

## Press Release

*COP15 December 2009*

**ROCKWOOL®**  
STOP LOCAL WARMING

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A 'Yes, we can!' from the International Energy Agency, WWF and the clean tech industry:

### **Energy waste in buildings can be cut by 75%**

*Buildings can deliver large cost-efficient CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, according to The International Energy Agency and WWF International. They both point to energy efficiency in buildings as a low-hanging fruit to tackle the climate challenge. The clean tech industry adds more green jobs and sustainable growth to the list of benefits.*

Buildings needn't be the most energy guzzling sector in the industrialised world, responsible for close to 40% of the energy consumption and a large part of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in modern society. In fact, the energy used in our buildings for heating, cooling, ventilation and hot water can be cut by 75% globally, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

#### **Energy efficiency is key**

IEA policy specialist Jens Laustsen says: "Energy efficiency is the key solution to a low-carbon society. It can deliver 54% of the CO<sub>2</sub> reductions that the UN climate panel calls for. Another 23% can be obtained from renewable energy, and the remaining 23% from intensified use of nuclear power and carbon capture and storage."

#### **Most efficient climate solution**

Research from the WWF International also gives the highest priority to energy efficient buildings:

"Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest and most important solution – and it is associated with numerous benefits and no disadvantages. Efficiency in buildings proves to be *the* most efficient climate solution among policy measures. We don't have to sacrifice anything. In fact, we can create a better life by improving the indoor climate in our homes and workplaces. We already have the technology needed to cut today's expensive waste of energy and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions," says Director of WWF's Global Climate Initiative, Kim Carstensen.

#### **All inadequate buildings need to be refurbished**

But to hope that things will just improve automatically is an erroneous thought. Without firm commitment and action, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings will increase.

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Eelco van Heel, CEO of one of the key climate solution providers in the building industry the Rockwool Group, says:

“We need visionary politicians enabling the whole-hearted and immediate use of these technologies. It is crucial to renovate the old building stock to low energy levels now. And new buildings should be constructed to be energy efficient enough to have only a small solar panel on the roof or other means of sustainable energy turn the building into a net zero energy home. Or even better, a plus energy home that supplies more energy to the grid than it requires. It’s possible. It just takes more political will.”

### **Win-Win**

Jens Laustsen from the IEA concludes:

“By improving efficiency in buildings, consumers win because they reduce their fuel costs and obtain increased indoor comfort. Business wins because energy efficiency creates millions of jobs. Governments win because energy efficiency makes climate policy goals easier to reach, it improves their security of energy supply, it stimulates their economy and employment rates, and it improves public health. Many governments face a demand for enormous investments to be able to provide enough energy for its citizens. Some of these investments can be saved cost-effectively by wasting less energy.”

### ***Further information:***

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Free video footage for media use: <http://www.rockwool.com/press/video+footage>

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