

Climate protection (GRI 305)

Focus on climate protection and adaptation to climate change

With climate change, the global community faces particular challenges. As human activities contribute towards global warming, this impacts ecosystems and correspondingly, our everyday lives. For this reason, 195 countries agreed in Paris in 2015 on the goal of limiting global warming to well below two degrees. This climate agreement is now being implemented through political frameworks and targets at national level. Various scientific institutions have developed methods and recommendations for action to translate this ambitious goal into practice.

Central goals for AURELIUS are the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and adaptation to the already existing and incoming effects of climate change, derived from the first two EU taxonomy environmental goals ("climate protection" and "adaptation to climate change").

Risk assessment based on TCFD

In order to capture the impact of climate change for the AURELIUS Group, a risk assessment will be carried out based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). This includes all risks arising from climate change (physical risks), as well as risks arising from the transition to a climate-friendly economy (transitory risks). In particular, we look at the assessment of climate risks from an "outside-in" perspective. This comprises analysing whether and how physical or transitory climate risks affect the AURELIUS Group's operating activities. Physical climate risks include, for example, damage to buildings or infrastructure caused by the consequences of changing climate conditions, such as floods, storms or periods of drought. Transitory climate risks, on the other hand, result from the transition between today's prevailing forms of economy, which are predominantly reliant on fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gas), to a low greenhouse gas economy.

Contribution to climate protection

The AURELIUS Group seeks to actively contribute towards limiting global warming and achieving the goals set out in Paris Climate Agreement. For this purpose, the company follows a strategic approach based on the principle of "avoid" before "reduce" before "compensate".

AURELIUS has introduced a comprehensive bundle of measures intended to reduce the Group's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30 percent by 2025.

"Our main goal is to reduce CO₂ emissions. But not all emissions can be avoided, and this is where CO₂ offsetting can be a sensible addition to a sustainability strategy," says Dr Dirk Markus, Chairman of the AURELIUS Group. "We have set ourselves the goal of reducing CO₂ consumption by 30 percent by 2025."

Avoid: Where possible, AURELIUS focuses on avoiding greenhouse gas emissions in the first place. For example, the AURELIUS travel policy encourages all employees to plan their trips as efficiently as possible and to avoid unnecessary travel. To this end, video conferencing systems and other digital means of communication have been introduced, among other things, to minimise unnecessary travel.

Reduce: If emissions cannot be avoided, AURELIUS tries to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. in office buildings, with the help of car sharing models and electric mobility). In addition, travel management is continuously optimised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Offset: Starting in the 2019 financial year, AURELIUS will offset the CO₂ emissions for all air travel by holding company employees. In the past year, these journeys caused 274.599 kg of CO₂ emissions, which were offset through compensation payments to the climate protection organisation atmosfair (www.atmosfair.de). Through these compensation payments, atmosfair supports climate protection projects that primarily promote the expansion of renewable energies. The projects are subject to internationally recognised certification standards such as the CDM Gold Standard, the strictest standard available for climate protection projects. The funds are used transparently and allocated in full to the respective projects.

Across the Group, AURELIUS has voluntarily committed itself to reducing the impact of its products and business activities on the environment by acting in an ecologically responsible manner and using meticulous processes that are enshrined in its ESG policy. AURELIUS will continue existing initiatives and programmes to promote energy efficiency and innovation to thereby avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AURELIUS supports climate protection agreement

AURELIUS supports the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the European Green Deal. The Paris Agreement pursues three goals: Countries set a global target of limiting global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius compared to the pre-industrial era, with efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The ability to adapt to climate change is to be strengthened and established as an equal goal alongside the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, financial flows are to be brought in line with climate targets. The European Green Deal (EGD) is the EU Commission's new key project of, presenting a comprehensive growth strategy for a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy. Europe aspires to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. By 2030, greenhouse gas emissions are to be reduced by at least 55 percent compared to 1990 levels.

Appendix:



[Link to atmosfair certificate \(2021\)](#)

[AURELIUS to offset CO₂ emissions from air travel in 2020](#) | [Link to certificate \(2020\)](#)

[AURELIUS steps up CO₂ reduction measures and offsets CO₂ emissions from air travel](#)