

P r e s s I n f o r m a t i o n

WOLLSDORF LEADER is the First CO₂-Neutral Tannery in Austria

The environment has always been and continues to be an important issue for WOLLSDORF LEADER. Optimal usage of resources such as water, energy and other raw materials as well as environmental compatibility of all processes within the company are of utmost importance to the company, and many projects have been realised in recent years in order to make Wollsdorf Leder locations more sustainable.

Water consumption was reduced in recent years through various production optimisations and is now significantly below the benchmark of the leather industry.

Energy consumption was also significantly reduced in recent years for the produced quantity, resulting in a total annual saving of nearly 1 gigawatt hour of electricity. The company's CO₂ emissions were even lowered to 50% below the benchmark of the leather industry by only using renewable energies such as water and wind.

The remaining emissions are neutralised with the purchase of climate certificates, which are used for climate protection projects in the rain forest. Thus, WOLLSDORF LEADER is CO₂-neutral at the Wollsdorf location!

“For years we have used various measures in our work to reduce our ecological footprint as much as possible,” said the managing director of WOLLSDORF LEADER, **Mag. Andreas Kindermann**. “We are therefore delighted to be the first tannery in Austria to claim CO₂-neutrality for our production process,” added Mag. Andreas Kindermann.

In the next years, planned projects will again save approximately 3.5 gigawatt hours (amounts to 10% of our energy needs).

Wollsdorf, in February 2016

Figures and facts for the sustainability of **WOLLSDORF LEDER**

Water:

Water is an important auxiliary agent for tanning and is used in large quantities. Approximately 1.500 m³ of water is taken from the Raab on a daily basis for production purposes, cleaned and fed back into the river. WOLLSDORF LEDER's consumption is approximately 40% below the benchmark of the BPE (EU requirement).

Energy:

As the second tannery worldwide, WOLLSDORF LEDER received the ECO₂L label (Energy Controlled Leather) in **2012**, the first calculation and auditing model for determining the energy efficiency and CO₂ emissions of tanneries worldwide. This award affirms that WOLLSDORF LEDER is a pioneer in energy efficiency. The company is approximately 50% below the industry benchmark!

In **2013**, the entire energy consumption of WOLLSDORF LEDER was exclusively converted to natural resources (wind and water).

2014 Introduction of optimised desulphidation (desulphurisation of wastewater through a chemical process), reducing energy consumption and improving odour emissions

2015 Conversion of the first drying facility from steam to infrared, a completely new technology in the leather production

Moreover, cooling facilities were energy-optimised this year in production. Projects with a total energy saving of approx. 1 GWh per year were realised in 2015.

The Wollsdorf location will be CO₂-netural in 2016 on account of the purchase and protection of rain forests in Costa Rica.

Furthermore, energy conservation projects are envisaged for 2016 that will save approximately 3.5 GWh, which corresponds to approximately 10% of the annual energy needs of WOLLSDORF LEDER.

Raw materials:

Glue-leather processing began in **2013**, which provides a base material for the production of biodiesel.

Emissions:

2012 Award for WOLLSDORF LEDER from Waterland Styria in the category water protection. Further improvements and optimisations in water purification are constantly being implemented at the company's water treatment facility.

Facilities for odour absorption were commissioned in **2015**.

2016 Introduction of an action plan with government authorities for further improving odour emissions – being realised presently

**Project “Rain Forest” to be supported by
WOLLSDORF LEDER:**

The Austrians' Rainforest Association, founded in 1991 by the Viennese musician Michael Schnitzler is dedicated to the preservation of the endangered rain forests of Costa Rica.

Meanwhile the project also incorporates re-forestation of cleared areas, hiring of gamekeepers, protection of wildcats, sustainable tourism and tropical research based on the purchase of 40 km² of rain forest and its integration in a national park.

Projects are financed entirely through donations.

More information at www.regenwald.at