



NEWS-PAGE

WIKUS welcomes District President Mark Weinmeister of the administrative district Kassel in Spangenberg

During his visit on February 10, 2023, the District President learned about the current issues and projects at the sawmill. Spotlight on energy-saving measures.

Spangenberg, 11. February 2023: WIKUS-Sägenfabrik is constantly improving and developing new strategies and measures for energy savings with a focus on gas-electricity heat recovery. This makes WIKUS a pioneer in the sawmill industry. In 2022, a new transformation concept for secondary heat use was implemented with the help of financial support from the German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA). The measures already implemented were presented to District President Mark Weinmeister during his visit to the WIKUS headquarters in Spangenberg. A company presentation followed by a guided tour of the WI.com administration building were also part of the visit.

WIKUS expands zero-gas strategy and energy-efficient production halls

The goal of reducing the use of fossil fuels was already decided by WIKUS in 2021, and the implementation of measures was launched; thanks to environmentally friendly structural extensions such as the completion of the local heating pipeline, the consumption of fossil fuels was already reduced by 31.38% in 2022. In this context, the zero-gas strategy was expanded to a greater extent and production processes were switched completely to electricity as the primary energy source and the potential from process heat was harnessed. As a result, the integration of heat recovery from the compressors into the heating network achieved a heat recovery volume from compressor waste heat of 2,295,000 kWh.

Outlook: Energy-saving measures, solar carport, and ISO certification

The next step is to complete installation of the new 4-bar compressed air network in inline production in February 2023. This will result in annual savings of at least 300,000 kWh if applied to ten lines and further savings measures are implemented. Following the successful installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of production hall 9 with a reduction of around 235.9 tons of CO₂ solar carports in the Malsberg parking lot will also support the reduction of CO₂ emissions in the future. For these and other environmentally friendly measures, WIKUS is striving for [certification according to DIN EN ISO 14001 for environmental management systems](#).

“It is very satisfying to know that our region is home to forward-looking companies such as WIKUS, which recognize and implement new ideas and development potential and thereby move our region forward. The company WIKUS has examined savings potentials and technical alternatives on its own initiative. That’s why I was happy to advocate for the funding approval. Because in view of the energy crisis that is affecting us all, a sense of initiative and speed are essential,” said District President Mark Weinmeister.



Image: Theresa Lessig, Energy Management, Karsten Gutke, Technical Management, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Management Division Technology and Production Dr. Jörg H. Kullmann accompanied District President Mark Weinmeister on a visit to the production halls at WIKUS.