

Company Profile

Headquarters: Wolfsburg, Germany
Major products: Vehicles
Further information: volkswagenag.com

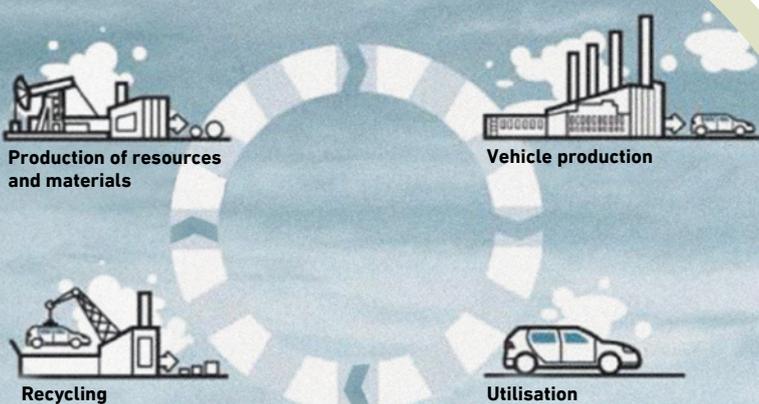
The Volkswagen Group with its headquarters in Wolfsburg is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe. In 2011, the Group increased the number of vehicles delivered to customers to 8.265 million, corresponding to a 12.3 percent share of the world passenger car market.

The Group is made up of ten brands: Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, ŠKODA, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Scania and MAN and operates 94 production plants in 18 European countries and a further eight countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa. Each working day, 501,956 employees worldwide produce some 34,500 vehicles, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in the other fields of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

Challenges and How Volkswagen Takes Responsibility

Protecting biodiversity is an issue for Volkswagen and follows 5 principles:

- The public expects a globally-acting company such as Volkswagen to be part of the solution for tackling global challenges, not part of the problem – the principle of responsibility.
- Services offered by nature, such as clean water and pure air, are also fundamental to Volkswagen's business area – the principle of acting in the business' interests.
- Volkswagen wishes to minimise the necessary consumption of natural resources and land by an industrial company – the principle of nature conservation.
- 500,000 Group employees, their friends and families need nature to enhance their lifestyle, health and relaxation – the principle of welfare.
- Without diversity in nature, there can be no diversity in business – the principle of logic.



Fields of Action

- Sites and facilities
- Supply chains, commodities and materials
- Product
- Production and manufacturing processes
- Transport and logistics
- Personnel

Best Practice: Environmental Commendations and Life Cycle Assessments

The Volkswagen way of showing stakeholders how product ecological footprints are reduced

The Issue

Volkswagen's objective is to develop vehicles in such a way that, in their entirety, they present better environmental properties than their predecessors. To document the environmental performance of its vehicles and technologies, Volkswagen uses Environmental Commendations.

The Response

Volkswagen's Environmental Commendations provide its customers, shareholders and other stakeholders inside and outside the company with detailed information about how the company is making its products and production processes more environmentally compatible and what Volkswagen has achieved in this respect. Biodiversity is indirectly affected in

many ways. The Commendations certified by TÜV Nord are primarily based on detailed Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) in accordance with ISO 14040/44, which have been verified by independent experts. As part of an integrated product policy, the LCA considers not only individual environmental aspects, such as the driving emissions of the vehicle, but its entire life cycle. This means that all processes from manufacturing via service life to recycling and disposal are examined. Since 1996, Volkswagen has been drawing up Life Cycle Assessments of its vehicles and individual components with the aim of enhancing their environmental compatibility.

The Results

In 2011, apart from the new Volkswagen up!, new Environmental Commendations based on this concept were issued for the highly economical Passat BlueMotion and Passat EcoFuel models from Volkswagen. In the case of the Environmental Commendation for the up!, for example, it was shown that greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 21 percent compared with the Volkswagen Fox, which served as the reference model. Climate change is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss.

Comparison of impacts on global warming potential

CO₂ equivalents in t

