

**For release:** for immediate release

## **Wind Power Project to Supply Green Energy Directly to Koehler Paper Site in Oberkirch**

- **Koehler Renewable Energy planning to erect two wind turbines on Schwend ridge, close to Oberkirch**
- **Powering paper production operations with self-generated green energy will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and secure the long-term future of the site**

**Oberkirch, Germany, 01/28/2025** - Koehler Renewable Energy has taken another important step in its mission to generate more renewable energy from its own facilities than the Koehler Group needs for its paper production operations by 2030. More specifically, its project for directly powering the Koehler Paper site in Oberkirch with self-produced green energy is taking shape: After a detailed analysis, the area on the Schwend ridge between Oberkirch and Kappelrodeck was identified as an ideal site for wind turbines that will be used to power the Oberkirch plant directly. Moreover, a public meeting held by the town council of Oberkirch recently culminated in the decision to allow Koehler Renewable Energy to use the area to set up wind turbines, with the plan being to erect two of them.

### **Energy security and climate-neutral production**

The project will make an important contribution to achieving the Koehler Group's goal of significantly reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its paper production operations while simultaneously ensuring that power comes from a reliable, cost-effective, and regional source. This is where the area on the ridge close to the plant in Oberkirch comes in, as it was designated as a priority area for wind power in the corresponding regional plans. In fact, the general suitability of the site was confirmed in the corresponding preliminary survey with the latter's incorporation into the aforementioned plans. And by directly powering the Koehler Paper plant by connecting the wind turbines directly to it, the company will be making a vital contribution to decarbonizing its production operations while simultaneously boosting the regional creation of value.

"On top of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our paper production operations, the project is focused on using this direct power to make part of the electricity needed for these operations more affordable and to set it at a fixed price for 25 years. Needless to say, this will also have a positive impact by reducing the load on the grid," explains Nicolas Christoph, Corporate Director of Wind Power, Solar, Hydro & Business Development at Koehler Renewable Energy.

Moreover, there have already been talks with the municipality of Kappelrodeck to erect at least one additional wind turbine in the bordering district, which could then power the Lenk paper mill with green energy.

### **An important step for the long-term future of the site**

Given the sharp rise of energy costs in Germany in the past few years, having a reliable source of renewable energy is a key challenge for energy-intensive companies like the Koehler Group. The company needs large amounts of green electricity both to meet its own climate goals and to comply with the requirements set forth by the German government and the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

The planned wind farm will make a decisive contribution to ensuring the long-term future of the site and job security at the Oberkirch site. At the same time, the project is showing how renewable energy can boost the financial stability of individual companies. "Covering our power needs with self-produced green energy will make a crucial contribution to the long-term future of the economy in our region. Additionally, the planned wind farm shows how climate protection can go hand in hand with economic prosperity," Mayor Gregor Bühler underscores.

Projects such as these are extremely important for the city of Oberkirch as it positions itself as an innovative and forward-looking place for people to live in and businesses to thrive. "By boosting our local economy, we're making sure that Oberkirch will continue to be an attractive location for companies and skilled workers in the future," Bühler points out. In addition, the commitment to renewable energy in Oberkirch highlights just how important collaboration between businesses, city governments, and the public is. "The planned Koehler Group wind farm is a prime example of a future-oriented and sustainable development in our region and of how all stakeholders can work together successfully."

**Koehler Renewable Energy GmbH**

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*Figure: At the Oberkirch town council meeting on January 27, 2025, Dr. Stefan Karrer (Koehler Group COO) and Nicolas Christoph (Koehler Renewable Energy Corporate Director of Wind Power, Solar, Hydro & Business Development) presented the plans for the wind project on the Schwend ridge.*

*Source: Koehler Group*

For more information, please visit: [www.windpark-schwend.de](http://www.windpark-schwend.de)



### **2030 Sustainability Strategy**

*With its planned wind power project on the Schwend ridge, the Koehler Group is helping to achieve sustainable development goals in the Area of Action "Climate Action".*

## About 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 267,000 MWh of electricity in 2023 as well as over 26,000 MWh of heat and over 431,000 MWh 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, carbonless 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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