

**For immediate release**

## **Koehler Group Commits to a Sustainable Future: Expansion of Renewable Energies in Scotland**

- **Koehler Renewable Energy takes over six hydropower projects in Scotland**
- **Next step towards achieving the 2030 Koehler Promise**
- **Koehler Group already meets over 70% of its electricity demand from sustainable sources**

**Oberkirch, 09/05/2024** - The Koehler Group, a leading manufacturer of specialty paper, has committed to a future-proof and sustainable energy supply. As an energy-intensive company, the Koehler Group recognizes its responsibility to the environment and climate and has been actively involved in renewable energies for over two decades. The company went a step further, setting up Koehler Renewable Energy as a dedicated division over ten years ago. Koehler Renewable Energy has been active in the UK since 2013, initially as part of a joint venture, and also set up its own UK company in September 2021. Koehler recently boosted its presence in the hydroelectric sector in the UK by acquiring all shares in six run-of-river hydropower projects.

### **Pioneer in the Energy Transition**

With its ambitious “2030 Koehler Promise,” the family business is committed to generating more renewable energy from its own facilities than it consumes producing paper by 2030 at the latest. This step demonstrates Koehler Group’s long-term commitment to sustainability. “As a family enterprise, we have a long-term outlook, keeping future generations in mind. We don’t just view sustainability as a fleeting trend, but rather a necessity for our society’s long-term survival,” says Kai Furler, Koehler Group CEO, who realized early on that investing in renewable energy was a key issue for the future.

In 2023, the Koehler Group was already able to generate over 70% of the energy required for its paper production from renewable sources. Building and operating its own power plants is another key element of the strategy to increase this share.

### **Koehler Renewable Energy Bolsters its Presence in the Hydropower Sector in Scotland**

The recent acquisition of Hydro Ludens Holding Limited, which owns six run-of-river power plants in Scotland, represents an important milestone in this strategy. The shares were purchased by Koehler Renewable Energy, while Koehler Renewable Energy UK will be overseeing the asset management for these projects. The six projects are Kelburn Hydro in Ayrshire, Ledard Hydro in Stirlingshire as well as Alt Sidhein, Alt Mhuic, Greenfield Burn and Garaidh Gulaich in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland. This takeover underlines Koehler’s commitment to expanding renewable energies in Scotland and the UK and supports the Koehler Group’s long-term objective of making a positive contribution to climate protection.



*Figure: The six hydroelectric plants in Scotland have a total capacity of 3.5 megawatts. Source: Koehler Group*



### **2030 Sustainability Strategy**

*By operating the hydropower facilities, the Koehler Group is helping to achieve sustainable development goals in the Area of Action "Climate Action". In 2023, the six plants generated around 7500 MWh of renewable energy.*



### **More on Koehler Renewable Energy**

Koehler Renewable Energy has been a subsidiary of the Koehler Group since 2012, with its headquarters in Oberkirch in Southwest Germany. The company is helping to shape the energy transition both in Germany and abroad in a sustainable manner. In collaboration with business partners, numerous projects in the fields of biomass cogeneration, onshore wind power, photovoltaics, and hydropower have already been implemented. There is also a focus on new energy technologies. The experts at Koehler Renewable Energy manage all stages of the value chain: acquisition, planning, development, and smooth long-term operation of installations.

The experienced team has already implemented projects worth a total of several hundred million euros with various partners, generating over 220,000 MWh of electricity in 2023 as well as over 26,000 MWh of heat and over 220,000 metric tons of steam. This means that Koehler Renewable Energy is making a significant contribution to the Koehler Group's sustainability strategy, with the aim of offsetting all the energy required for Koehler Paper's paper manufacturing operations with renewable energy generated from its own installations by no later than 2030. In addition, Koehler Renewable Energy wants to position itself as a full-service provider for industrial power and heat customers, as well as a supplier of energy system solutions based on renewable energy.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehlerrenewableenergy.com>

## About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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