

Press release

Stephen Neff Appointed New Managing Director of myclimate

Zurich, 3 September 2018 – The Swiss foundation myclimate has a new Managing Director. Stephen Neff brings with him more than fifteen years of management experience from companies focused on energy and innovative, sustainable technologies.

In Stephen Neff, the Foundation Board has chosen an experienced manager with a strong technology background as the new Managing Director of myclimate. Up until the beginning of 2018 he was Managing Director of the Swiss cleantech company and EPFL spin-off Neurobat AG, a solution provider for the reduction of CO₂ emissions produced from the heating and cooling of buildings. In that role, Stephen Neff built up successful business relationships with major Swiss companies, as well as institutions and federal government programmes. Prior to that, he spent eight years managing Pawatron AG in Zurich, a specialist and reseller for sensors, power supply systems and electrical components. During this time, he repositioned the company and took it into a phase of strong growth. At Wetzikon-based technology company Legic Identsystems AG, where he held the role of Vice President Sales and Marketing from 2000, one of his many achievements was to build up the organisation in various markets, including China.

Stephen Neff studied electrical engineering at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Vancouver, Canada. He has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Hertfordshire, UK. In his free time, the new Managing Director's passions include diving, and he puts his skills to good use helping a local NGO to preserve reef systems around Madagascar.

Stephen Neff, who has dual Swiss and Canadian nationality, joins the Foundation on 1 September as successor to René Estermann, who stepped down in June 2018.

“myclimate boasts a strong foundation as an organisation and impressive services in the areas of CO₂ compensation, education and consultancy. I look forward to working with the team so we can take myclimate into the next phase of growth together. More than ever, myclimate's mission to limit global warming is crucial for a sustainable future, and as Managing Director of this marvellous organisation, with its passionate commitment to its customers, partners and employees, I will work hard to ensure such a successful future”, says Stephen Neff.

“myclimate faces the challenge of continuing existing business as successfully as ever, and at the same time bringing new solutions and offers to the market for the era of the Paris Agreement. For this, it takes an agile and efficient organisation. We are delighted that in Stephen Neff we have brought on board a successful manager with international experience and technical understanding for this stage of development”, says Urs Egger, President of the myclimate Foundation Board.

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About myclimate – The Climate Protection Partnership

myclimate is a partner for effective climate protection, globally and locally. Together with industry partners and private individuals, myclimate wants to shape the future of the world through advisory services and educational programmes, as well as its own projects. It does so in a market-oriented and customer-focused way as a non-profit organisation.

myclimate is looking back at its most successful financial year since the Foundation was established. The earnings have risen to more than 14 million Swiss francs (CHF). Last year, more than 800,000 tons of CO₂ have been offset with myclimate. In Switzerland, strong partnerships, including with Migros and Coop, as well as a further rise in interest amongst private individuals, have contributed to this great result. In addition, the myclimate "cause we care" campaign which is starting to sustainably change Swiss tourism was launched. Internationally, myclimate advanced its positioning thanks to attractive partnerships and opportunities. Since it was founded, myclimate has been able to mobilise 100 million Swiss francs for climate protection projects.

This international initiative with Swiss roots is one of the world's quality leaders in voluntary CO₂-compensation measures. Its customers include large, medium-sized and small companies, public administrations, non-profit organisations, event organisers and private individuals. Via its partner organisations, myclimate is represented in nine countries: Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Luxembourg, Greece, the United Arab Emirates, Japan and Turkey.

The high-quality projects promote quantifiable climate protection and greater sustainability worldwide. CO₂ emissions are currently compensated voluntarily by means of more than 100 climate protection projects in 30 countries. Emissions are reduced there by replacing fossil energy resources with renewable energies, and by implementing local afforestation measures with smallholder farmers and energy-efficient technologies. myclimate climate protection projects meet the highest standards (Gold Standard, CDM, Plan Vivo), which are not only proven to reduce greenhouse gases locally and regionally, but also make a positive contribution to sustainable development.

myclimate encourages everyone to make a contribution to our future, through interactive and action-orientated educational programmes. With this aim in mind, myclimate has already reached more than 20,000 school children and 9,000 trainees in Switzerland, and established a global network of 1,600 students and young professionals. Moreover, the foundation also advises on integrated climate protection with tangible added value. In the field of CO₂ and resource management, myclimate supports companies with advice, analyses, IT tools and labels. The portfolio ranges from simple carbon footprints (emissions calculations) at the corporate level through to comprehensive life cycle assessments for products. Our experienced advisors help with identifying and tapping into potential in the areas of energy and resource efficiency.

Since the foundation was established, the myclimate climate protection projects have created thousands of jobs, protected biodiversity and improved the general living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people. Not least because of this, the German Federal Environment Agency is explicitly showcasing myclimate as a supplier for voluntary CO₂ compensation. In both 2015 and 2012, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognised two myclimate projects as "game-changing Climate Lighthouse Activities". In May 2016, myclimate received the Swiss sustainability award PrixEco.