

Press Release**about Nordic Climate Solutions**

Page 1/2

25 November 2008

Pick the lowest hanging fruit**Better insulation the most profitable CO₂ saving**

How long can a world economy in crisis afford not to activate a climate solution that can save energy worth billions of euros, tonnes of CO₂ and create hundred thousands of jobs?

It's right at hand, but sometimes we neglect to use the most obvious solutions.

- Buildings are responsible for more than 40% of our energy use. But we waste most of this expensive energy due to poor insulation. Our heating and cooling costs are exorbitant. Our CO₂ pollution much too high. And the quality of the indoor climate low in far too many homes, says Claus Bugge Garn, Vice President in the Rockwool Group and speaker at the Nordic Climate Solutions conference in Copenhagen 25-26 November.

Save energy, money & CO₂

Over the next two decades CO₂ emissions from buildings will increase by some 50% on a world basis, predicts the UN Climate Panel, IPCC. That is, if we don't improve and become more energy & CO₂ efficient.

- It is crucial that an ambitious climate accord is reached at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen 2009. The key challenge is fear. But instead of being erroneously afraid of not being able to afford to save CO₂, we should question how long can we afford not to save CO₂ and expensive energy? The Danish example shows that we actually become more prosperous by improving our energy and CO₂ efficiency. And buildings are the most obvious place to start, says Claus Bugge Garn.

The lowest hanging fruit

According to McKinsey/Vattenfall, better insulation can save 1.6 gigatonnes of CO₂ annually – equivalent to Russia's CO₂ emissions. Saving expensive energy, the insulation would also represent an economic gain of €130 for each tonne of CO₂ it saves. It's therefore the most profitable CO₂ saving.

In Europe alone more than 500,000 jobs could be created if buildings undergoing modernisation were brought up to contemporary energy standards. The average European would even become nearly €500 richer every year. So how can we speed up and tap this attractive potential?

Solutions

- The technical solutions are available, well proven and competitive. Carbon lean buildings are a popular climate solution, contrary to giving up your car. It's even something that most home owners can initiate themselves. Results are positive. We have thousands of satisfied low-energy building users. Right now, we are completing a highly efficient multi-storey passive house building – the first of its kind in Denmark - and we have also initiated the next step: The energy plus house that will be so efficient that by adding renewable energy systems such as solar panels you will get a house that consumes less energy than it needs. You can thus sell the surplus energy to the grid, says Claus Bugge Garn.

Press Release

about Nordic Climate Solutions

Page 2/2

Better standards needed

- But if we really want to pick this low hanging fruit fast, we need much stronger political initiative. It should be required that all new buildings be constructed as low energy buildings, for instance passive houses that use 70-90% less energy for heating and cooling than average buildings. This is also the ambition of the new *EU energy package*. A building will consume expensive energy and emit CO₂ for 50 years or more so it is crucial to build to best practise from the start. However, the largest waste of energy and CO₂ is found in our old buildings. Most were built before the oil crises and are often inadequately insulated. What is needed are better requirements for energy modernisations, better incentives and loans, and tax systems that support sustainable investments, but let the polluter pay. We must promote efficiency and not subsidise wasteful energy bills, says Claus Bugge Garn.

A poorly insulated house, built before the first oil crisis and modernised to low-energy standards, can save up to 11 tonnes of CO₂ annually, show calculations from the German energy agency of DENA (Deutsche Energie Agentur). To save the same amount of CO₂, you would need to pedal some 70,000 km on bike – or 1 ½ times around the globe – instead of using your car. The saved heating costs can add up to more than €2,500.

Further information:

Claus Bugge Garn
Vice President, Corporate Affairs
Rockwool International A/S
+45 46 56 03 00 / mobile: +45 24 28 92 59

Claus Bugge Garn will be a speaker at the session:
BUILDINGS – Building the Future – Energy Efficiency
Tuesday 25 November 14.00 – 15.00

Download photos: <http://images.rockwool.com> - User Name: press - Password: Rockwool - Folder RI Press

More information & downloads in the attached briefing paper