



RETAIL DECLARATION ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

March 2008

CONTEXT

Improving energy efficiency is a major goal – for policy makers, for citizens and for businesses. It plays a vital part in solving environmental, self-sufficiency and cost problems and in providing for increasing energy demand without major upheavals. The Green Paper on Energy Efficiency points to the fact that the EU could save at least 20% of its present energy consumption in a cost-effective manner, equivalent to €60 billion a year. This will contribute to:

- Security of supply
- Competitiveness and the Lisbon agenda
- Environmental protection and the EU's Kyoto obligations

RETAIL RESPONSE

Europe's leading retailers - members of the European Retail Round Table - support the drive for energy efficiency in order to tackle climate change, and, within the parameters of fair competition, voluntarily signal the following intentions in the area of energy efficiency:

1. Reducing retail's use of energy resources

Large retailers recognise that the way they run their businesses has an impact on the environment. Reducing energy usage is just one way in which retailers are acting to address the environmental imperatives facing Europe. Setting targets in this area is intended to show the resolve of Europe's leading retailers to act to cut energy usage.

The members of the ERRT are therefore determined:

- ***To reduce energy consumption per square metre of commercial premises by a minimum of 20% by 2020 compared to base year reference levels. Individual companies will go further and publish their own targets and establish milestones against which to measure their own performance. Where feasible, companies will use the Commission's chosen base year of 1990. Where this is not possible, the most recent year for which companies have the necessary reference data will be used and extrapolated back to 1990 to provide a consistent reference year for the achieved reductions.***
- ***To work towards exceeding the European Commission's target of sourcing 20% renewable energy by 2020.***

Achieving these targets will result in significantly lower carbon emissions and investment in low carbon technologies by the private sector will build on similar public initiatives and investment.

2. Leading the way – but encouraging others to follow

Large retailers are willing to share their experience with suppliers and smaller retailers to increase their general efficiency levels. Not only will this help the individual businesses in question, but it will help policymakers in their continued efforts to address energy efficiency and climate change. ***The members of the ERRT agree therefore:***

- ***To identify and share examples of best practice in delivering energy efficient solutions in the retail supply chain. This should act as an example for other retailers, suppliers and businesses to follow, which in turn will deliver further cuts in energy use.***

ERRT members would welcome technical expertise in energy efficiency matters that public authorities or the European Commission could provide. This will allow for a better understanding of the energy efficiency issues facing the sector and how best to tackle them.

3. Empowering consumers to make greener choices

250 million customers shop in the stores of the ERRT member companies every week. The purchasing decisions those customers make, as well as how they use and dispose of goods once they get them home, have an enormous impact on the environment and energy usage. Retailers want their customers to make informed decisions about products and their use and, in the context of supporting government consumer education programmes, are committed to provide high levels of information relevant to climate change and energy efficiency.

Consumer awareness is key and the greatest contribution retailers and policymakers can make is to encourage greater energy efficiency in the home. ***The ERRT members agree:***

- ***To investigate further ways of providing energy efficiency information for products they sell and will urge manufacturers to do the same. This could take the form of labelling, web site information and/or campaigns on specific issues.***
- ***To share with others any knowledge about the most effective ways of communicating information on energy consumption and energy saving behaviour to consumers.***

We look to the Member States and European Union to identify supportive measures which can drive consumer behaviour such as fiscal incentives and ensuring the supply of 'green' goods through appropriate trade policy.

The companies commit to reporting on the achievement of these targets and milestones through their annual reporting processes – for example, in their CSR reports, or specific energy efficiency reporting procedures, as appropriate.

RETAILERS COMMITTING TO THIS DECLARATION:

Ahold

Asda / Wal-Mart

C & A

Carrefour Group

Delhaize Group

DSG international

El Corte Inglés

H&M

IKEA

Inditex

Kingfisher

Marks & Spencer

Metro Group

Tesco