



BAUER IN VOITSBERG IS NOW ELECTRICITY-INDEPENDENT

Over the past four years, the Styrian agricultural machinery manufacturer Bauer has completely renovated the company headquarters in Voitsberg from a thermal perspective and has also

installed a 2.3 megawatt photovoltaic system. As of now, Bauer is electricity-independent at the Voitsberg site. A total of 12 million euros were invested in the renovation. The advantages are clear: The company is lowering

its energy needs and thereby reducing CO₂ emissions. The lower energy consumption positively impacts the production costs, which is also of benefit to the customers. Sales prices have increased only minimally since 2014.



an area of 28,000 m² on the plant grounds. In addition, Bauer completely renovated the roof structures of the production halls and outfitted them with a photovoltaic system with a capacity of 2.3 megawatts. The system has been in full operation since December. This allows Bauer to produce 100 percent of the electricity annually at the Voitsberg site, making it independent in terms of its electricity supply.

“Energy efficiency is important to us not only in our products but also at our operating sites,” explains Andreas Schitter, CFO at Bauer. At the same time, energy production from renewable sources was also a focus of the renovation efforts. The plant site in Germany was used as trial balloon for a photovoltaic installation. Two small systems were installed there several years ago.

“When we saw how well it worked after the first year, it was clear that we would do the same in Voitsberg,” adds Schitter. The annual energy output of the photovoltaic system installed in Voitsberg is roughly 2,400,000 kWh. This corresponds to the average electricity consumption of 685 households.

With the thermal renovation of its headquarters, Bauer is taking on a pioneering role among the industrial enterprises of Austria. The photovoltaic system alone is one of the three largest that has been installed for an industrial enterprise in Austria to date, explains Schitter proudly, not hesitating to compare its output to very large infrastructure projects: The planned power plant on the Mur river will deliver between 16 and 17 megawatts. According to

Schitter, in other words, a few photovoltaic systems like the one Bauer has now installed could replace the entire new Mur plant.

Bauer installs thicker insulation than required

Bauer did not go cheap when insulating the halls and the office building: The facades and roofs were in some cases provided with twice the insulation thickness that is typical in the industry. The measures are definitely already paying off. The Voitsberg site now requires less heating. The total energy demand of 4.2 million kWh has been decreased by 70 percent. The CO₂ balance sheet has also been improved by the thermal renovation. Just the insulation of the facades reduced the CO₂ emissions by 705,000 kg. The photovoltaic system will save another 1,690,000 kg of CO₂ per year. For comparison: The winter highway speed limit in the Graz metropolitan area results in a CO₂ reduction of 1,200,000 kg (according to a study by the Graz University of Technology).

Prices have remained nearly stable

In total, Bauer invested 12 million euros in the energy-saving and thermal insulation measures. And what do the customers get? “At the first glance, maybe it does not look like much,” says Schitter. But the customers will definitely feel the energy savings measures indirectly. “The overall production costs are significantly lower, which customers will notice in our stable prices, which have remained nearly unchanged in recent years. Since 2014, only a slight increase has been necessary,” says the Bauer CFO.

“Bauer for a green world” - Bauer lives up to this slogan not only with its irrigation and slurry management systems in use around the world but also directly at the company headquarters in Voitsberg, Styria. In the past four years, the agricultural machinery manufacturer has thermally renovated its headquarters with the goal of energy efficiency. Specifically, the outer shells of the two production halls as well as the office building were insulated. The buildings take up