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ClimatePartner: Our history

If we look back upon the last 20 years, we can see how far climate action awareness has come. Back then, people rarely gave a second thought to climate change or the consequences of unchecked CO₂ emissions.

In 2003, Moritz Lehmkuhl, founder and Managing Director of ClimatePartner GmbH, came across the topic of climate action strategies for the first time when he worked as a project manager in an European Union (EU)- funded project for climate action strategies. He knew climate change would be one of the greatest challenges of our time and wanted to do something about it. So, after the nine-month project, Lehmkuhl swapped his office chair and desk for his living room table, and spent days moving door-to-door to convince companies of his idea: To voluntarily get involved in climate action.

He took the plunge in 2004 by establishing Sustainable Partner. A few years later, ClimatePartner emerged from this parent company. Despite this being a niche topic back then, Lehmkuhl used facts, perseverance and his passion for the cause to convince the first companies to voluntarily engage with climate action.

Though initially slow, there was noticeable momentum in the market in 2015: the EU passed a law on CO₂ reporting for large companies. The requirements were passed on to the supply chain partners of companies, making ClimatePartner's offer all the more relevant.

The big breakthrough, however, came in 2018, when Swedish student Greta Thunberg protested every Friday against the lack of action on the climate crisis. The Fridays For Future movement shone a spotlight on the issue and the consequences of climate change received a whole new level of attention.

Many companies realised that they too should get involved and voluntary climate action gained popularity. ClimatePartner was now a specialist in corporate climate action and the first 10 employees worked alongside Lehmkuhl to bring his idea to life. Twenty years after its foundation, as many as 500 employees now work at various locations in Europe and North America. Over the decades, the customer list has also grown to more than 6,000 companies in over 60 countries.

About ClimatePartner

ClimatePartner supports companies on their way to net zero. For 20 years, ClimatePartner has been developing concepts for its customers that enable them to make a voluntary commitment and anchor climate action in their corporate strategy. With its flexible approach of software, consulting and reduction solutions, ClimatePartner helps its customers make an active

contribution to climate action both within and outside their own value chain - regardless of whether companies are starting out or are already in an advanced phase of their individual climate action journey. ClimatePartner's industry-specific solutions cover the entire process, from carbon accounting and defining reduction targets through to the implementation of reduction measures. ClimatePartner also supports its customers in financing global and regional climate projects and communicating their commitment to climate action in a detailed and transparent manner. This includes labels that confirm the approach of a company's climate action measures. To this end, ClimatePartner's experts work on practical and sustainable approaches to contribute to the global net zero target by 2050.

As we take climate action to a new level, we develop high-quality, certified climate projects with our ClimatePartner Impact team. These projects and the others in our portfolio not only have a positive impact on the climate, but also create added value for local communities, as we are guided by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

ClimatePartner was founded in Munich in 2006. Around 500 employees from Barcelona, Berlin, Boston, Essen, Frankfurt, London, Milan, Munich (HQ), Paris, Stockholm, The Hague, Vienna and Zurich support more than 6,000 companies from 60+ countries.

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