leader in project development and construction. The projects of Skanska Property Poland offer top-quality office space at great locations, which ensures success and satisfaction of tenants. The investments completed by the company include the first office buildings in Poland awarded the EU GreenBuilding certificate: Deloitte House and Marynarska Point in Warsaw and Grunwaldzki Center in Wrocław. All the investments of Skanska Property Poland will undergo both EU GreenBuilding and LEED certification processes confirming their compliance with the principles of sustainable development, optimal energy consumption and friendly work environment.

Skanska Group

Throughout 125 years, Skanska has been a modern and innovative developer and contractor, building what society needs. Today, Skanska is one of the world's leading project development and construction groups with expertise in construction, development of commercial and residential projects and public-private partnerships. Based on its global green experience, Skanska aims to be the clients' first choice for Green solutions. The Group currently has 53,000 employees in selected home markets in Europe, in the US and Latin America. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, Skanska's sales in 2011 totalled SEK 123 billion.

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