

Make every day responsible

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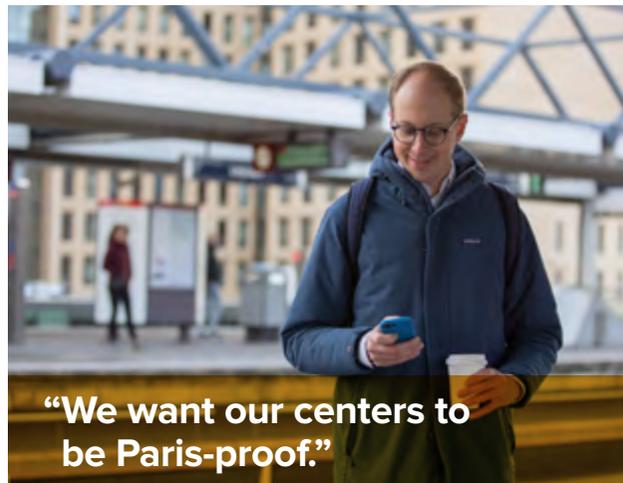
Wereldhave's CSR Manager, Tim van der Weide, has a clear vision: "How we live, work and shop," he says, "shouldn't harm us. It should make us better." For Wereldhave, sustainability, he adds, "is really about a better everyday life". CSR is a key part of Wereldhave's LifeCentral strategy. Alongside the new strategy, the Company has launched a CSR program for 2030, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and contributing more to local communities.

"There are three elements to our plan," says Tim. "It's about safeguarding the value of our centers. It's about attracting tenants and visitors, and it's about being a good neighbor. We also want our centers to be comfortable and safe places to be."

Entry point

In Europe, buildings account for nearly 40% of carbon emissions – so it's no surprise that Wereldhave's plan focuses heavily on climate and the environment. Tim sees carbon as an entry point to tackle other issues: "Looking at our carbon footprint, you can bring in a lot of other aspects – not just energy, but also the building materials we use and the waste our centers generate, for example. The advantage with carbon is there's a lot of focus on it at the moment, but it's also very measurable."

By 2030, Wereldhave wants to move to net zero emissions for the common areas in its centers. There are separate targets for energy use and waste reduction. The Company also wants to increase its green space – protecting urban wildlife and creating a more attractive environment for visitors, one of the 'win-wins' that Tim often talks about. Currently, he's putting in place a carbon budget in line with the 'well below +2°C' objective set out in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement – it's all part of making Wereldhave's center 'Paris-proof'. "The budget will give us direction," he says. "We all work with financial budgets. This is just the same. With a budget, we know exactly what we need to stick to."



Better data

Tim's challenge now is to further take the CSR program to local centers. Already, he's looking at how to step up sustainability at Belle-Île, one of Wereldhave's flagship centers in Belgium, currently undergoing re-development. Tim lists time, resources and data as key challenges. "The better your data," he says, "the easier it is to know where the gaps are, and to know where there are alternatives. If we plan to use concrete, for example – what other products are out there?"

Despite the challenges, Tim says things are moving in the right direction: "For the Board, this is important. Managers, of course, want to know – what does this mean for my center? But, make no mistake, there's a shift in broader society, and people at Wereldhave are part of that shift."

To implement its plan, Wereldhave will also have to work closely with its tenants. Many of the large chains are

adopting more sustainable practices, but Tim recognizes that smaller, local businesses may not have the resources or the time to make the necessary changes.



"Our approach is about making it easier for our tenants, particularly the local

retailers, and working with them," he says. "We need to be seen as a company that is a partner in this area. We've already done a lot, but the good news now is that we're being more strategic in our approach. With everything we do, we'll take carbon into account. We'll ask, are we adding to our footprint? And, if so are we still in line with our budget? Are we on track to be Paris-proof?"