

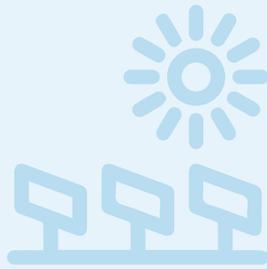


# Our contribution to a better climate

ALDI North Group  
Climate Protection Policy

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„By joining the UN Global Compact, **ALDI North** is committed to observing universal principles of corporate responsibility and playing an active role in ensuring a fairer and more sustainable future.

Taking an integrated, long-term approach to dealing with the company’s impact on climate change marks an important step in this process towards shaping change and remaining competitive.”

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Marcel Engel

Executive Director, Global Compact Network  
Germany

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# Dear Readers,

The ALDI brand is an unrivalled hallmark for the success of the discount principle. As a discounter, we are known for budgeting available resources with particular efficiency. For us, this also means not placing excessive strain on our planet's natural resources. After all, they are the indispensable foundation of our business operations. We intend to preserve this foundation for future generations, which is why we are keeping our promise to promote climate protection. As real traders, our approach here is in line with those traits that our customers have always associated with us: "Simplicity, Responsibility and Reliability."

We have set ourselves the goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2021 compared to our 2015 levels. With the help of a clear road map, we are working towards achieving this target. For example, we are improving the energy efficiency of our stores and distribution centres through the use of innovative technologies. At the same time, we are optimising our logistics processes and refrigeration. Drawing more electricity from renewable sources is another key element in our climate strategy. We are also laying the groundwork for making climate protection an integral part of our business processes. Within the ALDI North Group, climate protection is truly a joint effort that involves close collaboration across departmental and national boundaries.

Climate protection plays a major role for our customers, who deserve to have the peace of mind of being able to shop in a climate-friendly fashion at ALDI North. They call on us to provide an overall sustainable set-up, and rightly so. After all, we can only credibly offer sustainably produced products by also considering climate protection as regards transport, logistics and store operations. ALDI employees likewise expect the Group to act responsibly. Our measures therefore also serve to boost our appeal as an employer and represent a key factor in the competition for the best talent. Alongside customers and employees, cities, communities and municipalities have begun to call more on companies to step up their commitment to protecting the climate. We are hard at work to live up to these expectations from our various stakeholders.

We also sent a clear signal in 2017 through our commitment to the United Nations Global Compact, which is regarded as the most important initiative worldwide for responsible corporate governance. We share the vision of a sustainable global economy and subscribe to the Global Compact's ten universal principles.

Rayk Mende  
Managing Director Corporate Responsibility  
ALDI Einkauf GmbH & Co. oHG

**Rayk Mende**  
Managing Director Corporate  
Responsibility ALDI Einkauf  
GmbH & Co. oHG



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# Our objectives

ALDI North has set a clear climate target for itself: We undertake to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2021 compared to our 2015 levels, and to do so across all countries of the entire Group. This target applies to all emissions that we ourselves cause in the course of our business activities (Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions). They result above all from the operation of our stores and distribution centres, and during transport between them. We have set specific climate targets for every country in which we operate. Together, we are all working towards achieving our overall climate target by 2021.

Our climate strategy has a long-term trajectory and two key focal points:

- We seek to save energy, refrigerants and fuel through efficiency measures, and we are starting with those areas where consumption is greatest. By taking this step, we will not only reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, but operating costs as well. We are also reducing our refrigeration-related emissions by lowering refrigerant losses (first key focus).
- We aim to draw more electricity from renewable energy sources (second key focus). This includes generating renewable electricity ourselves as well as purchasing it.

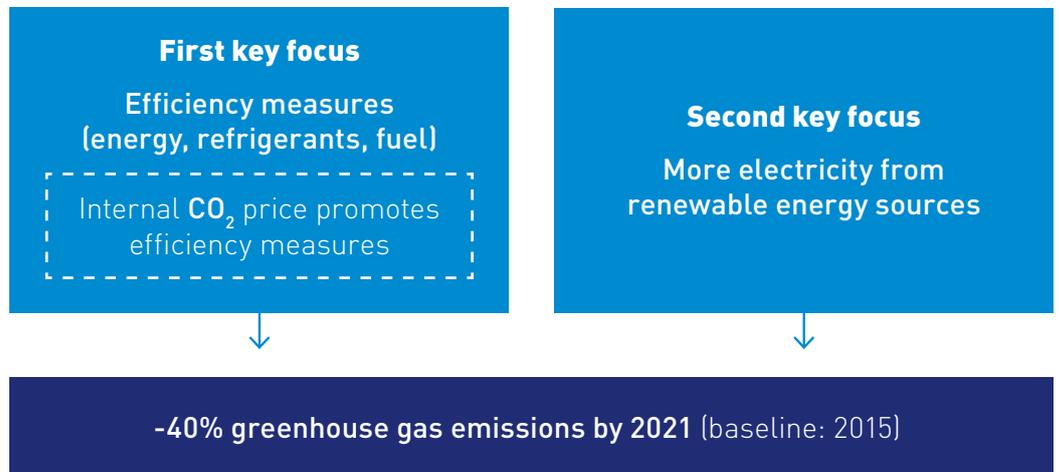
To ensure that climate protection efforts are made consistently throughout the company, climate protection has to become a business variable, which is why we will be setting an internal price per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> over the course of 2018. The plan is to apply this price to all emissions-relevant investment decisions (please refer to "Business processes" on page 11). By taking these steps, we aim to make climate protection an integral part of our business processes.

## The basis: carbon footprint and trend analysis

To effectively reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, we need to know where they are being generated. Our carbon footprint breaks down our greenhouse gas emissions by emission source and provides us with starting points for our climate protection measures (please refer to "Carbon footprint" on page 5).

However, this alone is not enough to ensure a durable strategy. It is just as important to look at and assess future business development, since measures such as opening new stores, installing additional technical equipment or extending opening or operating hours may increase our energy needs in future – and consequently our greenhouse gas emissions. This is why we are focused on drawing more electricity from renewable energy sources, for example.

## The key focal points of our climate strategy



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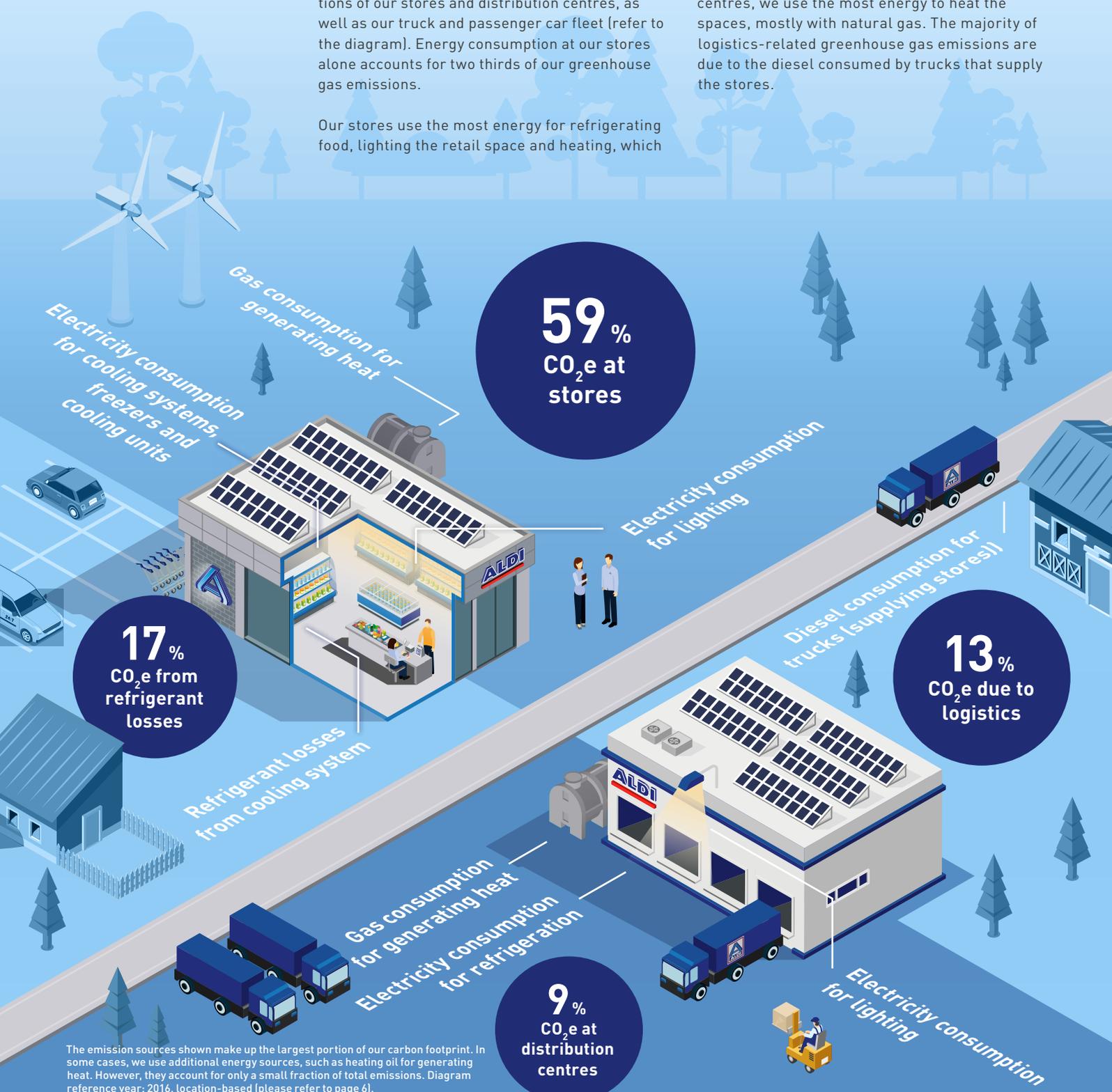
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# Our status

The carbon footprint serves as the basis of our climate strategy, as it shows where greenhouse gas emissions occur. To determine the footprint, we have been recording all energy and fuel consumption, and refrigerant losses for the entire ALDI North Group in all nine countries on an annual basis since 2014. We look at the operations of our stores and distribution centres, as well as our truck and passenger car fleet (refer to the diagram). Energy consumption at our stores alone accounts for two thirds of our greenhouse gas emissions.

is typical in the retail industry. Cooling our products also requires the use of refrigerants. The refrigerants most often used in the food retail industry have a high global warming potential, however. If they leak into the atmosphere, they can contribute to global warming (please refer to "Refrigerants" on page 9). At our distribution centres, we use the most energy to heat the spaces, mostly with natural gas. The majority of logistics-related greenhouse gas emissions are due to the diesel consumed by trucks that supply the stores.

Our stores use the most energy for refrigerating food, lighting the retail space and heating, which



The emission sources shown make up the largest portion of our carbon footprint. In some cases, we use additional energy sources, such as heating oil for generating heat. However, they account for only a small fraction of total emissions. Diagram reference year: 2016, location-based (please refer to page 6).

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### The method: standardised and assured

Our carbon footprint is determined in accordance with the internationally recognised standard set by the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, which provides a binding framework for performing the calculation. External assurance in line with the ISAE 3000 and ISAE 3410 assurance standards ensure high data quality (please refer to “Assurance certificate” on page 13).

Pursuant to the GHG Protocol, we first began separately calculating Scope 2 emissions from

our electricity consumption by location- and market-based **emission factors** in 2016. As the purchase of electricity from renewable energy sources is a key focus of our climate strategy, our climate target for 2021 relates to reducing the market-based Scope 2 emissions.

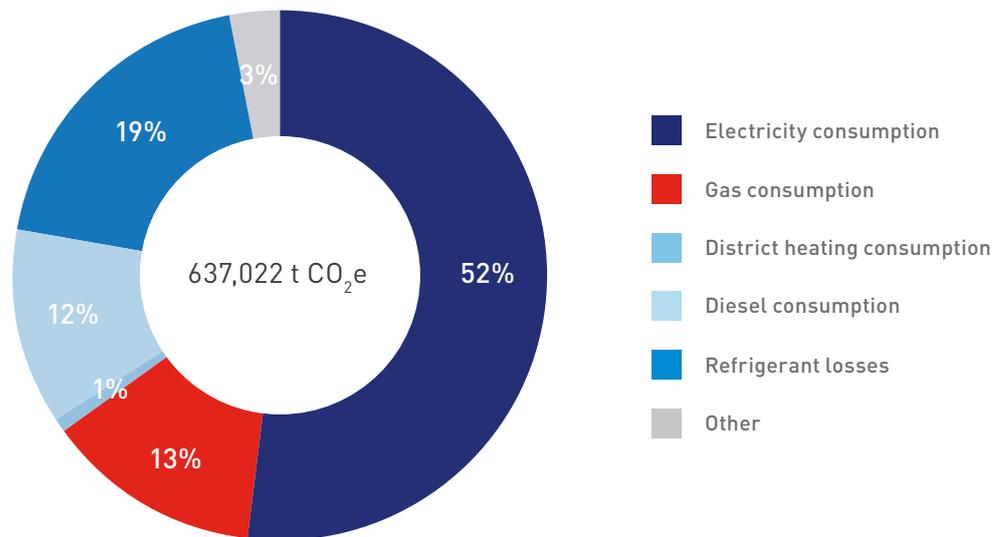
In 2015 – which serves as “Year Zero” for us – greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2) stood at 637,022 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents for the Group as a whole.

### Emission factors

The location-based method specifies average emission factors for every geographical region (e.g. for a country), which are set by the International Energy Agency. In contrast, wherever possible, a company’s individual electricity mix using the actual emissions of the energy producer serves as the foundation for the market-based method. The purchase of electricity from renewable energy sources reduces the level of emissions for the latter, while it is not taken into account for location-based emissions.

### Carbon footprint in the reference year 2015

Market-based Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions broken down proportionally by source (in per cent) and presented in absolute terms (in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents)



#### PORTUGAL AND FRANCE

### Full speed ahead with solar power

ALDI Portugal put the first photovoltaic system on a store into operation as early as 2015. Additional systems were installed in 2016 and have already produced approximately 1,000 MWh of electricity, which is about as much as 250 single-family households use in a year! That is not the end of the story, however, as we continue to invest. By 2021, we plan to install additional capacity of around 5,000 kWp, which is the equivalent of more than 50 new systems. We are turning to solar power for the future in France as well. Our plans call for a total of 120 systems – the first ones on top of our French stores. By taking these steps, we will be producing electricity from photovoltaic installations in the years ahead in almost every country where we operate.



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# Steps we are taking

What steps can we take to lower our energy consumption and reduce refrigerant losses? How can we generate more energy in-house from renewable sources? These questions were at the forefront of our deliberations when developing our climate strategy. Since the end of 2016, specialists from the relevant departments, divisions and groups of experts at ALDI North Germany (Corporate Responsibility – CR, Real Estate and Expansion, Refrigeration, Logistics) have met repeatedly to address this matter. They have already jointly analysed climate protection projects that have been carried out and discussed potential new measures. This expert committee also continues to lend assistance with the implementation process (please refer to “Business processes” on page 11).

The analysis has revealed a wide range of potential climate protection measures (refer to the diagram).

Using individual criteria, the ALDI companies of a given country decide which of these measures is most suitable for reaching their country-specific climate targets

## Stores: innovative technology lowers energy consumption

At 59 per cent, the operation of stores accounts for the largest share of our greenhouse gas emissions. Depending on its size and equipment, one store consumes approximately 150 to 250 MWh of electricity per year. This equates to the energy consumption of around 40 to 60 average single-family households. Our greatest leverage for achieving greater energy efficiency comes down to refrigeration and lighting. Together, they are responsible for approximately 80 per cent of the electricity consumed at the stores.

### Store

- LED lighting
- ESyCool green project
- Use of heat recovery
- Energy management system rollout
- Photovoltaic systems
- Purchase of electricity from renewable sources

### Refrigeration

- CO<sub>2</sub> cooling systems
- MobiLec and maintenance agreements
- Deep freezers and overhead units with the natural refrigerant propane (R290)
- ESyCool green project
- Use of heat recovery

### Logistic

- Alternative drives
- Biofuels
- Efficient transport logistics

### Distribution centre

- LED lighting
- Needs-based lighting
- Energy management system rollout
- Photovoltaic systems
- Purchase of electricity from renewable sources

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Lighting the retail space accounts for around one quarter of a store's electricity consumption, which is why LED lighting technology has been installed at new stores in all countries since 2016. Such technology uses up to 50 per cent less electricity than our previous lighting system. In 2017, we began switching over the lighting systems for the retail space at our existing stores in most countries to LED, including the lighting used for the chiller cabinets and freezers. Doing so offers another benefit, as LEDs generate less heat than other types of lighting, which means that less electricity is needed for cooling purposes. Our new stores also feature windows that extend to the ground, which let in a lot of daylight and reduce the need for artificial lighting. In addition, whenever only employees happen to be in a store outside of opening hours, we turn down the lighting of the retail space to one third of its normal strength to save additional energy. We also frequently use LED technology at new stores to light our outdoor areas and parking lots, as well as our storerooms and side rooms.

Refrigeration represents another aspect for greater climate protection efforts at our stores. Many of our goods are chilled or frozen, which are energy-intensive processes. Frozen items are presented in freezer cabinets, including ceiling-mounted freezers at our new stores. Replacing old freezers with more efficient models harbours

great potential for saving energy. For example, we now only purchase freezers with natural refrigerants for our stores in Germany (please refer to "Refrigerants" on page 9). Thanks to regulated speed compressors and LED lighting, these freezers use up to 35 per cent less electricity than older models of the same size.

Freezers are not the only area where we are optimising our energy consumption; our focus also extends to chiller cabinets. Since 2017, most new and renovated stores in Germany have been using CO<sub>2</sub> refrigeration technology. Integrated CO<sub>2</sub> systems in new buildings are used for heating, as with floor heating for floors. Other heating and ventilation units are not needed or can be reduced. The use of energy for generating heat is also greatly reduced, as the integrated systems recover the heat from the refrigeration process, in addition to the heat from the exhaust air.

The new technology will be joined by a comprehensive energy data management system. We rolled out a system for all of our stores and distribution centres in Germany in 2017 which provides up-to-date data on energy consumption. The automated analysis of the data enables us to quickly identify and remedy potential defects, saving energy in the process. We will be introducing an energy management system in conformity with ISO 50001 in the Netherlands in 2018.

**DENMARK****LED across the board**

In Denmark, we have already switched over the interior lighting of all warehouse facilities to LED technology. Through this step, we now save some 40 per cent of the energy used for lighting. This is no small amount, either, as lighting accounts for up to 50 per cent of energy use at our distribution centres.

**BELGIUM****Warehousing the climate-friendly way**

In early 2019, a new distribution centre in Turnhout, Belgium, is scheduled to open which embraces climate protection in a grand fashion: the LED lighting system will be paired with motion detectors to further reduce energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> cooling systems will be used for refrigeration, and heating will involve a floor heating design that is fed with waste heat from the cold storage section in winter.

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### Leak rate

The leak rate is the amount of refrigerants that have leaked out (kg) in relation to the overall quantity of the system (kg).

## Refrigerants: less loss and climate-friendly alternatives

Refrigerants can escape into the atmosphere (leakage) and contribute to global warming. The current level of technology does not permit leaks to be entirely eliminated, which can occur above all in the operation of our chiller cabinets. In 2016, refrigerant losses accounted for some 17 per cent of our greenhouse gas emissions, as many refrigerants are potent greenhouse gases, such as R404A, widely used in the food retail industry.

Reducing the **leak rate** is an important element in our climate strategy. We have introduced a digital monitoring system in addition to regular leakage tests at all our German locations. Digital data recording and evaluation enable the system to provide a rapid overview of all the cooling systems. Between 2015 and 2016, we reduced greenhouse gas emissions resulting from refrigerant losses by nearly 14,000 tonnes. We are currently working on the system's nationwide rollout in France and the Netherlands.

At the same time, we have begun to increasingly replace the refrigerants used to date with climate-friendlier alternatives. In Germany, we are gradually switching over all (deep) freezers to the natural refrigerant propane (R290), which has very low global warming potential. Our new CO<sub>2</sub> cooling systems (please refer to "Stores" on page 7) use CO<sub>2</sub> as a refrigerant.

## Distribution centres: efficient and needs-based lighting

Lighting is also responsible for a significant portion (up to 50 per cent) of the electricity consumed at the distribution centres. LED technology therefore harbours major savings potential here as well, which is why we are planning to switch to LEDs in Germany and Belgium. In all, we expect that doing so will result in annual savings of up to 3,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. LED technology is already used at the distribution centres in Denmark.

We are also evaluating the use of needs-based lighting for distribution centres. Motion detectors make it possible to fully illuminate only those storage areas where work is being performed. Alongside motion detectors, light sensors have also been installed. They reduce artificial lighting based on the amount of incident daylight, which saves additional electricity.

## Logistics: exploring the potential of alternative drive systems

Our goods have to be transported from our distribution centres to the stores. We largely carry out such transport ourselves. In 2016, some

13 per cent of our Group-wide greenhouse gas emissions were due to logistics. The diesel consumption of our trucks accounted for the majority of emissions. With regard to logistics, it is still economically difficult to replace diesel with a climate-friendlier drive type. We are nonetheless keeping an eye on the use of alternative drives, including the use of electric trucks and vehicles that run on natural gas. Such options harbour potential in urban transport in particular.

## Renewable energy: more green electricity by 2021

Despite our efficiency measures, we anticipate higher electricity demand overall for the operation of our stores in the years ahead – such as for new locations – due to the positive development of our business.

As a result, greater use of electricity from renewable energy is another key element of our climate strategy. We generate electricity ourselves in part, and also plan to purchase electricity from renewable sources.

**SPAIN**

### Real-time overview

We are using an energy management system at 40 stores in Spain to digitally record and centrally assess energy use among the main consumers, which is similar to our system in Germany. It allows us to keep an eye on usage in real time and quickly remedy any defects, thus saving energy and costs. The system in Spain also includes a digital leakage monitoring system to monitor refrigerant losses.



We are working on switching most of our distribution centres to LED lighting. We expect a saving of up to 3,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year as a result of the switch.

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In terms of in-house production, we rely on solar energy. The roofs of many stores and distribution centres are already equipped with photovoltaic systems. In 2016, the installed capacity of our systems already stood at more than 22,000 kWp and produced nearly 16,000 MWh of electricity, which is the equivalent of what 4,000 single-family households use in a year. We avoided some 7,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a result. By 2021, we intend to instal an additional nominal capacity of more than 50,000 kWp through more systems. Plans call for 120 systems in France alone. These efforts are turning in-house electricity production from solar energy into an important mainstay of our energy supply.

We currently use approximately 60 to 70 per cent of the generated electricity for operations; the remainder is fed into the power grid. Plans call for increasing the amount of energy for own use, which is why we are pilot testing the use of storage technology that would enable us to use the gener-

ated electricity at a later time. In Germany, three pilot stores have already been equipped with an ice storage system as part of the "ESyCool green" project (refer to the info box).

Despite additional photovoltaic systems, we will still draw the majority of our electricity from the grid in the years ahead. In order to meet our climate target, we are therefore currently planning to draw more green electricity by 2021. At the moment, we are developing strict criteria for the purchase of green electricity, which we hope will help expand renewable energy.

### Business processes: making climate protection integral

Climate protection entails collaboration among, and the expertise of, various departments. At the same time, we must guarantee our ability to respond rapidly and flexibly to new technological developments and policy frameworks.

#### GERMANY

### Climate protection from floor to roof

We are currently testing an innovative cooling and heating system at three of our German stores, which significantly reduces energy consumption. In this set-up, we use the electricity from our photovoltaic systems to operate heat pumps and to heat and cool the stores. The waste heat produced in the refrigeration process is also recovered and likewise used for heating the building. We

use excess energy from the photovoltaic system to freeze water in an ice storage system. Deliberately freezing and thawing the water in the ice storage system makes it possible to store the energy and access it as needed. The innovative "ESyCool green" project is setting new standards in the food retail industry. Thanks to its efforts here, our project partner Viessmann received the German Innovation Award for Climate and the Environment 2017 in the category for process innovations in February 2018. We will decide on the system's further rollout once the test phase is complete



Our photovoltaic systems produced nearly 16,000 MWh of electricity in 2016, which is as much as 4,000 single-family households use on average in a year. We aim to further increase the share of electricity generated in-house!

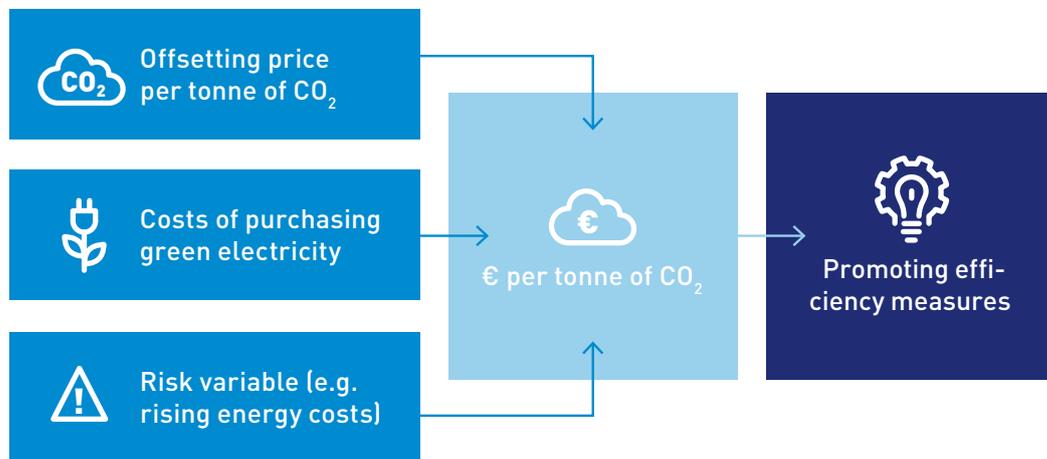


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We therefore ensure that all experts involved in climate protection efforts engage in regular dialogue with each other. In the name of efficient monitoring, we regularly compile updates on the progress of projects and calculate the carbon footprint of the entire Group. The CR department then assesses this information and analyses it within the expert committee established for that purpose. If a given measure does not produce the intended effect, new measures are then discussed. We regularly report to internal and external stakeholders on where we stand as a Group in our efforts to reach our climate target.

To make climate protection an even more integral part of our business processes, we will also be establishing an in-house CO<sub>2</sub> price in 2018. It will consist of the expected cost of purchasing green electricity and a potential offsetting price per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>. It will also take into account a risk variable, such as rising energy costs in future [refer to the diagram]. The plan is to add these costs to the actual costs for every investment decision with an impact on the Group’s greenhouse gas emissions. The objective is to create additional incentives for making energy-efficient and climate-friendly investments.

### Our CO<sub>2</sub> price



#### NETHERLANDS Going green

The Netherlands began fully sourcing its electricity from green sources back in 2015. As a result, we saved 38,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2016<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Compared to the average country mix for the Netherlands according to the International Energy Agency.

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# Next steps

We have already achieved a number of climate protection objectives in recent years. Through our climate strategy, we have now laid the foundation for expanding our activities. We plan to systematically implement and constantly develop the measures presented here. In the process, we will

continue to look for innovation solutions that help us to reach our climate target. We also intend in future to report transparently on our progress, in line with our policy of "Simplicity, Responsibility and Reliability."



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# Certificate of the independent auditor



## TO ALDI EINKAUF GMBH & CO. OHG

We were commissioned to conduct an independent business management audit in order to obtain limited assurance with regard to the data provided by ALDI Einkauf GmbH & Co. oHG (hereinafter "Company") for the ALDI North Group (hereinafter "Enterprise") in the report "ALDI North Group climate protection policy" (hereinafter "Report") for 2015 (baseline) and the year 2016.

The appropriateness of the determination and presentation of the climate strategy presented in the Report in line with the reporting criteria, including the identification of essential topics, lies in the responsibility of the management of the Company. It is our task to give an opinion in the form of this certificate with regard to the climate strategy stated in the Report.

## OBJECT OF ENGAGEMENT

The Company uses the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (abbreviated GHG) in order to record the greenhouse gas emissions. According to this, the accounting must at least comprise all emissions, which are subject to the direct influence of the Enterprise (Scope-1- and Scope-2-Emissions).

The Company has developed internal guidelines as well as a model for the development of a target for the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions for this purpose.

We planned and conducted our business management audit in order to be able to exclude with limited assurance, that the following sources and key figures and thus associated aims are not presented in all essential concerns in line with the reporting criteria:

- Status climate target – greenhouse gas emissions in tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Emission sources of the climate target
- Changes with the emission sources of the climate target
- Emission sources recorded for the Report
- Electricity and heat energy consumption in MWh
- Diesel consumption in litres
- Losses of refrigerants (leakages) in kg
- Use of the conversion and emission factors

## TYPE AND SCOPE OF THE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AUDIT

We carried out our business management audit by complying with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised) as well as ISAE 3410 "Assurance Engagement on Greenhouse Gas Statement", published by the IAASB. According to this we have to comply with the professional obligations and to plan and conduct the engagement by complying with the principle of the materiality so that we can submit our opinion with a limited degree of assurance.

With a business management audit to obtain limited assurance the conducted audit acts are less extensive compared to a business management audit for obtaining sufficient assurance so that accordingly less certainty is gained.

The selection of the audit acts is at the dutiful discretion of the auditor.

Within the scope of our business management audit we have, among others, performed the following activities with regard to the strategies, objectives and key figures:

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- Estimate and assessment of the company-internal used criteria used for the reporting in order to determine the avoidance of the greenhouse gas emissions as well as the processes for the collection, analysis and aggregation of data with regard to their documentation
- Questioning of employees of the Corporate Responsibility department of the Company, which bears the operative responsibility for the collection of the individual data as well as the creation of the climate protection policy
- Estimate of the conceptual design and the implementation of systems and processes for the determination, processing and control of the details and key figures contained in the scope of the audit of the climate protection policy, including the consolidation of the data
- Viewing and examination of the model
- Audit of the used factors for the projection of the emission development based on random samples
- On-site visits to selected companies of the Enterprise in order to estimate source data as well as the conceptual design and implementation of validation processes on a regional level
- Audit of the collection of the relevant consumptions based on random samples
- Audit of the data entry for 2016 and the adjustment of the data stocks of the baseline 2015
- Audit of the calculated Scope-1-and Scope-2-emissions for the years 2015 and 2016 based on random samples
- Estimate of the overall presentation of the details and key figures of the climate protection policy

## OPINION

Based on our business management audit in order to obtain limited assurance we have not become aware of any facts, which lead us to the assumption, that the climate strategy presented in the Report "ALDI North Group climate protection policy" for 2015 and 2016 were not created in all essential concerns in line with the GHG Protocol criteria (relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy).

## INTENDED USE OF THE CERTIFICATE

We issue this certificate based on the engagement concluded with the Company. The business management audit in order to obtain limited assurance was carried out for the purpose of the Company and the certificate is only intended for the information of the Company about the results of the business management audit in order to obtain limited assurance. The certificate is not intended for the fact that third parties make (asset) decisions supported on this. Our responsibility solely exists towards the Company. On the other hand we do not assume any responsibility towards third parties.

Essen, 31st of May 2018

Flottmeyer · Steghaus + Partner  
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft · Steuerberatungsgesellschaft

Ruth Beerbaum  
Auditor

Christian Bruun  
Auditor

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**Key climate figures of the ALDI North Group**

The current key environmental figures are available at [cr-aldinord.com](http://cr-aldinord.com), while the carbon footprint for 2016 can be found in the interim report at [cr-aldinord.com/2016/interim-report/key-figures/](http://cr-aldinord.com/2016/interim-report/key-figures/). The ALDI North Group's 2017 sustainability report is scheduled for publication in July 2018.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank colleagues and all the other participants involved in developing the climate strategy and producing this report for their support.

This report is available in German and English. In the event of discrepancies, the German version shall always take precedence. When, for reasons of readability, the male form is used to designate persons and functions in this report, this shall naturally be interpreted to include equally the male and female gender. The legal forms of companies are also omitted for the same reasons.

**SUBJECT OF THE REPORT**

The publisher of the report is ALDI Einkauf GmbH & Co. oHG, Essen (hereinafter referred to as ALDI Einkauf). The shareholders of ALDI Einkauf are specifically ALDI GmbH & Co. KG limited partnerships, which form a group of equal subsidiaries in Germany. The foreign ALDI companies are licensees of ALDI Einkauf. These legally independent companies form the ALDI North Group, which is the subject of the report.

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