At a glance

The Bundesbank is aware of its responsibility and is committed to making a sustainable contribution to protecting the environment and preventing climate change. It adopted an environmental guideline and an environmental strategy, which together provide a framework for its environmental activities, in 2015. Using levels recorded in 2013 and 2014 as a starting point, the Bundesbank is aiming for a 10% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and a 25% reduction by 2025.

This Environmental Report is based on the indicator system devised by the Verein für Umweltmanagement und Nachhaltigkeit in Finanzinstituten e.V. (VfU). Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in units known as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e).

In 2015, the Bundesbank consumed just over 175,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of energy in the form of electricity and heating for its office buildings. Compared with consumption levels in 2013-14, the energy savings made are equivalent to the annual energy consumption of 500 single-family homes. This reduction in energy consumption was bolstered not only by favourable weather conditions but also by branch closures. Most of the Bundesbank’s electricity is generated from renewable sources, while its heating is produced using sustainable energy at several sites.

The Bundesbank used just under 261,000 cubic metres (m³) of water in 2015. This represents a saving of just under 11,000 m³ compared with
Last year, just under 11,000 tonnes of waste were produced. Annual fluctuations in the volume of waste generated are attributable to the large proportion of construction waste.

All in all, the Bundesbank’s greenhouse gas emissions amounted to 27,430 tonnes of CO₂e in 2015, or just under 2.9 tonnes of CO₂e per employee. Once again, heating consumption is the main component of the Bundesbank’s greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for more than 50 % of the volume. Compared with 2013-14, the Bundesbank has already managed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by just over 4 %.

2013-14, which is enough to fill almost 4.5 Olympic-size swimming pools. Energy and water consumption both vary throughout the year according to weather conditions, the technical and structural features of the buildings and the manner in which they are used.

In 2015, Bundesbank staff travelled a total distance of just over 37 million kilometres on business trips, which is just over 2 million kilometres more than in 2013-14 – equivalent to an increase of around 50 trips around the world along the equator. Business trips are largely taken by car, train and aeroplane, with staff generally travelling by train for trips within Germany. The Bundesbank is also taking care to add more energy-saving vehicles to its vehicle fleet.