

Press Release

for the International Scientific Congress on Climate Change in Copenhagen 10-12 March

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Climate solutions can provide thousands of new jobs

Hundred thousands of jobs can be created if we stop the enormous waste of energy leaking out of our poorly insulated buildings.

- The world can no longer afford to waste CO₂ and expensive energy!

Mr. Eelco van Heel, CEO of one of the world's leading providers of profitable climate solutions, the Danish-based insulation giant Rockwool International A/S, is very blunt.

- They say we have a world in economic and environmental crisis. But still we waste energy worth billions of euros, dollars and pounds in our buildings. 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. My message to the political decision-makers who are worried about the financial crises and concerned whether they can afford to listen to the climate scientists and take on CO₂ reduction commitments is: speed up and tap this attractive potential! The technology is at hand. It just requires a firm extra push, says Eelco van Heel.

Build a better future

- What we really need is stronger political initiative. It should be required that all new buildings must be constructed as very low energy buildings that use 70-90% less energy for heating and cooling than average buildings. 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 of them were built before the oil crises and are often inadequately insulated. What is needed is better requirements for energy modernisations, better incentives and loans and tax systems that support sustainable investments, but let the polluter pay, says Eelco van Heel.

Today, buildings are responsible for some 40% of our energy use. 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 and CO₂ efficient.

Further information, interviews and visits to low-energy buildings:

Thomas Nordli, Group Communications, Rockwool International A/S

Mobile: +45 24 28 92 24 Direct: +45 46 55 80 33

See the climate video: mms://wms1.jay.net/rockwool/RI/Klimafilm_version_1.7_UK.wmv

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