



PRESS RELEASE

GROHE singled out as one of Germany's most sustainable major companies of 2015

Top ranking in the German Sustainability Award

Grohe AG has once again secured a top ranking in the German Sustainability Award, which was presented in Düsseldorf on November 27. According to the judges, its exemplary progress achieved in terms of sustainability has earned the world-leading supplier of sanitary fittings a top 3 ranking in the category "Germany's Most Sustainable Major Companies of 2015".

Sustainability leadership in all areas

GROHE is distinguished by, among other things, its key technologies, which enable millions of people to use water and sanitary products in a sustainable way. These include electronically operated faucets that save water and energy, the GROHE Blue® kitchen system, which reduces a household's carbon footprint and waste volume, as well as a wide range of products incorporating GROHE EcoJoy® technology, which allows water consumption to be cut by up to 50 percent.

At the same time the company continues to push ahead with the optimisation of its internal value chain in accordance with the principles of sustainability while also translating the opportunities created by its sustainability efforts into economic success and competitive differentiation. For instance, GROHE has substantially lowered its carbon emissions through heat recuperation and boosted its brass recycling rate to 80 percent. The company has set up a SustainAbility Council to advise on company-wide sustainability

management. In 2011 GROHE instituted the GROHE SustainAbility Trophy to reward employee suggestions for sustainability improvements. This year the company published its first sustainability report in accordance with GRI guidelines and was the first manufacturer in the sanitary industry to issue a declaration of conformity with the German Sustainability Code.

Ambitious plans for the future

Grohe AG CEO Michael Rauterkus said: “We are working to become the sanitary industry’s most sustainable company by 2020. I take pride in our company being named one of Germany’s most sustainable major companies, which I believe to be a clear signal that we are making great strides towards our objective. Our ambition is to be a role model for the sanitary fittings industry and I hope that many companies will follow our lead and define themselves on the theme of sustainability as much as they do on their products and services.”

Greenest award ceremony

The award ceremony at the Düsseldorf Maritim Hotel was attended by some 1,200 invited guests representing companies, local authorities, political institutions, academia and civil society. Germany’s greenest award ceremony was compèred by science journalist and broadcaster Stefan Schulze-Hausmann, the initiator of the award. He was ably assisted by Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Dr. Barbara Hendricks, Federal Minister for the Environment, and other high profile figures who handed out the awards to the representatives of Germany’s most sustainable companies, local authorities and research centres. One of this year’s honorary awards went to Queen Silvia of Sweden who, in her capacity as patron of more than



60 organisations, has a long-standing involvement with the challenges of sustainable development.

An initiative of the German Sustainability Award Foundation, the German Sustainability Award is endorsed by the Federal Government, umbrella organisations of local governments, confederations of business and industry, civil society organisations and research institutions. The awards were presented for the eighth time this year.

30.11.2015

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About GROHE

GROHE is the world's leading provider of sanitary fittings.

With its global GROHE brand, the company has relied on its brand values of technology, quality, design and sustainability for decades to deliver "Pure Freude an Wasser".

GROHE has a global workforce of around 6,000 people. There are about 2,400 employees working in Germany. GROHE runs three production plants in Germany as well as several plants in other markets. In 2014, the company generated consolidated sales of €1.2 billion with its comprehensive product portfolio for bathroom and kitchen. Some 85 percent of its sales are currently generated outside Germany.

GROHE was taken over by the LIXIL Group and the Development Bank of Japan in January 2014. The LIXIL Group is the global leader in the building materials and housing equipment industries. Since April 2015, GROHE is part of the global market leader LIXIL Water Technology that pools LIXIL's worldwide sanitary ware business in one single business unit with GROHE remaining an independent brand.

GROHE

Feldmühleplatz 15 40545 Düsseldorf Phone: +49.(0)211/9130-3000 www.grohe.com

Media contact: HERING SCHUPPENER

Unternehmensberatung für Kommunikation GmbH Berliner Allee 44 40212 Düsseldorf, Germany
Phone: +49.(0)211.430 79-266/-289 E-Mail: grohe@heringschuppener.com