



## Linde as a sustainable investment

**Linde is viewed as exhibiting strong potential to assume an exemplary role in terms of sustainability. To ensure we constantly improve our rankings, sustainability is a high-priority facet of our corporate strategy.**

### Socially responsible indices and investment funds

Linde communicates directly with a number of different stakeholder groups. Investor relations form a particularly important part of our corporate communications. Our financial reporting is targeted at our shareholders and all other capital market players, including investors, analysts and financial players.

In the medium term, Linde aims to be admitted to indices and funds that exclusively list companies managed in accordance with the principles of sustainable growth. Admission to these indices requires companies to satisfy strict criteria. Alongside economic factors, prospective companies are also evaluated for the degree of responsibility they show towards natural resources, employees and society as a whole.

According to our stakeholders, particular challenges facing Linde as a company within the chemical sector include demographic trends and climate change. Integrating sustainability in our corporate strategy and focusing on long-term shareholder value are also of great importance here.

### Current Linde share ratings

The Oekom Research rating agency awarded Linde “B” status overall, thus placing us in the prime category. This means that listed Linde shares qualify as ecologically sound and socially responsible investments.

In 2009, Linde was also added to the Ethibel EXCELLENCE Investment Register. This register is the foundation for the Ethibel Label and Ethibel Sustainability Index (ESI). Over 20 funds currently use the Ethibel Label.

An “above-average” rating from Sarasin qualifies Linde for the bank’s sustainable investment universe. Linde is currently included in various sustainability funds and portfolios held by Sarasin, including DAXglobal Sarasin Sustainability Germany.

The KLD Global Climate 100 Index (GC100) aims to encourage investment in listed companies whose product portfolios display high potential to alleviate the social and economic consequences of climate change. Linde has been listed in this index since 2006.

In 2007, the Linde Group joined the Business In The Community (BITC) Corporate Responsibility Index – the UK’s leading voluntary benchmark of corporate responsibility. In 2009, we again applied for BITC listing. With a high score of 91.5 percent, we went straight into the gold category. This ranking is not linked to the capital market.

For the fourth year in a row, Linde participated in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) focused on emissions and climate protection. Our answers to the project questions can be read on the CDP website.

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