6 September 2021 Press release Sustainability

“Lights out – for at least one night”: All of Helaba’s offices are taking part in Earth Night

The aim of Earth Night is for participants to reduce artificial light as much as possible for at least one night a year.

All of Helaba Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen's 19 worldwide offices are taking part in Earth Night 2021. Apart from the ten German locations, this includes London, Madrid, Moscow, New York, Paris, Sao Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore and Stockholm. The aim of Earth Night is for participants to reduce artificial light as much as possible for at least one night a year.

Earth Night always takes place from 10pm in the night of the September new moon, which falls on 7 September this year. Unlike Earth Hour in March, when lights are switched off for just one hour as a symbolic way of drawing attention to the need to reduce CO2 emissions, for Earth Night the lights are dimmed for the entire night.

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CEO

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the excessive use of artificial light at night and the consequences for human beings, the environment and wildlife. Not only does unnecessary and misdirected light waste energy, it also damages the climate. However, it has many other less well-known effects as well: artificial light obscures the night sky, prevents people from getting a good night's sleep, disrupts the normal rhythm of plants and distracts birds on their migratory routes. In summer, it kills insects, which are then not able to act as pollinators or as the main source of food for many animals. This so-called light pollution throws entire eco-systems out of balance.

Earth Night is an initiative of "Godfathers of the Night", a non-partisan association of volun-teers based in Germany that campaigns to protect the night and curb light pollution through education and best practices. The first-ever Earth Night took place on 17 September 2020. Interesting facts about light pollution, its causes and consequences as well as ways in which everyone can reduce it can be found at paten-der-nacht.de ↗

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