

Press release

International Day for Biological Diversity: RWE explores biodiversity enhancement at its photovoltaic farms in Poland

- **RWE works with researchers at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan to study how solar farms contribute to increasing biodiversity**
- **Regular field surveys conducted at RWE solar farms in Greater Poland province**
- **Initial results from 12 months of monitoring confirm solar farms provide attractive habitat for many plant and animal species; second year of research to deepen knowledge**

Warsaw, 22 May 2024

To boost its sustainability, RWE is conducting a biomonitoring pilot project to study how favourable conditions for biodiversity can be created at solar farms. The company has therefore put pro-environmental treatments in place at ten selected photovoltaic farms in Poland's Greater Poland province to provide a beneficial habitat for insects. These include dead wood, wooden containers for biomass, and sand. An ideal feeding ground for various species has also been created in the form of meadow plants along the fence.

During the past 12 months, RWE has carried out regular field studies involving pro-environmental treatments at these photovoltaic farms. To ensure the results are robust, monitoring was repeated at 12 other RWE solar farms without extra biodiversity measures and in undeveloped control areas involving agricultural fields and meadows. Monitoring covered insects, birds, bats and other mammals and species such as reptiles, and also flora. For this research project, RWE is working closely together with scientists from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

Anna Januszewska, Environmental Expert and Project Manager RWE Poland:

"The operation of photovoltaic farms in balance with nature is made possible by constant research and observation. The use of high-quality data is crucial to our sustainability ambitions, as well as to our business. These activities are aimed at making RWE a leader in sustainable development in Poland and beyond."

Solar farms provide favourable environment for plants and animals

The results from the initial measurements indicate that solar farms offer a pleasant environment for the development of many plant and animal species. The flora in the area of photovoltaic plants is similar to that found in meadows, although the actual species in each area differ slightly. The occurrence of insect species is at a similar level to the surrounding

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natural areas or agricultural fields. The lack of typical agricultural treatments, such as mowing or fertilisation, provides insects with the right conditions for life and development. Research conducted by scientists also confirms that photovoltaic sites are unique refuges for insects, which find stable conditions for development and overwintering there, and when the next season begins they can colonise the surrounding agricultural land. This is also important for agricultural production. Insect predator populations reduce the incidence of pests in agricultural fields. The measurements confirm that photovoltaic installations are also extremely attractive areas for various bird species, especially during the breeding season. The study will continue during the next 12 months to gather more valid data about the positive impact of photovoltaic farms on biodiversity.

RWE bolsters its presence in the Polish energy sector

As one of the world's leading companies in the field of renewable energies, RWE is resolutely pressing ahead with its portfolio expansion in Poland. The company has an installed onshore wind capacity of over 540 megawatts (MW) in the country. RWE is also diversifying its Polish renewable energy portfolio by investing in photovoltaic projects. The company is currently constructing solar farms representing more than 100 MW of capacity in Poland.

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RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Between 2024 and 2030, RWE will invest 55 billion euros worldwide in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, batteries, flexible generation, and hydrogen projects. By the end of the decade, the company's green portfolio will grow to more than 65 gigawatts of generation capacity, which will be perfectly complemented by global energy trading. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net-zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

Forward-looking statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.

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