

■ SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS

Over recent years, the glass industry has developed a number of innovative products which are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable. These include:

■ Heat insulation glass

So-called Low E glass, which is characterised by low emission capability, saves heating energy by minimising heat loss through windows while at the same time letting in a large proportion of the sun's heat.

■ Sound insulation glass

Noise not only impairs subjective well-being, it can also have a serious negative impact on health. It can be held at bay by sound insulation glass, which absorbs up to 80 percent of external noise.

■ Solar-thermal power stations

Solar-thermal power stations consist of parabolic troughs which collect the solar energy used to operate the steam turbines that generate electrical power.



■ BV GLAS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a central issue in the glass industry. Its diverse products and the industry as a whole contribute to achieving sustainability objectives. BV Glas ensures that the wide range of glass products are regularly a topic of discussion and it makes the public aware of how sustainable glass is. The glass industry conserves resources through the efficient use of raw materials and energy in glass production.

BV Glas commissioned a study, which was implemented by the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy in 2011, on the sustainability of container glass. Based on a set of indicators which cover ecological, economic and social factors, the study measured the sustainability of glass at both product and industry level.

IMPRINT

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Glass – a sustainable material



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■ GLASS – ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE



The products manufactured by the glass industry make an important contribution to energy savings and the use of future energies.

■ High recycling quota

Glass is 100 percent recyclable without any impairment to quality. For example, old glass packaging can be used any number of times in a closed material loop to make new glass packaging. Pieces of waste glass are also recycled into new flat glass products, saving energy and reducing CO₂ output.

■ Glass saves energy

Glass has many heat insulation and solar protection applications which help us to make considerable energy savings. Self-cleaning glass not only simplifies our everyday lives, it also reduces energy and water consumption.

■ Alternative energy sources

Glass is an important input material in the production of photovoltaic modules and solar-thermal plants, which convert sunlight into electrical power or heat. Glass fibres are used, for example, to strengthen wind turbines.

■ GLASS – ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE

Not only is glass impressive when it comes to ecological efficiency, but also in the area of economic efficiency.

■ Cut costs with glass

The extensive use of recycled glass to manufacture new glass products reduces energy consumption, saves costs and cuts back on raw materials.

■ The glass industry safeguards jobs

The glass industry in Germany has around 54,000 employees and is one of the SME sector's mainstays.

■ Glass helps to save money

By using glass panes with additional functions, consumers can considerably reduce their heating costs.



■ GLASS – SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE



The protection and promotion of human health are also aspects of social sustainability and glass is a major asset in this area.

■ Glass is inert

No substances are transferred from the glass packaging to its contents and vice-versa. Flat glass also does not release any chemicals when it is heated up.

■ Glass enhances well-being

Glass with a soundproofing function considerably enhances well-being by reducing high levels of outside noise, which can be harmful to health.

■ Glass provides safety

Modern safety glass is ideal for transparent and open-plan architecture and for providing effective protection against break-ins.