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Sonae Companies Sustainability Forum Award distinguishes Sonae Indústria project

SONAE COMPANIES AWARD SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

The wood waste collection network created by Sonae Indústria in North America won the 2nd edition of the Sonae Companies Sustainability Award.
The project recycled 665 thousand tons of urban wood waste, the equivalent of 10 million trees, creating 445 jobs.

The Sonae Companies Sustainability Award aims to foster the implementation of all programs, projects and measures that strengthen the sustainable development of businesses, distinguishing the best initiatives that are able to combine the economic, environmental and social aspects with the stakeholders' involvement. The award, granted by Sonae Companies Sustainability Forum, applies to Sonae and its various business areas, as well as Sonae Indústria and Sonae Capital.

The Rewood project was the great winner of the award's 2nd edition, developed by Tafisa Canadá, a subsidiary of Sonae Indústria. The project consisted of creating a wood waste collection and recycling network in Canada and in the United States, which are incorporated in the manufacture of wooden panels.

The success of the pilot project led to the creation of a network of 41 recycling centres in North America, which already created 445 jobs. The network allows for a constant and renewable supply of wood waste without interruptions and annual savings of 7 million euros in raw materials costs. Since 2011, the project has collected and recycled 665 thousand tons of urban wood waste, the equivalent of 10 million trees.

The Sonae Companies Sustainability Award received three dozen applications that were evaluated by a jury consisting of members of the Sonae Companies Sustainability Forum. In view of the quality of the projects, aside from the big prize, five honourable mentions were also granted to projects developed by Sonae MC, Sonae Sierra, Sonae SR and Sonae Centro de Serviços.

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Luís Filipe Reis, sponsor of the Sonae Companies Sustainability Forum, claims, 'This second edition of the award is heightened by the quality of the projects in competition, clearly demonstrating how serious Sonae Companies are about contributing to a more sustainable world. These projects have allowed us to improve our ecological footprint while also strengthening our efficiency and bringing about important savings that contribute towards reinforcing our competitive positions.'

FINALIST PROJECTS:

Sharing logistics – Sonae MC

Sonae MC created two service centres for CHEP and IFCO pallets and crates that can be treated and repurposed at the very same logistic centres, avoiding its transportation to their partners' units. The project allowed for a 145 thousand kilometres drop in travelled distance, with significant savings regarding fuel and carbon emissions, all while growing the amount of pallets and crates that are being reused. Additionally, it also created 18 new jobs.

Optimizing water consumption (Dive Project) – Sonae Sierra

Water consumption at shopping centres is taken very seriously at Sonae Sierra, as it is focused on reducing its ecological footprint for greater operational efficiency. In order to identify optimization and efficiency improvement opportunities, Sonae Sierra developed a model that allows to estimate consumption and assess possible measures. This project reinforced the efficiency of investments made, contributing to reduce consumption and maximizing savings obtained from the implemented systems.

***Equipa Worten Equipa* – Sonae SR**

Worten's initiative to collect used electronic equipment has allowed for the collection of 30 thousand tons of waste since 2009, which were then sent to the appropriate recovery and recycling centres. This project, which began in 2009 as part of the brand's corporate responsibility policy, has already led to the donation of more than 17 thousand new devices to over 1,700 institutions across the country, benefiting 410 thousand people in the country, in an investment that has surpassed 1.5 million euros.

Water consumption self-sufficiency – Sonae Sierra

The Plaza Sul shopping centre located in São Paulo, Brazil, set a goal to obtain self-sufficiency in terms of water resources, reducing its environmental impact while becoming independent from public supply. In order to reach said goal, the shopping centre implemented a water treatment and recycling station, reinforced its water storage capacity and drilled a new well, among other initiatives. As a result of this water resource integrated management, 50% of their water is now reused, drinking water consumption fell by 36% and water costs were cut by 25%, thus reaching the desired goal.

Dematerialisation of invoices (Touchless) – Sonae Centro de Serviços

Every year, Sonae retail units receive over 3 million invoices from suppliers, which need to be properly addressed. So as to make the process more efficient, and upon fostering the use of electronic invoicing, Sonae implemented an invoice processing automated system, shifting the process from paperless to

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touchless. This project allowed to reduce time and costs spent on information management, increased efficiency and control by making information available for business even more quickly, making payments easier and improving relationships with suppliers. Nowadays, 98% of purchases through Sonae retail areas are already based on electronic invoicing and 88% of cases no longer require handling the invoice. Apart from the financial savings and efficiency gains, on an environmental level, the project allows to save 2,700 trees, 10 million water litres and 59 tons of CO2 every year as a result of a consumption reduction of 97 tons of paper per year.

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