



One of the biggest challenges we face is the need to reduce emissions the world over

This calls for intelligent technologies that balance the need for environmental and climate protection with advancing industrialisation in emerging economies and economic development in general.

Letter to our stakeholders

Dear Stakeholders,

The most recent economic and ecological crises have sent shockwaves around the world, forcing society to take a closer look at many aspects of economic and political life. Global warming and its predicted impact continue to take centre stage. Identifying the changes we need to make now and in the future is an essential step.

Scientists currently estimate that the temperature of the earth's atmosphere could realistically rise by between two and four degrees Celsius. This would have severe consequences, ranging from floods, water scarcity and a 30 percent or more loss of biodiversity through irreversible melting of ice sheets in Greenland and the west Antarctic. Yet despite these worrying scenarios, levels of harmful emissions remain on an upward path. Rising greenhouse gas concentrations are partly due to economic growth and rising standards of living in emerging and developing markets. The People's Republic of China has now overtaken the United States as the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Global mitigation, in other words, the reduction of greenhouse gases, is unavoidable. And so we need an intelligent mitigation strategy that supports continuing industrialisation in emerging countries and economic growth as a whole, creates jobs and promotes consumer spending. This can only be achieved through innovative technologies that reduce our CO₂ footprint.

Yet mitigation is not the only "must". We also have to adapt now to the current effects of global warming. A number of key global action items have been defined here. These include securing food and water supplies worldwide, providing services to populations in ever-growing megacities as well as dealing with the aftermaths of floods and hurricanes.

As a leading, international industrial gases and engineering company, Linde offers a wide range of technologies and solutions that reduce emissions and increase resource efficiency. You can find examples of processes already available and innovations currently at the development stage in the Spotlight section.

We continuously collect Health, Safety, Environment (HSE) and Human Resources (HR) indicators across the Group in order to track and assess the ecological and social impact of our business activities at all times.

We are committed to continually improving the quality of indicator reporting. For the first time ever, we will be publishing global emission targets for our air separation plants in this report. In addition, during the period under review, we started systematically identifying and assessing climate-related risks for Linde on a Group-wide basis. Both customers and investors welcome these process efficiencies and increase in transparency.

We have further intensified dialogue with our customers on sustainability issues, focusing on climate change in particular. Our main mission here is to explore how our products and services can support our customers' sustainability strategies. Sustainable Asset Management (SAM) named Linde "Sector Mover of the Year" for the period under review. This award is given to companies that have outperformed peers worldwide in advancing sustainability. In keeping with our undertaking to always act responsibly, we have committed to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and climate and anti-corruption.

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Our Corporate Responsibility Report 2010 showcases our achievements thus far and outlines our targets for the future.

Professor Dr. Wolfgang Reitzle
Chief Executive Officer of Linde AG

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