

# ÖkoFEN: Pioneer in renewable heat and clean mobility



"At ÖkoFEN, we have been driving the transition to renewable heat for 30 years. With our Clean Mobility Programme, we are showing that the transition to renewable mobility is also achievable."

Stefan Ortner, Managing Director



Generating clean, renewable heat in a smart, user-friendly and affordable manner – this is ÖkoFEN's mission. Technological leadership is at the core of the company's values. The boiler manufacturer from Niederkappel/Austria has specialised in pellets, a local fuel that allows automated and easy to use renewable heat supply. ÖkoFEN also focuses on renewable electricity and green mobility in its own activities. The company's Clean Mobility Programme has shown that innovative financing models can make e-mobility affordable for many people. Around a quarter of the employees at the European headquarters are now proud drivers of electric cars.

## 30 years ÖkoFEN

### What was achieved?

#### CO<sub>2</sub> savings through ÖkoFEN products (1989 - May 2020)

- worldwide: around 7.4 million tonnes
- Austria: around 1.8 million tonnes
- Germany: 3 million tonnes

#### ÖkoFEN production in Niederkappel & Lembach

- 100% renewable heat supply (pellets)
- 100% green electricity
- 95 kWp PV system
- 40 kWh electricity storage
- 10 kW hydropower plant
- 5 kW pellet Stirling engine

#### Clean Mobility Program

- Electric cars for 25% of employees
- 29 charging stations with a charging management system
- 23,000 litres of fuel saved per year
- Visibility as an innovative company
- Increased staff loyalty and strengthened team spirit



### Heating with wood: Pellets as the key to success

The Upper Austrian company is Europe's pioneer in pellets and specialist in renewable heating. In 1989, company founder Herbert Ortner started developing and producing eco-friendly wood heating systems in a former henhouse. In 1997, ÖkoFEN presented the world's first certified fully automatic pellet boiler – a milestone in biomass heating technology. Since then, it has sold more than 100,000 pellet heating systems. Today, the high-efficiency pellet condensing boiler technology is booming. ÖkoFEN offers an array of products in this category ranging from 10 to 512 kW. With a market share of 76%, the company is market leader in Germany. MyEnergy365, its latest innovation, enables homes to become energy self-sufficient, step by step and exclusively with renewables. The modular concept combines a pellet condensing boiler with a 1 kW Stirling engine for electricity generation. PV and electricity storage units can also be integrated into the system. A single delivery of pellets suffices for the entire year – no additional energy needs to be purchased.

### Production hall out of local timber

Large success in exports led to a recent doubling of production volumes in just two years. For the expansion of its headquarters in Niederkappel, ÖkoFEN chose regionality and sustainability. Locally-sourced timber was used both as construction and facade material, including wooden beams with a span of up to 25 metres. Minimising energy demand and offering good work conditions for employees were key considerations during planning. Workstations were placed close to the windows to make optimal use of natural light. The entire building is equipped with LEDs. Glass surfaces in the offices were designed and positioned in such a way that air conditioning is not necessary. The building is heated with pellets, of course, and a PV system supplies the production processes with renewable electricity.

ENERGY TRANSITION  
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"Electric company cars offer us a good opportunity to position ourselves as a forward-thinking and environmentally friendly employer"

Herbert Ortner, Founder and Managing Director

ÖkoFEN



### ÖkoFEN Clean Mobility Programme: electric cars for everyone!

The first electric car was introduced into the company's fleet in as early as 2010. A few years later, after the technology had been further developed, ÖkoFEN took a big step towards affordable e-mobility for its employees. In its Clean Mobility Programme, all employees who had been working for the company for over 3 years were offered an electric car against a wage reduction of around 160 Euro/month. The subsidy of the federal government was used as down payment. The monthly rates for the 4-year leasing plan are made up of a combination of the salary reductions and the related reductions in employer contributions to social security. 25% of all employees took advantage of this attractive offer and are now driving electric cars for both business and private purposes. The initiative, which won the Upper Austrian energy award, the "Energiespar", led Rohrbach to be the district with the highest proportion of newly registered electric cars in Austria at the start of 2018.

### Charging with solar electricity, hydropower & pellets

The electric cars are charged with 100% renewable electricity. 95 kWp PV, a small hydropower plant and a 5 kW pellet Stirling engine supply around 70% of the electricity demand. Green electricity is bought to cover the rest. Employees can charge their cars during working hours, free of charge. A smart charging management system distributes the self-produced electricity in a fair manner among the 29 charging points and ensures that the share of self-produced electricity is maximised. The vehicles are charged alternately in 30-minute intervals – mostly with three-phase power with a maximum output of 3.7 to 22 kW, whereby the actual output is adapted to the real-time available electricity production. Practical experience so far has shown that even in the worst-case scenario (i.e. when production requires a lot of electricity and little solar or hydroelectric power is available), every car can be charged with 15 kWh – around 100 driving kilometres.

### Better climate balance and motivated staff

Staff mobility has a considerable influence on a company's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. ÖkoFEN's Clean Mobility Programme reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per produced heating system by 33%! In addition, it strengthens the team spirit and sense of belonging. It also contributes significantly to positive company branding. Through this programme, ÖkoFEN presents itself as an attractive and innovative employer that invests in future-oriented technologies and rewards employee loyalty.

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ZVR: 171568947



## The company – key facts & figures

### ÖkoFEN Pelletsheizung

Founding year  
1989

#### Products

- Pellet boilers, electricity producing pellet heating
- Pellet storage and pellet conveying systems
- Energybox – container heating system
- Heat storage and solar panels

#### Locations

- 3 in Austria: Niederkappel, Lembach and Purgstall
- Sales companies and partners in 17 countries worldwide

Employees  
400

Annual turnover  
around 80 million Euro

Export rate  
95 %

Legal structure  
Family owned and managed

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