

For immediate Release

Zollikon, September 27, 2001

SAM Sustainable Asset Management is the first „Carbon Neutral®“ Swiss Company

SAM Sustainable Asset Management (SAM) is proud to announce that it is the first Swiss Company to achieve the Carbon Neutral® status – a brand to certify the neutralization of CO₂ emissions created by a company's day-to-day operations.

Aware of the great challenges arising from global climate change, SAM actively seeks to provide a solution. SAM is not only a forerunner in creating and managing sustainable asset management products and individual mandates according to sustainability criteria, but it clearly believes that it should operate and manage its own operations according to sustainability criteria.

In matching Switzerland's Kyoto Protocol commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, SAM aims to reduce its CO₂ emissions per employee by 8% by 2008. Beyond the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, SAM offsets its CO₂ emissions by financing a Biomass-Energy Project in India.

Reto Ringger, CEO, SAM Sustainable Asset Management:

“SAM is committed to reduce its emissions by 8% per employee within the next 7 years. Although we are not an energy intensive company with a high consumption of fossil fuels, it is clear that to run our business we will produce CO₂. The Carbon Neutral® program finances innovative energy technologies in developing regions and provides us with a means of dealing with these non-reducible emissions in a way, which is entirely consistent with our core philosophy and commitment to sustainability.”

In line with international and Swiss programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, SAM aims to avoid, reduce and lastly neutralize its remaining CO₂ emissions through the Carbon Neutral® concept.

SAM set the following measures to meet this objective:

- Switch to renewably-generated electricity
- Offer public transportation at reduced rates to all employees
- Promote train travel for all business trips under 400 kilometers
- Encourage teleworking and utilization of telephone conferencing.

Neutralising its CO₂ emissions, SAM is once again taking an uncharted route. Instead of participating in reforestation projects, SAM has chosen to finance a fuel-switching project in India operated by the organization, Women for Sustainable Development, and coordinated by Future Forests. Investments in the project will stimulate growth in switching technology as well as investment into further small-scale renewable energy generation projects.

Being an independent organisation, Future Forests' coordinates and oversees the entire process and licensed SAM with the registered trade mark Carbon Neutral®.

Jonathan Shopley, CEO of Future Forests said,

"SAM is a forerunner in creating and managing sustainable asset management products, and we are delighted that the organisation has taken the innovative step to become Carbon Neutral. It is precisely this kind of leadership action will help to realise in businesses ethical and environmental standards that will genuinely drive global change."

For more information please contact:

Erica Tucker

SAM Sustainable Asset Management
Zollikerstrasse 60
CH-8702 Zollikon-Zurich
Tel.: +41 1 397 1038 (direct line)
Fax: +41 1 397 1080
Email: erica@sam-group.com
Internet: www.sam-group.com

SAM Sustainable Asset Management is an independent and international asset management company with headquarters in Switzerland, specialising in the successful implementation of sustainability-driven investment strategies for private and institutional investors. SAM bases its work on its own research, as well as drawing on the knowledge and expertise of a worldwide network of sustainability experts. SAM's customers include major European banks, global insurance companies, large pension funds and private clients.

Founded in 1995, SAM currently employs 50 team members with offices in Zollikon-Zurich, Chicago and Sydney.

SAM's investment products include the Luxembourg SICAV Funds; SAM Sustainably Index Fund, SAM Pionier Fund and the SAM Sustainability Water Fund. On the Swiss Stock exchange, the Sustainable Performance Group and the SAM Smart Energy investment companies are quoted. Together with Dow Jones & Company, SAM launched the first family of Sustainability indexes to track the performance of the leading sustainability companies worldwide.

Future Forests, one of Europe's leading environmental businesses, works with business and the public to deliver simple and effective solutions to deal with non-reducible carbon dioxide emissions. The service was founded and built on the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through 'gold standard' forestry; the service has now extended to non-forestry projects selected against the same criteria. Gold standard means that they met criteria related to additionality, sustainability, biodiversity, socio-economic support.

Future Forests' Carbon Neutral® symbol is applied to a wide variety of its client operations, products or services. The symbol signals to staff, customers and the public that the company has used best practice projects to offset or re-absorb an equivalent amount of CO₂ from the atmosphere to that released in making the product or delivering the service.

Future Forests clients include over 90 businesses including Barclays Bank, Avis, Hilton Hotels and the RAC; 10,000+ members of the public; and a growing number of celebrities.
