

To the editor*12 December 2003****The Rockwool Group wins “Polish Leader of Ecology” prize – again!*****For the first time in history the same company has won the coveted ecology award twice.**

Poland’s minister for the environment, Czesław Śleziak, has given the prestigious prize for environmental management to the Danish-owned Rockwool Polska. This is the second time, and such a repeat has not previously been seen in the history of the ecology prize.

Rockwool Polska has two factories in Poland, supplying energy and CO₂ saving insulation to buildings in Poland, Russia and several other countries in Eastern and Central Europe. Since the acquisition of the first Polish factory in 1993 the Rockwool Group has modernised production and environmental management to the Group’s environmental standards. In Cigacice in Western Poland investments have been made in a recycling system which ensures that no stone wool from the production is wasted. Instead it is used in the production of new insulation products. Two years ago this resulted in Poland’s Leader of Ecology prize in the category ‘Company’.

This year Rockwool Polska has won Poland’s Leader of Ecology prize for its eco-friendly products. The ecology award was given with the motivation ”materials and technologies for efficient insulation of buildings and installations, reducing the energy consumption in public buildings, in homes and in the industry”.

A hundredfold environmental gains

During its life cycle Rockwool insulation in our buildings and technical plants can save 100 times – and in some cases even more than 10,000 times - more energy, CO₂ and air pollution than was used for its production. The environmental product plays an important role in the efforts against waste of scarce fossil energy and unnecessary air pollution. A focus area which is expected to have even more significance when Poland enters the European Union in the near future.

Leader of ecology

The competition “Polish Leader of Ecology” was started in 1996 by Poland’s ministry of the environment. The aim is to promote the most efficient environmental initiatives which raise the country’s environmental standards and protect the environment in Poland. Each year a prize is given in the three categories: company, product and local authority. It is only possible to win one of the categories. Never before has a company won the ecology award twice.