

# Assuming ecological responsibility

**Protecting the environment remains one of the greatest challenges of our time – as the results of recent climate research confirm. The goal should be to grow and prosper, at the same time as preserving and safeguarding the environment. Over-exploitation of natural resources at the expense of future generations cannot be allowed.**

Fortunately, protecting the environment has become a growing priority for everyone over the past few years. Many people are now conscious of environmental issues, at home and at work, as is Dresdner Bank. We were one of the first banks to sign the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) declaration of 1992, in which we committed ourselves to sustainability and to considering the “environmental significance of all our activities, portfolio management activities and other business decisions in all markets”, as per the voluntary commitment of financial institutions, and as described in detail in our first **SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**. For many years, our Group has been involved in various environmental protection activities – from keeping a check on energy consumption and recycling waste to sustainable procurement and using energy from renewable sources. Naturally, we also consider the ecological aspects of construction work. For instance, in our new high-rise building Gallileo, we will use energy pillars to draw on geothermal energy for air conditioning the office space.

Efficient energy use has a special significance, as the increasing use of communications equipment consumes more electricity. That is why we have set up an energy management system that fully controls and, whenever possible, reduces the consumption of electricity. Moreover, we continuously increase the proportion of electricity produced in an environmentally friendly way. As another significant step, we will phase in an environmental management scheme certified in accordance with ISO 14001 that specifically considers ecological aspects.

In addition to saving internal resources, we also have the opportunity to set ecological accents through our operating activities, particularly in the areas of project finance and capital raising, and to influence the environmental awareness and strategies of business partners. The point is not to finance a project at any price, nor is it to patronise. Because we see ourselves as advisors to our customers, we must consider any potential threats to nature and people as risk factors – firstly, in order to avert environmental damage, and secondly, to prevent commercial risk and risk to our reputation.

Details of Dresdner Bank's commitment to the environment are outlined in our Sustainability Report 2000. For the German financial sector, the report sets an innovative tone.