

## **Veolia's contribution**

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Over the years, at Veolia Environnement, we have become increasingly convinced that addressing climate change offers new opportunities for companies like ours. Indeed, though challenging, it is not only a constraint: the innovative solutions required represent creative avenues for all our businesses. I would add that we have become increasingly aware that this is now one of our core responsibilities to the community both on a local and a global level.

We are all aware that today's demographic surge and urbanization trend present a number of key characteristics: concentration by the sea, widespread aspiration to basic standards of comfort, namely access to water, energy, health and mobility, and a growing concern for sanitation standards.

Some of you may know Veolia Environnement is structured around four key activities: water, energy, waste and transport. We have moved with the times. A century and a half ago we started in water, fifty years later we moved into energy and then took on waste and transport. But today, the whole company is dynamically focused on addressing the environmental challenge we face by providing world class sustainable solutions.

I can say that we are able to achieve this because we invest in people, technologies and research and development. We are the world leader in environmental solutions, and operate in over 67 countries but we are constantly on a learning curve. Wherever we operate and whatever service we provide, our key objective is to offer the most innovative, most efficient, most cost effective available solution, always seeking to share best practices. Let me say a word about how this translates into concrete initiatives in each of our activities.

- In Energy, both the development of renewable energies and energy efficient solutions are an opportunity to address climate change. CO2 related issues have naturally been integrated into our core-business activities. Under the European Union Emission Trading Scheme, Dalkia manages about 1% of European allowances. The measures we have taken on more than 100,000 energy systems have already enable us to reduce by 15% the energy that would have been consumed had we not acted. We foster the use of renewable energy sources such as biomass. For instance, at the beginning of this year we inaugurated the first ever Franco-Lithuanian joint implementation project on a biomass portfolio of district heating in the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius, serving over 700,000 people. We are also very active in developing new demand-side energy saving offers and services, and energy efficiency solutions. For instance, we are developing integrated energy management systems which, in addition to improving the energy efficiency of facilities, reduces end-use energy intensity.
- In waste management, design, construction and operation of waste management infrastructures with a potential for greenhouse gas emissions reduction are part of our core business (energy recovery from waste, material recovery, biogas recovery at landfills, etc.). We are also participating in clean development mechanism projects in Brazil and Egypt.
- In water, we are actively participating in the response to an emerging need for more services in water and wastewater treatment. There is a growing need to develop the use of alternative water resources such as the desalination of seawater and re-use of waste and rainfall water for non-

domestic usages. There is also a need to promote integrated water management which aims to identify all available resources in a given area and manage them as a portfolio. Municipalities and industrial customers around the world already draw on our know-how to make optimal use of existing resources, conserving water and encouraging consumers to behave more responsibly.

- For Transport, scenarios established by the IPCC encourage low-carbon transportation. We are proactively involved in a modal shift from cars to public transport systems and from road to rail for merchandise. More than 60% of our drivers have been trained in “professional quality driving” which can lead to fuel savings of between 5% to 20%. The use of electrical vehicles and biofuels for our fleets cut GHG emissions by 12 to 15%.

Climate change has become a major, complex global challenge, which requires an immense effort from all of us. However, it is particularly important that companies like ours realize that the adjustments that have to be made to meet this new global challenge are also a stimulus for creativity and a source of new business opportunities that promote economic and social progress while simultaneously dealing with environmental concerns. This is how we can do what we can to turn disaster into opportunity.

Thanks to events like the Global Compact Leaders Summit, where we are able to share and compare our experience, we will be able to deal with this major challenge, leaving no one behind.