

Press release / 28 May 2010



## **Less CO<sub>2</sub>, more quality of life: Vontobel Group launches extensive staff campaign**

**The Vontobel Group sees climate change as one of the biggest challenges facing society and believes it has a duty to adapt its business activities accordingly. It is thus designing products and processes geared to minimizing harmful emissions and raising staff awareness of the topic of climate protection. As a co-founder of the Swiss Climate Foundation, which seeks to promote sustainable business practices in Switzerland, the Vontobel Group has been climate-neutral since 1 January 2009.**

The Vontobel Group is launching a staff campaign under the slogan "Power your life" that aims to cover the topics of energy, nutrition and mobility as well as how they relate to each other. A variety of activities over two Energy Weeks will highlight ways to optimize energy use and avoid wasting energy. "Our aim is to raise our colleagues' awareness of energy and climate protection issues. Each and every one of us can and should play a part – starting with careful attention to unseen energy wastage at the office and in the home, then moving on to environmentally friendly transportation and even a more ecologically sound diet, for example relying more on plant-based foods and less on animal-based ones," commented Vontobel Group Head of Sustainability Sabine Doebeli. "In many cases, climate-friendly behaviour also has a positive effect on our health, hence the slogan 'Power your life'. It is important that, rather than making climate and environmental protection a matter of obligation, consumers are instead encouraged to think about it for themselves through carefully targeted information," she added.

The environmental performance of companies is regularly assessed by specialists. The Vontobel Group, for example, was recently ranked among the top three environmental leaders in the financial sector by INrate, an established and independent sustainability rating agency. The reasons for the Vontobel Group's high ranking lie in its exacting demands as regards internal sustainability measures as well as its wide range of sustainable investment products.

### **Vontobel Group**

The Vontobel Group is an internationally-oriented Swiss private bank. The family-owned bank was first established in Zurich in 1924. Vontobel specializes in wealth management for private clients and asset management for institutional investors, as well as investment banking. At the end of December 2009, the Group held over CHF 115 bn of assets. Around 1,400 employees worldwide provide first-rate, customized services for clients with an international focus. The registered shares of Vontobel Holding AG are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange. The Vontobel families and the Vontobel Foundation hold the majority of shares and votes in the company.



### **Contacts**

Media Relations:	Reto Giudicetti	+41 (0)58 283 61 63
Head of Sustainability:	Sabine Doebeli	+41 (0)58 283 62 16