

**For immediate release**

**Preparations for the start of power plant conversion construction at Koehler Paper Greiz location**

- **Investment of 6.5 million euros in sustainable fuel at Koehler Paper location in Greiz**
- **Start of preparation work for construction**
- **Commissioning of expansion scheduled for the end of 2022**

**Greiz, 01/27/2022** – Koehler Paper, a Koehler Group company, is converting the power plant at its production location in Greiz from pulverized lignite to fine wood fraction fuel. The experts at Koehler Renewable Energy, which is also part of the Koehler Group, have succeeded in developing an innovative technique that makes it possible for a type of biomass to be used as fuel in the existing coal-fired power plant in a completely new way. The converted plant is scheduled to be commissioned at the end of 2022, and preparation steps for the start of construction in Greiz have already been taken.

The conversion project is part of Koehler's sustainability strategy, as the Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations. Udo Hollbach, CEO of the Koehler Paper site in Greiz, is delighted about the conversion: "Switching from lignite to fine wood fraction will allow us to save more than 24,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year at the Greiz plant." With an investment of 6.5 million euros in this power plant conversion, the company is once again highlighting the fact that its focus on sustainability does not begin and end with sustainable products. "We're very happy to be able to kick off the construction phase with the corresponding preliminary work," Hollbach continues.

**Construction steps and planned completion**

Structural and engineering measures need to be taken and extra silos purchased so the new fuel can be used in the existing heat and power plant. The preparation work, such as setting up the work site and building the site road for the planned construction, is currently proceeding full speed ahead at the Koehler Paper Greiz location. One of the next steps is a slope removal stage that will include the corresponding rock removal and make it possible to start the actual construction work. The plan is to complete the structural changes at the plant by the end of the year.

**A significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> and sulfur emissions**

The paper processing and drying processes require enormous amounts of energy, which is why the company decided to build its own power plant at the Koehler Paper Greiz location all the way back in 2010. It has a rated thermal input of 16.7 MW and generates up to 19 metric tons of steam according to demand, as well as electricity to supply the production plant. Pulverized lignite has been used as the fuel until now,

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but this is set to change by the end of the year with the aforementioned conversion. Sieved fine wood fraction from wood processing and wood preparation are to be used as the new fuel. In addition to reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, this will result in significantly lower sulfur emissions in comparison to pulverized lignite.



*Preparations for the start of construction of the power plant conversion at the Koehler Paper site in Greiz have begun.*

*People: Alexander Schulze (Mayor of Greiz, 4th from left), Kai Dittmann (1st Deputy District Administrator in the Greiz district, 2nd from left), Udo Hollbach (Managing Director Koehler Paper location Greiz, 6th from right) and Holger Palm (Plant Management Koehler Paper location Greiz, 2nd from right) inspected the preparations for the power plant conversion in the open air, even without a great distance.*

*Image rights: Koehler Paper*

## 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 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 has international operations, with exports of over 70% in 2020 and annual revenue of 770 million euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics and biomass. The Koehler Group has set itself the goal of producing more energy from renewable sources than it needs for its paper production operations by 2030.

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

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