

Press Release

## **Turning Point in Climate Protection? The myclimate foundation registers strong growth in the area of voluntary carbon offsetting in its annual report**

**Zurich, 20 June 2019 – The Swiss climate protection foundation myclimate today published its 2018 annual report. The total income from the three business areas Education, Consulting and Solutions as well as Offsetting totalled more than 20 million francs for the first time. Income grew by more than 40 percent compared to 2017. For the first time in the foundation’s 17-year history, over a million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emission were offset with myclimate. The increase in offsetting by private customers is also impressive. Carbon offsetting and climate protection contributions via the freely accessible CO<sub>2</sub> calculator increased by 70 percent in 2018 compared to the record year of 2017.**

After continuous growth in the previous years, significantly more companies and private individuals became involved in climate protection through myclimate. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were offset, consulting services provided and educational projects were implemented. Stephen Neff, CEO of the Zurich-based foundations, says: “We have reached a new milestone in 2018 with over a million tonnes of offset CO<sub>2</sub>. Many signs point to a turning point in awareness of climate protection and in the willingness to commit oneself to it. We notice this every month due to the record numbers of individuals using our online calculator and every day due to the many enquiries from companies of all sizes. We all owe it to the generations to come to do everything possible, whether privately or professionally, so that they can inherit a habitable planet. Things are really moving now. We are very happy that myclimate can make an important contribution.”

### **myclimate – 2018 Operating Results**

The foundation’s total income in 2018 amounted to 20.20 million francs. It was only 14.29 million francs in 2017. Of this, CHF 16.97 million came from income from the carbon offsetting. The Education and Consulting & Solutions business areas contributed to the overall result with 1.6 million and 1.3 million francs respectively. myclimate also registered high growth from offsetting and donations from individuals, which amounted to more than 1.6 million francs of the operating results and represents a growth of 70% compared to the previous year.

Around 100 myclimate projects have resulted in a massive reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions around the world and have demonstrably contributed to the achievement of UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). More than 7.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions have been generated since the Foundation was established. 650,000 efficient cookers and 62,000 small biogas systems have been built in projects, resulting in concrete improvements in people’s everyday lives. 12,800 jobs were created through myclimate’s efforts. At the same time, more than 24,000 schoolchildren, 9,500 apprentices and trainees in Switzerland, and 1,600 students around the world have been motivated to take the initiative. In total, more than 6 million people around the world have benefited from the effects of myclimate since 2002.

**The myclimate 2018 Annual Report, including detailed consolidated accounts revised by KPMG AG, can be viewed via the following link:**

[www.myclimate.org/annualreport](http://www.myclimate.org/annualreport)

### **2018 Success Stories**

myclimate was able to launch new projects and establish ground-breaking partnerships with major customers in 2018. Three Swiss enterprises implemented in-house Company Challenges: Emmi, Griesser AG in Aadorf and Valliant Bank. Through concrete projects, trainees thereby enabled more climate protection and sustainability in their respective companies.

myclimate identified and developed carbon offset projects for both Coop and Migros that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the national and international value-creation chain. myclimate partners are also able to offset their emissions by supporting Swiss moorland restoration projects since 2018. This new project contributes to the protection of biodiversity as does the newly launched cooker project in Rwanda's mountain rainforests, which are the habitats of the endangered mountain gorillas and golden monkeys.

### **Growth in the Team and Good Prospects for the Future**

The myclimate team has grown significantly in order to meet increasing demand and the stringent requirements for solutions and quality. At the moment, myclimate has around 80 employees at its headquarters in Zurich, at the subsidiary in Germany, and a small local offices in Africa and South America.

“myclimate is committed to making a significant contribution together with its partners to achieving a ‘zero net society’. The solutions for this exist and their effectiveness has been confirmed. The awareness that change is necessary is there. We’d like to see even more courage in giving these solutions for the economy and society a chance. In combination with innovative technology, they offer excellent prospects for the future. I find it personally fulfilling to accept this challenge as a CEO together with a highly motivated and growing team. There is nothing more beautiful in the world than living for an idea,” Stephen Neff says optimistically about the future.

### **For further information and interviews please contact:**

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## **About myclimate – The Climate Protection Partnership**

myclimate is a partner for effective climate protection, globally and locally. Together with partners from the economic sector as well as private individuals, myclimate wants to shape the future of the world through consultation and educational programmes, as well as its own projects. myclimate pursues this in a market-oriented and customer-focused way as a charitable organisation.

This international initiative with Swiss roots is one of the world's quality leaders in voluntary carbon offsetting measures. Its group of customers include large, medium-sized and small companies, public administrations, non-profit organisations, event organisers and individuals. myclimate is also present in Germany and supports clients worldwide from there and Zurich.

The high-quality projects promote quantifiable climate protection and greater sustainability worldwide. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are currently offset voluntarily by means of more than 100 carbon offset projects in 30 countries. Emissions are reduced there by replacing fossil energy resources with renewable energies, and by implementing local afforestation measures with smallholder farmers and energy-efficient technologies. myclimate carbon offsetting projects meet the highest standards (Gold Standard, CDM, Plan Vivo), which are not only proven to reduce greenhouse gases locally and regionally, but also make a positive contribution to sustainable development.

myclimate encourages interactive and action-orientated educational programmes in order to encourage each and every person to make a contribution to our future. With this aim in mind, myclimate has already reached around 20,000 school pupils and more than 9,000 trainees in Switzerland, and has also established a global network of 1,600 students and young professionals. Moreover, the foundation also provides advice on integrated climate protection with tangible added value. In the field of CO<sub>2</sub> and resource management, myclimate supports companies with advice, analyses, IT tools and labels. The portfolio ranges from simple emission calculations at the corporate level through to comprehensive life cycle assessments for products. Experienced advisers help in identifying and exploiting potential in the areas of energy and resource efficiency.

Since the foundation was established, the myclimate carbon offset projects have created thousands of jobs, protected biodiversity and improved the general living conditions of hundreds of thousands of people. Not least because of this, the German Environment Agency explicitly names myclimate as a supplier for voluntary carbon offsetting. In both 2015 and 2012, two myclimate projects were cited by the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as so-called "game-changing climate lighthouse activities", and at the UN Climate Conferences in Paris and Doha they were recognised by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon himself. In addition, in 2012 the myclimate educational project "KlimaLokal" was awarded the Milestone Prize, the Swiss tourism industry's highest distinction. In May 2016, myclimate was awarded the PrixEco Swiss sustainability award. myclimate was awarded the "Prix Balance" for its exceptional work-life balance in 2017.

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