

SUSTAINABILITY AT BOHLENDER`S HEADQUARTERS

Orchard meadows, rough grassland and flower meadows

At BOHLENDER, we think in terms of the future. We plan for the long term, across generations, and therefore use areas around our company headquarters to create habitats for various creatures. In the past, for example, we have planted meadow orchards, rough grass meadows and flower meadows in close cooperation with local nature conservationists. The meadow orchards are a 2000 year old form of cultivation which, in addition to promoting biodiversity, also contribute decisively to the preservation of the cultivation culture in the Tauber Valley.

Meagre grass meadows are natural parcels of land which, due to their local conditions, do not allow for tree growth. This type of meadow has rich flora and fauna. Flower meadows are often colorful and diverse because they consist of a mixture of different grasses and wildflowers. These plants have an important function in nature, attracting insects such as bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, thus helping to pollinate crops. Birds and small animals such as field hamsters and hedgehogs also find a habitat in flower meadows.

In addition, flower meadows are economically sustainable because they provide a natural form of soil and water storage when properly managed and maintained. Through their deep roots, they can stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. In addition, they help to maintain biodiversity and can thus indirectly contribute to improving the climate.

Bee colonies

At BOHLENDER, we are actively committed to sustainability and environmental protection. A special highlight of our efforts is the care of four beehives on our company premises. Bees are essential for the pollination of plants and the preservation of biodiversity. By creating a suitable habitat for our bees, we contribute not only to nature conservation but also to the promotion of local flora. Our beehives are a living symbol of our environmental awareness and an important step towards a greener future. Through our beehives, we raise awareness among our employees and the community about the importance of bees and sustainable practices. At BOHLENDER, we firmly believe that sustainability starts with each individual.

Forest

We also support the rural forest with our sustainable commitment. For example, we have our own forest on our company premises with more than 330 trees, which annually compensate for more than 5.5 tons of CO₂. This section of forest is maintained by us at regular intervals with the help of knowledgeable experts. In this way we create a natural habitat for wildlife and a recreational area for people.

Seepage pond

Water has always been considered the basis of all life and is at the same time an increasingly valuable resource, which makes responsible handling indispensable. For this reason, we at BOHLENDER have decided not to discharge rainwater unused into the sewage system, as is usually the case, but to channel this water into the seepage pond specially created for this purpose. The aim is not to interfere with the natural water cycle and to reduce the surface runoff of precipitation water that is advancing nowadays due to surface sealing.

Here, the landscape makes use of a phenomenon that can be compared to a sponge. When nature receives a large amount of rainwater, it absorbs it and releases it back into the environment during dry periods. This can buffer heavy rainfall and mitigate periods of drought. In addition, the sustained slow evaporation of the water provides a cooler microclimate during hot spells. Such a seepage pond not only buffers the consequences of the climate crisis, but also promotes biodiversity. For example, a seepage pond provides a habitat for a wide variety of species. Birds, insects,

small mammals, amphibians, dragonflies, caddisflies or water snails settle in the immediate vicinity and use the seepage pond for bathing, water intake or even as a place for reproduction.

Pro-K initiative „Zero granule loss“

Back in 2017, we joined the pro-K initiative „Zero Granule Loss“. The content of the „Zero Granule Loss“ initiative is to minimize the loss of plastic granules and thus counteract the pollution of the world's oceans. Plastic granules are small granular particles of molten plastic used in the manufacture of plastic products. In this context, it is important for us to inform employees, suppliers and forwarding agents in personal discussions, internal information signs, etc., about our efforts to reduce pollution and to ensure that plastic granules do not end up in waste or wastewater. In addition, an internal audit was carried out to determine the points at which plastic granulates could end up in the environment. BOHLENDER GmbH then drew up a plan with technical and organizational measures aimed at eliminating weak points. For example, special screens were installed in the surrounding wastewater systems to prevent plastic granules from entering the wastewater in the event of an unloading accident.

BOHLENDER issued a self-certification on these measures to the pro-K initiative „Zero Granule Loss“ and was certified accordingly. The company monitors the implementation of the measures as well as their effectiveness at regular intervals and is constantly optimizing them.

For Managing Director Volker Bohlender, this is an important point in the company's contribution to environmental protection: „We are pleased that we can protect the environment from contamination by such simple means. We want to leave a healthy planet for our children and future generations, and we want to do our part, because waste in the sea is a global problem and concerns everyone.“

Natural energy in use

There is a lot of untapped potential in the industrial sector regarding renewable energy in the form of photovoltaic systems. Managing Director Volker Bohlender recognized much earlier that there is great potential here and that aspects of environmental protection go hand in hand with economic interests. „We rely on solar energy in the production of our products. Back in 2012, we installed an almost two thousand square meter photovoltaic system on the roof for this purpose, which not only provides us with sufficient electricity, but also saves around 150 tons of CO₂ emissions per year in the process.“

The machine cooling system has also already been analyzed in detail and designed to be environmentally friendly. For example, when the new building was constructed in 2001, underground pipes were laid to take advantage of the effect of a heat exchanger. In this way, around 37 tons of CO₂ per year can be saved.

LED lighting and motion sensors

To address increasing light pollution and the idea of saving energy, we at BOHLENDER realized early on that LED lighting and motion detectors are two technologies that can provide an environmentally friendly lighting solution. LED lights consume significantly less electricity than conventional light bulbs, resulting in a reduction of CO₂ emissions and thus lowering electricity bills as a synergistic effect. In addition, these light sources are significantly more durable than conventional light sources. The combination of LED lights and a cleverly switched motion detector network, which ensures that light only burns when needed, is an important contribution to our claim to sustainability.

HIGH-TECH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION? OF COURSE. WITH US.

