

**For immediate release**

## **Koehler Paper Signs Up to the Thuringia Sustainability Agreement and Contributes to Making Thuringia a More Sustainable Business Location**

- **Koehler Paper Signs Up to the Thuringia Sustainability Agreement**
- **Alliance Between the Government of the State of Thuringia and Companies in the Region**
- **Comprehensive CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Measures Already Initiated**

**Oberkirch/Germany, 2/21/2023** – Koehler Paper, member of the Koehler Group, has a history stretching back over 210 years. Today, with a turnover of around EUR 1 billion, it is one of the few remaining independent German family companies in the paper industry. This long history is also reflected in the company's approach to decision-making, which is based on a long-term, sustainable perspective. The company has now taken a further step towards achieving its visionary sustainability goals by signing up to the Thuringia Sustainability Agreement, an alliance between the Government of the State of Thuringia and companies in the region.

### **Comprehensive CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Measures Already Initiated**

As a trailblazer in the field of climate protection, Koehler Paper has set for itself the goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2030 in comparison to 2020. This corresponds to about 360,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. In order to achieve these ambitious goals, a comprehensive set of measures has already been initiated. For example, Koehler Paper is fully converting the combined heat and power plant at its site in Greiz to run on fine wood fraction rather than lignite. The converted power station is due to be put into operation in the coming weeks. Switching fuels will enable savings of more than 24,000 metric tons of carbon emissions per year at the Greiz site. The Koehler Group has invested around EUR 7.6 million in sustainable upgrades to this site in the federal state of Thuringia. It is just one example of the range of decarbonization measures being implemented by the Koehler Group.

### **Koehler Paper Signs Up to the Thuringia Sustainability Agreement**

The company has now taken a further step towards achieving its visionary goals by signing up to the Thuringia Sustainability Agreement, an alliance between the Government of the State of Thuringia and companies in the region. This alliance brings together politicians, public services, and businesses around issues relating to climate and environmental protection, resource efficiency, energy efficiency, and social sustainability. Koehler is hoping that this network for sustainable management will allow the partners to mutually support each other in achieving their policy and business objectives in relation to climate protection.

**Koehler Holding SE & Co. KG**

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## A Company with A Long Tradition Setting Itself Up for the Future

The art of paper-making has been going on in Greiz for more than 400 years. Koehler is transforming this tradition into a sustainable operation through innovation and a sustainable approach. High-quality packaging solutions are now being produced using the premium recycled paper from Koehler Paper, which is manufactured at the site in Thuringia. The paper, made from 100% secondary fiber material, not only boasts the “Blue Angel” and EU ecolabel, but also stands out thanks to its quality, natural feel, and vibrant color.

There is increasing demand for sustainable packaging solutions from the market and consumers, which has meant that Koehler Paper’s product range has been continuously expanded in recent years. “We see ourselves as a technology driver. We’re always on the lookout for alternative raw materials and effective resources that can be used for paper production,” says Udo Hollbach, managing director of the Koehler Paper Greiz site. “Using silphie fibers in combination with wastepaper is another great solution for pushing a circular economy when it comes to packaging, for example,” Hollbach adds.



*Figure: Koehler Paper receives the certificate of accession to the Sustainability Agreement Thuringia / From left: Grit Booth, Head of Office Sustainability Agreement Thuringia, Frank Häberlein, Head of Power Plant Koehler Paper Site Greiz, Udo Hollbach, Managing Director Koehler Paper Site Greiz, Patrick Haß, Operations Engineering Koehler Paper Site Greiz, Steffi Keil, Head of Innovation and Environment, IHK Ostthüringen zu Gera, Ulrich Mallon, Head of Technology Quality Assurance, Alexander Stöckle, Press Spokesperson Koehler Group and Antje Rühling, Sales Consultant Koehler Paper Site Greiz / Source: Koehler Group*

## 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, drinks coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation papers, and also innovative specialty papers 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 70% in 2021, and brings in an annual turnover of around 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.

In addition, with its Koehler Innovative Solutions business unit, Koehler is dedicated to developing new business areas outside of special paper production and energy production.

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

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