CDP's 'A List': Lenzing is the only first-time discloser recognized with prestigious double 'A' score for global climate and forests stewardship

- The global environmental non-profit CDP honors Lenzing with a double 'A' score for its leading performance in environmental transparency and action.

The Lenzing Group has been recognized by the global environmental non-profit CDP, securing a place on its prestigious 'A List' for tackling climate change, as well as acting to protect forests – two of the three environmental themes covered by CDP.

CDP's annual environmental disclosure and scoring process is widely recognized as the gold standard of corporate environmental transparency. This year, more than 5,800 companies were scored based on data submitted through CDP's questionnaires. Through significant demonstrable action on climate and deforestation risks, Lenzing is leading on corporate environmental ambition, action and transparency worldwide.

"We are particularly proud to be the only first-time discloser who has achieved an 'A' score for tackling climate change and acting to protect forests. The double 'A' score reconfirms our long-term sustainability strategy and is an exciting acknowledgement of our efforts on transparency as well as sustainable raw material sourcing", says Stefan Doboczky, CEO of the Lenzing Group.

Lenzing's key actions to tackle climate change

Already in the year 2019, Lenzing became the world's first producer of wood-based cellulosic fibers making a strategic commitment to dramatically reducing its carbon footprint and cutting its emissions per ton of product by 50 percent by 2030. This target has been scientifically verified and approved by the Science Based Targets initiative. Furthermore, by the year 2050, Lenzing aims for Net-Zero emissions.

Sustainable fiber innovations such as the introduction of the first TENCEL™ branded CarbonNeutral® fibers and a blockchain-enabled traceability platform are an integral part of Lenzing's sustainability strategy since they help to combat climate change and trigger a new level of transparency along the entire value chain. In addition to that, pioneering technologies like REFIBRA™ and "Eco Cycle" contribute to a circular economy by combining the environmentally responsible lyocell fiber production with the upcycling of cotton waste materials.

The implementation of a pulp plant in Brazil and a state-of-the-art lyocell fiber production site in Thailand, which is designed as a carbon neutral plant, represent two further important milestones in Lenzing's carbon neutrality strategy. The pulp plant in Brazil will feed more than 40 percent of the electricity generated as "green energy" into the public grid.

Lenzing's key actions to protect forests

Lenzing is proud of its decades-long clean record of sustainable wood sourcing, evidenced by its long-standing credible commitment to wood certifications. The company's commercial wood sources are 100 percent either certified by FSC®[1] or PEFC™[2], or controlled in line with FSC® standards. The combination of a stringent wood sourcing policy and the dedicated commitment to the CanopyStyle Initiative confirms that the production of Lenzing's wood-based cellulosic fibers does not contribute to deforestation.

Furthermore, Lenzing initiated a social impact and afforestation project in Albania. The forest areas in this country are in the greatest need for improvement in the European region. The project addresses the most urgent issues that society will have to tackle in the upcoming 10 years: land degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation and climate change.

Paul Simpson, CEO of CDP, says: "We extend our congratulations to all the companies on this year's 'A List'. Taking the lead on environmental transparency and action is one of the most important steps businesses can make, and is even more impressive in this challenging year marked by COVID-19. The scale of the risk to businesses from climate change, deforestation and water insecurity is enormous, and we know the opportunities of action far outweigh the risks of inaction. Leadership from the private sector will create an 'ambition loop' for greater government action and ensure that global ambitions for a net zero sustainable economy become a reality. Our 'A List' celebrates those companies who are preparing themselves to excel in the economy of the future by taking action today."

How companies enter the 'A List' – process and methodology

In 2020, over 515 investors with over US$106 trillion in assets and 150+ major purchasers with US$4 trillion in procurement spend requested companies to disclose data on environmental impacts, risks and opportunities through CDP's platform. Over 9,600 responded – the highest ever.

A detailed and independent methodology is used by CDP to assess these companies, allocating a score of A to D- based on the comprehensiveness of disclosure, awareness and management of environmental risks and

demonstration of best practices associated with environmental leadership, such as setting ambitious and meaningful targets. Those that don't disclose or provided insufficient information are marked with an F.

CDP's scoring for forests is conducted through the lens of the four commodities that cause most deforestation: timber products, cattle products, soy and palm oil. Companies need to score an A on at least one of these forest-risk commodities to earn a place on the Forests 'A List'.

The full list of companies that made this year's CDP 'A List' is available here, along with other publicly available company scores: https://www.cdp.net/en/companies/companies-scores