

**For immediate release**

**Thuringia's Minister for Economic Affairs Boos-John Visits Koehler Paper in Greiz**

- **The Minister of the Environment, Climate Protection, and Energy welcomed the Koehler Group's ambitious environmental and climate strategy**
- **Politics and business come together to discuss energy and climate strategy**
- **Obstacles to local wind farm projects in Thuringia**

**Oberkirch, Germany, 07/01/2025** - Colette Boos-John (CDU), Thuringia's Minister for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Areas, recently paid a visit to Koehler Paper's site in Greiz. Together with Dr. Ulli Schäfer, Chief Administrative Officer (Landrat) of the Greiz district, and Peter Höhne, Managing Director of the IHK Ostthüringen Gera Chamber of Industry and Commerce, she took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the company's climate strategy on the occasion of a forum held by IHK Ostthüringen Gera. During the conversation, she also inquired about the obstacles in the way of local wind farm projects in Thuringia.

**The Minister of the Environment, Climate Protection, and Energy welcomed the Koehler Group's ambitious environmental and climate strategy**

Minister Colette Boos-John was impressed by the family business' ability to adapt and transform: "It's thrilling to see how a family-owned company is really driving the transition to a climate-friendly future, especially in the way it's pursuing greater independence when it comes to meeting its own power needs." During the discussion, all parties agreed that energy prices need to be competitive if production is to be kept in Germany. Udo Hollbach, the Managing Director of the Koehler Paper Greiz mill, clarified that energy prices are a powerful lever that can be used to noticeably improve the German industry's situation and ensure job security.

**Politics and business come together to discuss energy and climate strategy**

The company's management explicitly mentioned that there is a concrete need for action at the political level. Udo Hollbach, Managing Director of the Koehler Paper site Greiz, had the following to say: "As a business, we need planning reliability. When it comes to the self-supply of green energy within the industry, as is being called for by politicians, we are facing immense challenges here in Greiz. Converting the power plant at Koehler's site in Thuringia to fine wood fraction will save more than 24,000 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, and represents another step towards achieving the goals set out in the Koehler Group's Climate Strategy.

## Obstacles to local wind farm projects in Thuringia

The Koehler Group has been involved with wind farm projects in the immediate vicinity of the Greiz site in Thuringia for some time now. Designating and obtaining approval for potential areas for further wind turbines are among the obstacles faced at Koehler Paper's Greiz site. Generating local green electricity is essential for securing the location's long-term future. After all, as a family business, the Koehler Group has always thought in terms of generations, rather than quarters.



*Figure: Thuringia's Minister for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Areas Colette Boos-John (CDU) visiting Koehler Paper's site in Greiz in order to learn more about the company's climate strategy. From left to right: Peter Höhne (Managing Director IHK Ostthüringen zu Gera), Udo Hollbach (Managing Director Koehler Paper Greiz site), Colette Boos-John (Thuringia's Minister for Economics, Agriculture and Rural Areas), Lars-Helge Peters (Plant Manager Koehler Paper Greiz site) and Dr. Ulli Schäfer (District Administrator Greiz).*

Source: Koehler Group



**2030 Sustainability Strategy**

*With its climate strategy, the Koehler Group is helping achieve sustainable development goals in the area of climate and environmental protection. The climate strategy roadmap sets out how the company plans to fully replace fossil fuels with renewable energy.*

## 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, carbon-less 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>

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