

For immediate release

Koehler Group to Use Power from Its Own Wind Turbines

- **Koehler Renewable Energy signs Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)**
- **Power will be purchased from Koehler's own wind farm in Wetzlar-Blasbach**
- **Next step towards achieving the 2030 Koehler Promise**

Oberkirch, Germany, 03/20/2024—As a manufacturer of specialty paper, Koehler Group is involved in an energy-intensive industry and is keenly aware of its responsibility towards the environment and the climate. With this in mind, the company has been investing in renewable energy generation for over twenty years, setting up a second division of the business, Koehler Renewable Energy, over a decade ago to focus on this area. With the “2030 Koehler Promise”, Koehler Group sets itself the goal of generating more energy from renewable sources with its own facilities than it consumes producing paper by 2030 at the latest.

Sustainable Energy Generation: Koehler Group Focuses on the Production of Renewable Energy

In its current sustainability report, Koehler Group provides detailed information for the first time about its sustainability strategy and the many areas in which it is taking action. “As a family business, our focus is not on quarterly results, but rather on the long term and the generations to come. This means that we do not view sustainability as a trend, but rather as a necessity for our society’s long-term survival.” says Koehler Group CEO Kai Furler, who realized early on that investing in renewable energy was a key issue for the future.

In 2022, the Koehler Group was already able to generate 69.9% of the energy required for its paper production from renewable sources on a balance sheet basis. With a view to increasing this share, Koehler has made building its own power generation facilities part of its sustainability strategy. Several wind farms are currently being constructed, which will also be operated by Koehler after commissioning. After over 10 years of planning and project planning, the company’s first two wind turbines in Germany, with a combined output of 8.4 MW, were completed in February 2024 in the Wetzlar-Blasbach wind farm in Middle Hesse.

Power Purchase Agreement for Wetzlar Wind Farm

In order to use these two wind turbines directly for paper production, the Koehler Group decided to sign a PPA, or Power Purchase Agreement. PPAs are becoming increasingly important in Germany as a tool for expanding the use of renewable energy, for example for funding wind turbines and supplying industrial clients with green energy in the long term.

“Energy is one of the most important tools for business success these days,” underlines Cornelius Schulthess, Corporate Director Energy Supply Management at Koehler Renewable Energy and energy industry

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expert. He goes on to explain: “Companies have various options for improving their carbon footprint, starting from energy efficiency projects through to generating their own renewable energy and associated PPAs. This enables us as a company to gain further independence from the prices on the energy market.” For Koehler, practically speaking, this means that the energy produced in the Wetzlar wind farm is fed into the grid via a service provider and can be directly purchased by the Koehler Group’s German production sites.

Pioneering: More Wind Turbines In the Works

At the start of 2023, after almost five years of planning, approval was granted for a wind farm with five turbines north of Waldeck in North Hesse. The wind farm is due to be commissioned in 2025 and is expected to generate around 70,000 MWh of electricity per year. The same applies for another wind farm with two turbines in Lich in Middle Hesse that is expected to generate around 28,000 MWh of electricity per year. There is also a pipeline of projects with over 100 MW of installed capacity, which are in various early phases of project planning. Above all, Koehler Group would also like to invest in wind turbines in the immediate vicinity of its sites in Baden-Württemberg.

Koehler Renewable Energy is also planning further wind farms in Scotland. An approval application for the wind farm project in Rowancraig, near Sanquhar, was submitted in January. The plan is to implement up to six turbines in the wind farm, with an output of 4–6 MW per turbine, which equates to a maximum output of up to 36 MW.



Figure: The two turbines at the Wetzlar-Blasbach wind farm are now supplying the Koehler Group with electricity generated by wind power for the first time in Germany. / Source: Koehler Group



2030 Sustainability Strategy

By commissioning its Wetzlar-Blasbach wind farm, the Koehler Group is helping to achieve sustainable development goals in the field of environmental protection. The two turbines are expected to produce 23,000 MWh of electricity annually.

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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 268,000 MWh of electricity each year as well as over 23,000 MWh of heat and over 638,000 metric tons of steam (as at June 2022). 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 since 2019. 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 67% in 2022, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.3 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, Koehler 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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