

Press release

Paris, 08 February 2011

The Granite Tower has become the first skyscraper in France to receive HQE® certification for its construction, operations and use.

Having received **High Quality Environmental (HQE®)** certification for its construction in 2009, at the end of 2010 the Societe Generale group's Granite Tower, located in La Défense, received similar HQE® certification for its **day-to-day running** with a **high performance level**.

Preparing for this certification, in collaboration with building services provider Dalkia, meant meeting two major challenges, complying with Group environmental policy guidelines:

- **limiting the environmental impacts** resulting from the Tower's use (energy consumption, water consumption, waste recycling, etc.),
- **ensuring the comfort** of the 4,000 staff who work in the Granite Tower.

A **performance audit** was carried out based on 14 factors – or “targets” – in four main domains: green construction, green management, comfort and hygiene. This audit, which was carried out by the non-residential building certification body Certivea, revealed a high performance level for the Tower's day-to-day running, with 10 of the 14 targets being rated “**high performance**”.

Beyond the validation of Granite's environmental profile, the audit also highlighted **various positive points** regarding the way the Tower is run and used. It notably emphasised that the **monitoring of the Tower's energy performances** had enabled **consumption to be cut by 25%** between 2009 and 2010.

The first French skyscraper to receive High Quality Environmental certification, the Granite Tower is the first of that business district's sustainable development operations, and was the result of an alliance with players who were majorly involved in the project: architect Christian de Portzamparc, property developer Nexity and construction company Vinci. Societe Generale's firm desire to be innovative in terms of sustainable development led to the idea, back in 2003, of making Granite a pilot project for defining the HQE® benchmark for high-rise buildings.

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Societe Generale

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