
PRESS RELEASE

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BIR symbolically contributes to reduction of CO2 emissions – 3,500 oak trees planted in Sonien forest

On the occasion of its 60th anniversary, the Bureau of International Recycling BIR, the world federation of recycling industries, sponsored the plantation of 3,500 oak trees in the Sonien forest, a 4,420-hectar forest that stretches along the south-eastern part of Brussels, Belgium.

In the presence of BIR President Dominique Maguin (FRA), the organisation's past Treasurer Anthony P. Bird (GBR) and his successor Björn Grufman (SWE) as well as Director General Francis Veys, Brussels local authorities unveiled a plate with the inscription:

“Oak trees for the generations to come”

“On the occasion of its 60th anniversary, the Bureau of International Recycling (www.bir.org) co-financed the plantation of 3500 oak trees in

this part of the Sonien forest. In this way, it contributes to the protection of our natural heritage and the creation of a carbon pit.”

This symbolic gesture reflects BIR's mission to promote the huge contribution that the recycling industry makes towards reducing CO2 emissions. A study that BIR is currently carrying out reveals that 551 million tonnes of fossil fuel emissions are being saved through material recycling, which represents 1.8 % of all fossil fuel emissions on the planet.

The study is the first of its kind and attempts an assessment of carbon savings due to the recycling of ferrous and non ferrous metals as well as paper. It is due to be published in the course of this month.



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