For immediate release

The Koehler Group Continues to Drive Sustainable Development Forward: New Sustainability Report Published

- **The Koehler Group takes a look back at a challenging 2025**
- **Progress status of sustainability objectives documented**
- **Extensive sustainability measures successfully implemented**

Oberkirch, Germany, 08/04/2026 – The Koehler Group remains on track towards sustainable development. The company's new sustainability report for the 2025 reporting year clearly shows that despite challenging conditions, the family business is continuing to pursue its sustainability strategy with the same consistency and systematic approach as before. The report provides a transparent look at the progress made in the company's defined objectives for 2030 and clearly illustrates key developments in the strategy's six Areas of Action. "In an environment like the one we have right now, where macroeconomic conditions are anything but great, you can really see the things that make a family business like ours work: cohesion, resolve, and the will to lay the right foundation for tomorrow today. That's where our sustainability strategy comes in: with clearly defined objectives, measurable KPIs, and specific projects," explains Kai Furler, Koehler Group CEO.

Innovation as a Driver of Growth

A key area of focus for the reporting year was the development of future-proof products. More specifically, Koehler Paper, a Koehler Group company, is offering an alternative to plastic packaging in the form of its flexible packaging paper products. These innovative offerings are recyclable, can contribute to reducing CO_2 emissions, and can help customers improve their environmental footprint.

At the same time, the company continues to focus on increasing transparency in regard to its products: For the first time ever, product environmental footprints were prepared for products made at the company's Oberkirch mill as well. In turn, these indicators provide a solid basis for assessing environmental impacts over a product's entire lifecycle.

Strengthened Climate Protection

With the "Langer Wald" wind farm going online, the company's own renewable energy production capabilities continue to grow – an important step towards keeping the Koehler promise of generating, on an annual basis, more energy from renewable sources than is required for its paper production operations by 2030. And progress is well underway, with more than 98% of that promise fulfilled in 2025 already.

In addition, the Koehler Group's climate targets were validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). This means that these targets are not only scientifically sound and measurable, but also systematically aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Efficiency, Resources, and Supply Chains in Focus

Innovative technologies, such as a heat recovery system retrofitted on a coating machine at the Koehler Paper mill in Kehl, Germany, are helping improve energy efficiency and cut emissions. And at the same time, the company is strengthening its own supply chains, with its virgin fibers originating 100% from sustainable forestry and controlled sources today already.

In addition to environmental issues, people continue to be an absolutely vital success factor, and this is reflected in the company's targeted investments in training, apprenticeships, and continuing professional development. In fact, the two targets set in this regard – a training rate of 4% and more than 25 advanced training hours a year per employee – were exceeded in 2025 already. This is complemented by the Koehler Group's efforts in the area of work–life improvements, with a prime example being the company's own new Gretel-Furler daycare center close to its headquarters in Oberkirch.

Challenges Turned Into Incentives

The report is also transparent about objectives in which the Koehler Group still needs to catch up. A large part of this is due to adverse economic factors, such as high industrial electricity rates, that represent significant headwinds for energy-intensive companies. The Koehler Group is tackling these challenges by systematically expanding its own sources of renewable energy while simultaneously calling for consistent and predictable political conditions that will enable Germany to continue being a competitive industrial hub.

The new sustainability report makes one thing clear: Sustainability is not a one-off project at the Koehler Group, but rather an integral part of the company's evolution – today and in the future. This is corroborated by the fact that the company has once again been awarded the EcoVadis platinum medal, which puts the Koehler Group in the best one percent of all rated companies across the globe.

Figure: With its fifth sustainability report, the Koehler Group is documenting its progress in the central Areas of Action of its sustainability strategy. Source: Koehler Group

About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run to this day. The Group's core area of business is the development and production of high-quality, specialty paper, including thermal paper, playing card board, drink coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry, too. In Germany, the Koehler Group, with its around 2,500 employees, has five production sites, as well as three more in the USA. The Group operates on an international level, with an export ratio of about 70% in 2024 and annual revenue of 1.1 billion euro.

As an energy-intensive enterprise, Koehler invests with its unit Koehler Renewable Energy in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydroelectric power, photovoltaics, and biomass. The Koehler Group has committed itself to producing more energy from renewable sources than is needed for paper production by 2030.

With the business unit Koehler Innovative Solutions, Koehler collaborates with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business areas of paper and renewable energy.

More information is available here: https://www.koehler.com

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