



---

## Press Release

---

### LEAHY: “CLIMATE CHALLENGE GREAT. OUR RESPONSE MUST BE EQUAL TO TASK”

---

**4 December 2009**

Today, in the run-up to the Copenhagen summit, the European Retail Round Table publishes a report ‘**Post-Copenhagen Retail 20:20 Vision**’ on the actions taken by large retailers to reduce their energy use, to source renewable energy and to inform and help consumers.

**Sir Terry Leahy, CEO, Tesco and ERRT President**, said: *“Climate change is the major strategic challenge of our age. We do not have a choice about whether to go green and cut carbon emissions. If we want long-term economic growth, we have to make the transition to a low carbon economy. We have to go green.*

*“ERRT members are uniquely positioned to help make this transition - through improvements in our own operations, through our supply chains and by helping our customers reduce their carbon footprint.*

*“The challenge of climate change is great. So too must be our commitment to tackling it.”*

In their [March 2008 declaration](#), ERRT members made significant commitments towards greater energy efficiency (reducing consumption p. sq. m. by a minimum of 20% by 2020) and greater use of renewable (minimum 20% use of renewable by 2020). The report issued today offers an insight into the progress being made towards those targets.

In addition to the specific energy commitments made in 2008, many of Europe’s retailers are taking even more ambitious actions. Examples:

- Tesco aim to cut 30% of the carbon impact of the products in their supply chain by 2020, and to become a zero carbon business by 2050;
- The C&A eco-store in Mainz uses 50% less energy than other stores;
- Carrefour has set a more challenging target of 30% energy efficiency by 2020;
- M&S aims to make its UK and Irish operations carbon-neutral by 2012;
- ICA (Ahold) supports a wind mill in China that reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 98,000 tons pa.

These, and all other initiatives at: <http://www.ert.org/uploads/ERRT-Binder-3.pdf>

**For any further information or clarification, please contact Paul Skehan, ERRT +32.475.388415**

**ERRT:** The European Retail Round Table was established to express the views of large retailers on a range of issues of common interest focused on EU public policy. Their businesses operate worldwide and represent a cross-section of the retail sector. Collectively, ERRT members have a turnover of more than €400 billion and employ 2.3 million people in over 40,000 stores. [www.ert.org](http://www.ert.org)