

For immediate release

Wind Power on the Schwend Ridge – Koehler Renewable Energy Engages in Open Dialogue with Citizens and Provides Full Disclosure of Information

- **The public’s concerns are being taken seriously and Koehler Renewable Energy is redoubling its efforts to address them**
- **Widespread misinformation with no basis in science creates worries among the public**
- **Wind farm will boost the local economy, ensure job security, and contribute to the regional value creation**

Oberkirch, 04/16/2025 – For the Koehler Group, its planned wind farm on the Schwend ridge is an investment in the future. It will not only boost the competitiveness of regional paper production, guaranteeing job security for current and future generations, but will also make an important contribution to sustainable energy production.

From the get-go, the company has decided that full transparency and dialogue with the public are the way to go. “We take the concerns and apprehension of every single member of the public very seriously, and the petition for a referendum has of course made them loud and clear. For a few weeks now, there have been increasing rumors and assertions that have no basis in science and that are making people worried about things that aren’t true,” says Nicolas Christoph, Corporate Director of Wind Power, Solar, Hydro & Business Development at Koehler Renewable Energy. This is why Koehler Renewable Energy, while fully respecting the outcome of the legal review of the submitted documents and any process that might follow, is providing full and transparent disclosure of information for the project and the topic of wind power through a variety of channels, including expanding its dialogue with the public. On top of this, the company has already started to look for openings for direct conversation with all Schwend residents so that their individual questions can all be answered. It ultimately goes without saying that the company believes that taking the public seriously and engaging in dialogue is the only way to identify conflicts early on and find solutions that are acceptable to everyone.

Sustainable power production and climate protection

With an annual output of more than 15,000 MWh per wind turbine, the wind farm will make an invaluable contribution to Germany’s Energy Transition. The power produced this way will not only be environmentally friendly but will be used to directly supply the paper mill at the Oberkirch site and significantly reduce CO₂ emissions. It will also help with the Koehler Group’s project of generating more renewable energy with its own plants than required for the production of its paper by 2030. The company is also leaving open the option of expanding the wind farm with additional wind turbines with the approval of and in cooperation with the surrounding communities.

Regional value creation and a boost to the economy

The wind farm on the Schwend ridge should make a crucial contribution to the value that is created regionally. Local paper production will become less dependent on rising energy costs, ensuring the aforementioned job security for current and future generations. Not only this, but as one of the biggest sources of business tax in the town of Oberkirch, the Koehler Group plays a vital role in keeping the town financially healthy, which is something that the company is very proud of. And on top of this business tax, the project will result in annual lease revenue of over 200,000 euros for the community budget, which corresponds to a total of more than five million euros over the life of the project.



Figure: The planned wind farm on the Schwend ridge is intended to produce green power for the Koehler Group mill at its Oberkirch site

Source: Koehler Group

For more information, please visit: www.windpark-schwend.de



2030 Sustainability Strategy

With its planned wind power project on the Schwend ridge, the Koehler Group is helping to achieve sustainable development goals in the Area of Action "Climate Action".

About 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 267,000 MWh of electricity in 2023 as well as over 26,000 MWh of heat and over 431,000 metric tons of steam. 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, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. 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 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 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.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group 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>



Your contact person:

Alexander M. Stöckle

Koehler Group press contact

Phone: +49 7802 81-4749

E-mail: alexander.stoeckle@koehler.com

Koehler Renewable Energy GmbH

Hauptstraße 2-4 · D-77704 Oberkirch · Telefon +49 7802 81-0 · Fax +49 7802 81-4330 · www.koehlerenergy.com
Bankverbindung: Deutsche Bank AG, Offenburg · BIC DEUTDE6F664 · IBAN DE57 6647 0035 0070 5111 00