VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

Group Environmental and energy policy statement

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Responsible Department:
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PREAMBLE

This Environmental and Energy Policy Statement defines the principles and framework through which Volkswagen AG integrates, manages and further develops environmental and energy aspects within its business processes. It combines the objective of effective environmental and energy management with our responsibility to systematically consider relevant environmental and energy aspects and to continuously improve our management approaches. The objectives described herein provide guidance for our actions and for the ongoing development of environmental and energy management within our sphere of influence.
Their specific implementation takes into account applicable legal, technological, economic and organizational conditions, as well as the respective opportunities available for action.

Our Commitment

We consider environmental and energy aspects as an integral part of our business activities and strive for their continuous improvement.
We establish internal environmental and energy objectives and aim to design them in a way that is ambitious, transparent, and achievable within the framework of our management processes.

1 Strategic Direction

We align our environmental and energy activities with recognized frameworks, relevant legal requirements, and the material expectations of internal and external interested parties. Within our sphere of influence, we assess and utilize appropriate opportunities to go beyond legal requirements and strive to continuously further develop our management approaches in this regard. In particular, we take into account:

- global developments in climate and environmental protection, as well as requirements for the efficient and responsible use of resources;
- principles for the protection of ecosystems and their functions;
- requirements for improving energy performance, in particular energy efficiency and energy use.

On this basis, we continuously develop our activities and translate our objectives in the strategic fields of action into appropriate measures within our sphere of influence.

2 Leadership and Accountability

We address environmental impacts through defined processes and responsibilities. Our leaders are expected to ensure that:

- environmental and energy aspects are systematically considered;
- responsibilities are clearly defined;
- the necessary resources, competencies and information are available.

3 Compliance

As part of our Environmental Compliance Management System (ECMS), we establish and operate appropriate processes and controls. These are designed to systematically identify and assess:

- relevant legal requirements;
- binding obligations and
- internal requirements.

Additionally, these processes and controls help ensure that such requirements and obligations are integrated into decision-making and business processes, and that their implementation is reviewed on a regular basis. In doing so, we support compliance with environmental and energy-related requirements, strengthen the management of compliance risks, and contribute to the continual improvement of our management systems.

4 Active Management of Environmental and Energy Performance

We manage our environmental and energy performance in a structured and data-driven manner by:

- identifying and evaluating relevant environmental and energy aspects;
- defining objectives and appropriate performance indicators;
- developing and prioritizing improvement measures.

The methods and processes of our ECMS are designed to systematically identify and evaluate environmental impacts. Based on these assessments, we derive appropriate measures.
Energy performance indicators are established on the basis of defined and documented systems, monitored on an ongoing basis, and integrated into existing management and decision-making processes.

5 Innovation and Impact

We evaluate innovations and emerging technologies with regard to their potential to support environmental and energy aspects in processes, products and across relevant stages of the value chain. The insights gained are taken into consideration in our planning and decision-making processes. We direct our activities towards:

- developing efficient solutions;
- integrating environmental and energy aspects at an early stage; and
- utilizing opportunities for improvement within our sphere of influence.

The effectiveness of appropriate measures is reviewed within the framework of our management systems. We give particular consideration to energy performance in the planning of new facilities, as well as in significant modifications to existing facilities and systems.

6 Collaboration and Transparency

We engage in open dialogue with relevant interested parties and provide information on environmental and energy aspects in a transparent, reliable and appropriate manner to support informed decision-making and foster trust.

7 Competence and Participation

We support our employees in identifying and considering environmental and energy aspects within their working environment. We empower our employees to actively assume environmental and energy responsibility. We promote:

- knowledge and competencies;
- individual responsibility and proactive action; and
- continuous learning.

8 Continual Improvement

We regularly review our environmental and energy management systems and adapt them where necessary. To support this, we use, if available:

- performance indicators and analyses;
- audits and assessments; and
- opportunities and risk evaluations.

We regularly review our strategic direction and measures and adapt them, where necessary, to changing internal and external conditions.