

For immediate release

Wind Farm Wetzlar-Blasbach Goes Live: Milestone for Sustainable Energy Generation

- **Koehler Renewable Energy commissions two wind turbines**
- **Total electricity yield of around 23,000 MWh**
- **More German wind farm projects in the pipeline**

Oberkirch, 02/23/2024 – Koehler Renewable Energy, part of the Koehler Group and a leading renewable energy company, is delighted to announce that the new wind farm Wetzlar-Blasbach is now up and running. This marks a major milestone in the company’s mission to promote sustainable energy and to contribute to environmental protection in Germany. Planning work for the wind farm began way back in 2012. It was given final approval after 10 years, and construction work began that same year. The Wetzlar-Blasbach wind farm consists of two cutting-edge Vestas V150 turbines with a total output of 8.4 megawatts. This means the wind farm is expected to produce 23,000 MWh of electricity, roughly equivalent to the annual power consumption of 9,000 average 2-person households in Germany.

Koehler Renewable Energy Accelerates Energy Transition in Germany

“The commissioning of the Wetzlar-Blasbach wind farm is an important step both for us as a company and for the region,” says Nicolas Christoph, Corporate Director for Wind, Hydro, and Solar at Koehler Renewable Energy. “By reaching this milestone, we are actively helping to achieve the Koehler Group’s climate goals and reducing dependency on fossil fuels. This wind farm is the result of exceptional collaboration between the city of Wetzlar and us as the project developer and wind farm operator,” adds Nicolas Christoph.

The Koehler Group has been addressing the issue of renewable energy generation for many years now, and with the 2030 Koehler Promise, has set the goal of producing more renewable energy with its own plants than is required for its paper production. “We are looking to the future full of optimism and will continue to work on developing and implementing projects that drive forward the transition to renewable energy. We are now reaping the rewards of our long-term vision, as we began investing extensively in renewable energy as far back as 2012, when we founded Koehler Renewable Energy,” explains Kai Furler, CEO of the Koehler Group.

Koehler Holding SE & Co. KG

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City of Wetzlar Backs Wind Power

The implementation of the wind farm is also an important part of the city of Wetzlar's climate protection plan. "We want to reach net zero emissions by 2035, with the exception of energy-intensive industry, and are backing wind power among other things to achieve this," explains Manfred Wagner, Mayor of Wetzlar. "When it came to the construction of the wind turbine, we decided to team up with Koehler Renewable Energy because we wanted a partner by our side who could deliver everything under one roof, from project planning to running the turbines. Even though we had to navigate a few highs and lows along the way, we overcame all of the challenges by working together, and we have now finally got the project over the finish line. I am very proud of this," stresses Mayor Wagner.

Approval Granted for More Wind Farms in Hesse

Koehler Renewable Energy is actively preparing to build two more wind farms in Germany. After almost five years of planning, the green light was given at the start of this year for a wind farm with a further five turbines north of Waldeck in North Hesse. This wind farm is scheduled to go live in 2025. It is expected to generate around 65,000 MWh of electricity per year. A wind farm consisting of two turbines in Lich in Middle Hesse has been given the go-ahead too; it is also expected to start operating in 2025 and is forecast to generate around 28,000 MWh of electricity annually.



Figure: The two turbines at the Wind Farm Wetzlar-Blasbach 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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