

Feldkirchen bei Graz, 30/10/2018

PRESS INFORMATION

Best Practice: EU Environment Ministers on an excursion to Saubermacher

As part of the informal meeting of the Council of Environment Ministers in Graz, the EU delegations came this afternoon to the showcase business in Styria, recently voted the world's most sustainable waste disposal company, to inform themselves about innovative processing operations and digital solutions in the recycling business. A guided tour of the high-tech sorting plant for lightweight packaging materials was accompanied by a presentation by the Saubermacher team of its treatment plant for lithium-ion batteries, its 'wastebbox' online platform and its latest Smart Waste projects, including intelligent refuse containers, all developed in-house.

Mission Possible. Under conditions of very tight security, this trip to Graz by the EU Environment Ministers and their delegations included a visit to Saubermacher's operational site on Puchstrasse. The focal point of the company presentation was its contribution to achievement of the objectives of the EU Life-Cycle Resource Management package. Ralf Mittermayr, CEO and Board of Management spokesperson of Saubermacher AG phrased it like this: "We are on a good path, one involving the raising of public awareness to achieve accurate segregation of waste materials through transparency and direct communication with local residents, achieving reductions in CO₂ emissions through smart logistics and innovative business models and through accomplishing higher proportions of recycled materials and new processing plants for Future Waste". "Recycling management is not an abstract concept. Valuable resources should be used responsibly and efficiently. Today's correctly separated waste can thus become tomorrow's raw materials. This affects us all – each and every one of us can make a valuable contribution. Saubermacher are leading the way in waste management right across Europe, and as Environment Minister, I am delighted to be acknowledging the achievements of this

kind of company in the context of the informal Environment Council,” said Minister for Sustainability and Tourism Elisabeth Köstinger.

Let’s do it together. This company views it as a civic responsibility to work towards an environment fit for life, and is committed to the EU’s environmental objectives. With its vision of Zero Waste, the company is actually going one step further and is pursuing the goal of leaving no waste behind whatsoever. The idea being to process all waste materials in such a way that they can be managed within a (virtually infinite) cycle. “Together, we can master the challenges”, stated Hans Roth, the founder and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Saubermacher AG, convinced that the Life-Cycle Resource Management package is achievable. From a Saubermacher perspective, collaboration between public and private sectors has an important role to play here. With 21 Public Private Partnerships in Central Europe (including with the city of Graz), the company is also leading the way in this field.

During their guided tours, the EU delegations visited the following ‘stations’:

- *STATION 1: Sorting plant for lightweight packaging waste*

The automatic plastics sorting plant annually processes around 31,000 tons of packaging waste. The main task here is to segregate lightweight packaging waste from aluminium cans and tetra-pack beverage cartons. Various technologies are used in this, such as infra-red and colour recognition devices, air separators etc. To achieve the perfect level of grade purity essential for recycling, manual sorting is also involved. With an investment of €2 million in May 2018, the proportion of materials recycled was increased to about 45%. A further 45% of the output materials were processed into substitute fuels.

- *STATION 2: wastebox - The simplest way to dispose of waste.*

wastebox.biz is an online platform that is revolutionising construction site waste disposal and it offers transparency at the press of a button. Through the intelligent net

- working of companies and waste-disposal businesses in real-time, logistics are optimised and CO₂ emission levels are cut by up to 20%. This business model has grown in almost no time at all into the biggest construction site waste disposal scheme in Austria, without owning a single vehicle itself. This same platform is currently being rolled out with local partners in various European countries.

- *STATION 3: Smart Waste*
With high-tech sensors in refuse containers, scanners in refuse collection vehicles to detect valuable materials and with the 'Daheim' [At Home] service app, a new level of communication is possible between local residents and waste management businesses. This higher level of transparency coupled with direct communication is improving refuse segregation behaviour in a sustained and enduring manner, for example by reducing the proportion of residual waste by up to 30%. At the same time, new and individual environmental services become possible, e.g. the automatically prompted, needs-based emptying of individual domestic waste bins. 'Smart logistics' are reducing CO₂ emissions and transport density. At present, this scheme is undergoing trials in three municipalities. In the commercial sector, a pilot project will be getting launched in November 2018.

- *STATION 4: Future Waste - Sustainable recycling of lithium-ion batteries*
Saubermacher worked with its subsidiary REDUX to develop its own processes and technology. This plant achieves recycling levels of up to 70%, which positions it up to 40% above legally required target levels. REDUX is a global leader in the recycling of batteries. This zero-emissions plant has an annual capacity of 20,000 tons. Which means that the plant is perfectly equipped for the volumes of waste that will arise in future. The plant opened in June 2018.

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Saubermacher

für eine lebenswerte Umwelt



Best Practice: EU Environment Ministers on an excursion to Saubermacher, photo credit: Saubermacher

More photos can be found on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/saubermacher/>

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About Saubermacher

Saubermacher AG is an international disposal and recycling company based in Feldkirchen, near Graz. The family company was founded in 1979 by Hans and Margret Roth and is a competent partner for approx. 1600 municipalities and over 42,000 businesses. The company currently employs a workforce of more than 3100 people in six countries. Saubermacher is the most sustainable company in the world: Sensationally, in the Sustainability Evaluation conducted by GRESB*, Saubermacher achieved 1st place (96 percent, and 280 companies worldwide took part). With its Zero Waste vision, the company is pursuing its aim of processing all waste materials to such a point that ever increasing proportions of the original material can be recycled.

Furthermore, Saubermacher is a partner in 21 Public Private Partnerships in Central Europe (including Graz, the second largest city in Austria), it is the global leader in the recycling of (lithium-ion) batteries and, with its digital innovations such as 'wastebbox', its service app 'Daheim' [At Home] and its Smart Waste concept, it is continuously extending its market position as 'Leader in Waste Intelligence'. Further information can be found at www.saubermacher.at.

Please address any questions you may have to:

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