

For immediate release

Stoppage for overhaul works at the Kehl biomass combined heat and power plant—Koehler Renewable Energy invests EUR 10 million

- **B E B Bio Energie Baden at the Kehl site is being upgraded to use additional fuels in the future so as to implement a circular economy at the site**
- **First partial implementation in 2022, completion in 2023**

Oberkirch, Germany, 11/24/2022 – B E B Bio Energie Baden GmbH owns and operates two biomass combined heat and power plants fueled by waste wood at the Kehl site. These generate electricity and process steam at the same time through combined heat and power technology. After 20 years of supplying energy back to the public grid under the German Renewable Energy Act (Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz, [EEG]), Block I of the combined heat and power plant is now set to lose its entitlement to the EEG payments. Accordingly, 10 million euros are being invested into Block I of B E B Bio Energie Baden post-EEG.

Regular maintenance measures are essential in power plants. However, the majority of such work requires a shutdown of the plant or individual plant components. The same is true of the planned upgrade to the biomass combined heat and power plant in Kehl. As the measures are too extensive for a single overhaul session, the work will be carried out in two phases. The first partial implementation will be carried out in October/November 2022, and a second in 2023 with the aim of using additional fuels.

Block I of the biomass combined heat and power plant in Kehl is currently being fueled exclusively with waste wood. However, in order to make it possible to achieve the circular economy and synergistic effect goals set by the Koehler Group, the objective is to make it possible to use new fuels such as sewage sludge and paper mill sludge to also be used in the future. The Koehler Group is planning to fully convert the power plant at its Oberkirch location to biomass by 2024. In the future, the energy required for paper production will therefore be produced exclusively from chips, green waste, and mill residue. This means that starting in 2024, it will be possible to take fuels that can no longer be used, such as sewage sludge and waste from paper production in the form of paper mill sludge, and instead use them in the biomass combined heat and power plant in Kehl. In addition, flue gases produced in the biomass combined heat and power plant at the Kehl site are used to produce calcium carbonates (PCC). This ensures that the circle will close within the Koehler Group: The by-products from paper production will be used by the company to generate its own energy, while the flue gases produced will be the basis used to produce PCC, which is an important raw material for paper production operations at the Koehler Paper Kehl site.

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Figure: The two biomass combined heat and power plants supply process steam to the paper production processes at the Koehler Paper site in Kehl. / Image rights: Koehler Group

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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>

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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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