

**Joint press release by the City of Wetzlar and the Koehler Group**

For immediate release

**Koehler Renewable Energy and City of Wetzlar: Wind farm project in Blasbach to continue**

- **Kassel Higher Administrative Court overturns decision by Gießen administrative court in summary proceeding**
- **Great strides made in wind farm project in Blasbach, Germany**
- **Initial clearing work already in preparation**

**Oberkirch, Germany, 02/07/2022** – Koehler Renewable Energy is currently working on multiple wind power projects in Hesse through a joint venture and already has the required permit for its wind farm project in Blasbach. However, this permit was temporarily put on hold due to a decision made by the Gießen administrative court – the court of first instance in this case – on May 17, 2021. The Kassel Higher Administrative Court overturned this decision in a summary proceeding last Friday.

Koehler Renewable Energy Corporate Director Nicolas Christoph had the following to say: “We’re extremely happy about the decision made by the higher administrative court and will now be able to continue working on our wind farm project in Blasbach.” The joint venture is making great strides in its wind farm project, and the current focus is on determining the timeframe for the initial clearing work in order to get ready for building. On top of this, discussions with the Volksbank Mittelhessen credit union to finalize the corresponding project financing have resumed.

Norbert Kortlüke, the head of the Environmental Department of the City of Wetzlar, was happy with the Kassel Higher Administrative Court’s decision: “It’s great that we are now clear on the legality of expanding wind power in Wetzlar-Blasbach and that we’ll soon be seeing wind turbines being built.”

Project partner Green City AG filed an insolvency petition last week. However, as a majority shareholder, Koehler Renewable Energy will continue with the aforementioned wind farm project regardless of the developments concerning Green City AG. Green City AG also has a positive outlook, and wants to continue with its involvement in these projects in close consultation with the temporary insolvency administrator.

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*Figure: Koehler Renewable Energy's headquarters in Oberkirch / Source: Koehler Group*

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### **More about Koehler Renewable Energy**

Koehler Renewable Energy (KRE) has existed since 2012 as a subsidiary of the Koehler Group. Since then, it has implemented numerous projects in the area of wind energy, photovoltaics, hydroelectric power, and cogeneration. KRE's experts manage all stages of the value chain: acquisition, planning, development and smooth long-term operation are guaranteed thanks to the employees' many years of expertise.

In the coming years, KRE aims to achieve continued growth. The experienced team has already implemented projects worth a total of several hundred million euros with various partners, generating over 320,000 MWh of electricity each year as well as over 545,000 MWh of heat and over 780,000 tonnes of steam (as at: November 2020). Koehler Renewable Energy also makes an important contribution to the Koehler Paper's sustainability strategy with the objective of using 100% renewable energy by the year 2030.

The company is based in Southwest Germany. KRE plans and operates projects in Germany and abroad.

More information at: <https://www.koehlerenergy.com>

### **More about the Koehler Group**

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run to this day. The Group's core area of business is the development and production of high-quality, specialty paper, including thermal paper, playing card board, drink coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and, since 2019, innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry, too. In Germany, the Koehler Group, with its around 2,500 employees, has five production sites, as well as three more in the USA. The Group operates on an international level, with an export ratio of 70% in 2020 and annual revenue of about 800 million euro.

As an energy-intensive enterprise, Koehler invests with its unit Koehler Renewable Energy in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydroelectric power, photovoltaics, and biomass. The Koehler Group has committed itself to producing more energy from renewable sources than is needed for paper production by 2030.

With the business unit Koehler Innovative Solutions, Koehler is also developing new business areas that are outside its core business of specialty paper production and energy generation.

More information is available here: <https://www.koehler.com>

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