

oekom research and South Pole Group Support Pioneering Local Authorities to Divest from Fossil Fuels

The cities of Münster and Stuttgart lead the way with decarbonisation projects

Munich / Zurich, 18. October 2016 - oekom research, an internationally leading rating agency for sustainable investments, is supporting the cities of Münster and Stuttgart in their decarbonisation activities and in divesting from projects that contribute to accelerating climate change. Both cities are among the first local authorities in Germany wishing to make their investments CO₂-neutral and free of fossil fuels such as coal and oil. oekom research is supplying the necessary analyses and reports together with its partner South Pole Group, a leading sustainability solutions provider and global supplier of climate-related impact analyses and carbon footprinting data.

To ensure that investments are no longer directed into companies and projects with adverse effects on the climate, the capital of the German state Baden-Wuerttemberg, Stuttgart, has commissioned oekom research to filter out all the issuers within an investment universe that breach specific, definite exclusion criteria. With this screening, the city is ensuring that investments are no longer made in companies involved in the extraction of coal or oil, or natural gas extraction done by fracking. Companies that allow the use of child or forced labour, or that offer GMO produce are also excluded from the investment pool.

Michael Föll, First Mayor of the state capital Stuttgart, explains: “We see it as our responsibility towards our citizens to consider the goals for limiting climatic change, and to avert imminent financial losses which could arise, should investments in climate-damaging projects lose their value. oekom research’s qualitative analyses are helping us to achieve these goals.”

The Department of Finance and Investments of the city of Münster, which has become the country’s first local authority to commit to decarbonisation, has tasked oekom research with analysing its medium- and longterm investments in potentially climate-damaging or non-sustainable companies and projects. In doing so, the rating agency is performing a fossil fuel screening – i.e. identifying companies involved in the supply chain of fossil fuels – as well as an analysis of the CO₂ risks and carbon exposure of the portfolios held by the city of Münster.

“Thanks to the CO₂- and climate-related analyses and data, we can find out where we currently stand in terms of fossil fuels, and consider the measures and concrete next steps for our decarbonisation activities ” says **Frank Möller of the Department of Finance and Investments of the city of Münster**.

oekom research CEO Robert Haßler comments: “In preparing the extensive analyses, we are working closely with our partner, South Pole Group. Our detailed research on climate risks is perfectly complemented with their carbon footprinting data and offers decision makers and local authorities an optimal base for implementing their divestment and decarbonisation plans.”

“Münster and Stuttgart are leading the way in acknowledging the crucial role of cities for the transition to a 2 degree society - also in their investment activities. Through our work with

both cities and investors around the globe and our partnership with oekom research, we see us as natural allies for other cities following suit,” underlines Maximilian Horster, Partner, Financial Industry, South Pole Group.

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About oekom research

[oekom research](#) oekom research AG is one of the world’s leading rating agencies in the field of sustainable investment. The agency analyses companies and countries with regard to their environmental and social performance. oekom research has extensive experience as a partner to institutional investors and financial service providers, identifying issuers of securities and bonds which are distinguished by their responsible management of social and environmental issues. More than 140 asset managers and asset owners routinely draw on the rating agency’s research in their investment decision-making. oekom research’s analyses therefore currently influence the management of assets valued at over EUR 600 billion.

About South Pole Group

South Pole Group has delivered climate-proven solutions to a wide range of public, private, and civil society organizations for over a decade. A pioneer in the field of climate impact assessment on investments and a world-leading advisor on sustainability-related portfolio risks, South Pole Group helps asset owners and asset managers gain actionable insights on the climate impact of over USD 2 trillion assets under management. The company’s in-depth knowledge in fund and portfolio advisory ensures that investments are into promising, climate-friendly investment opportunities that trigger positive returns. South Pole Group’s 150 climate change specialists in 16 offices worldwide offer project, fund, and portfolio advisory, as well as access to new sustainable finance instruments for over 1,000 clients. The Group’s diverse emission reduction portfolio includes many projects that ensure financial inclusion of the local communities involved, and has saved over 80 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, visit www.thesouthpolegroup.com or follow the company on Twitter @southpolegroup.