‘Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability’ are at the core of the work done by Deltares. It is what we do, and who we are. This annual report describes how our projects and our research contribute to this area. We use Deltares knowledge to help solve or mitigate major challenges facing the planet. Our mission ‘Enabling Delta Life’ fits in well with this ambition.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a guideline for responsible growth. In 2016, we stated that the achievement of these goals in the years would be given a prominent place in our vision of corporate social responsibility. We want to enhance our impact on the SDGs and make that impact known.

That means we want to give a good example ourselves. We practise what we preach. That is why we are constantly involved – and this was the case once again in 2016 – in improvements to our own business operations. Some examples:
Experiments at our own location with PVT panels

PV is the abbreviation for photovoltaics, the physical phenomenon in which light is converted into electricity. The T stands for Thermal, in other words heat. So PVT panels generate both electricity and heat. The volume of gas consumed by Deltares will be compensated in the future with CO₂ certificates from forestry projects. These projects are not only located abroad. In the Netherlands also, Greenchoice is involved in the construction of forests in order to encourage biodiversity and nature recovery in our country. The new De Haar Park Forest on the Haarzuilens estate is a good example. Seven thousand trees were planted there in four days. To celebrate the new contract, a number of trees were also planted here on behalf of Deltares.

Optimisation of energy management

A range of improvements were made in 2016 to further optimise energy management at Deltares. For example, the settings of pumps and boilers were fine tuned so that they only go into operation when they are really needed. Improvements have also been made to the monitoring of spikes in gas consumption so that boilers don’t burn for longer than necessary. We have insulated a large number of components in our central heating system such as pumps and valves, reducing unnecessary heat loss and ensuring that heat is taken faster to where it is needed. Finally, the old transformers have been replaced by new, more efficient installations and the lights in our restaurant have been replaced by new, energy-efficient LED bulbs.

IT4kids

Deltares donated its outdated computer hardware to IT4Kids for the third year in a row. This organisation is an initiative of the IT supplier, the Infotheek Groep. Since 2013, IT4Kids has been supporting organisations and projects that contribute to the development of children, particularly through sports activities. It is estimated that more than 400,000 children in the Netherlands are unable to play sports due to money difficulties. By donating the obsolete ICT equipment through the Infotheel Groep to IT4Kids, Deltares hopes that more children will be able to engage in sports and games.