OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management

A responsible approach to the environment and resources are part of our corporate culture. In this regard, an internal environmental management system has been implemented, which identifies goals, derives measures, and documents impacts. Furthermore, it ensures long-term business success and regional jobs. With a focus on sustainability and responsibility, we are committed to producing our products under the brand name Tectan® 100% from secondary raw materials. We also commit to complying with all applicable laws, standards, and regulations, and we communicate this to our customers and suppliers.

The protection of the environment is just as important to us as the high quality of our products and efficiency in occupational health and safety. We view environmental protection as an equally important goal for securing our company and its jobs. We identified the following topics for our internal environmental strategy as particularly relevant to our core business:

- Sustainable use of raw materials
- Renewable energy
- Air quality management
- Reduction of water consumption

As part of our leadership responsibilities, we have established clear accountabilities for environmental protection. The successful implementation of our environmental goals requires the support of all employees. Therefore, we regularly inform them about our environmental measures and encourage them to take personal responsibility. We offer training sessions to promote environmentally conscious behaviour in the workplace.

Production Process

Production Concept

We run our company in an energy- and environmentally-conscious manner

A key objective of our work is to minimize the environmental impact of our products through efficient resource use. We exclusively use secondary raw materials in product planning and development, as well as in our manufacturing process.

Our goals & ambitions

- We integrate environmental considerations from the very beginning into our activities.
- We continuously improve the efficiency of our process technology.
- We use lifecycle feedback from our customers to understand the environmental aspects of our products and optimize product performance.
- We promote sustainability by using secondary raw materials.
- We strive to reduce material usage in each of our processes and to use production waste directly for manufacturing (Zero Waste Strategy).
- We incorporate efficient energy use into our production planning and also monitor optimal energy consumption across all production processes.
- We exclusively manufacture products that can be recycled at the end of their product life cycle.

Our steps towards more sustainable production

- Optimization of machine operating times
- LED production hall lighting
- Turning off the engine when leaving the forklift
- Optimization of driving times/routes for the forklift
- Utilization of process heat for drying granulate
- Transitioning to a closed cooling system eliminates the need for cooling water.
- Production-related residual materials (sprue parts and rejects) are reintroduced into the production process.

Ecological Sustainability

Energy is an important environmental aspect for us. The production of our products requires energy in the form of electricity.

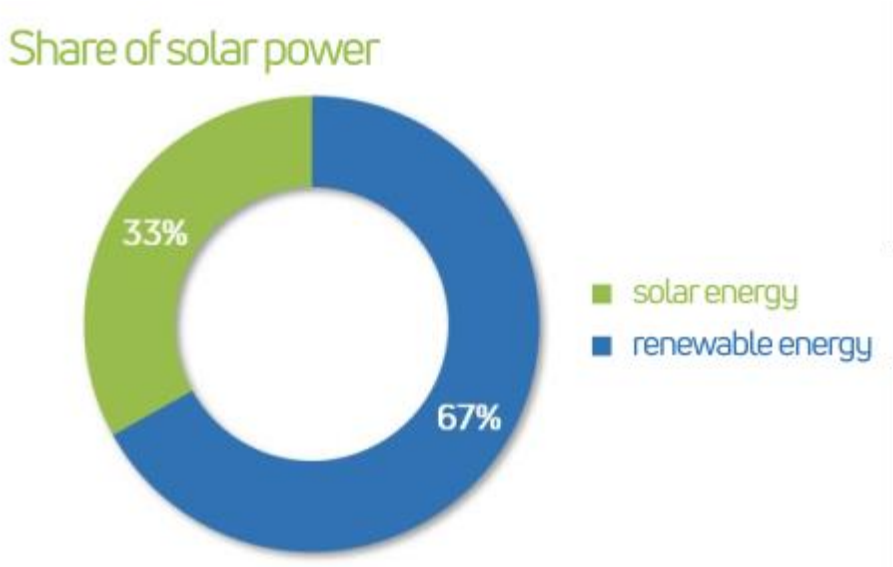
Since 2020, our electricity supply has been CO_2 neutral. We source certified, environmentally friendly energy. It is generated entirely from sustainable energy sources and is 100% climate-friendly.

Our contribution to environmental protection:
100% green electricity

Energy consumption

By installing a photovoltaic system at our production site, we cover one third of our electricity needs with solar power.

83 t CO_2
were saved
in 2023 through the generation of solar power.



Energy efficiency

We are increasing our energy efficiency with modern injection molding technology, which is characterized by high performance and repeatability while maintaining low energy consumption.

By switching to LED lighting throughout the production facility, we have been saving up to 70% electricity for lighting compared to conventional lighting methods since 2021.

90 t CO_2
were saved annually since 2021 through continuous optimization of our industrial manufacturing equipment.

CO_2 savings through freight train transport

We are shifting a large part of our transportation to rail, which has allowed us to reduce our CO_2 emissions. In 2023, we transported goods with a total weight of over 700 tons using freight trains instead of trucks.

51 t CO_2
were saved in 2023 through rail transport.

Water

The water consumption is covered by the supply of municipal water. The total water consumption can be divided into the types of use: cooling water and water for sanitary facilities. Since the switch to a closed cooling system in 2021, no cooling water is consumed anymore. Wastewater is only generated from the sanitary facilities, resulting in a reduction of approximately 360 m^3 per year.

	Unit	2021	2022	2023
Process water	m^3	357	2	2
Sanitary facilities	m^3	90	91	88
Total	m^3	447	93	90

360 m^3
water has been saved through plant modernization since 2021.

Material

For the production of Tectan® products, we use 100% secondary raw materials. These recycled materials from the beverage carton industry are processed in a specially developed procedure, where they are shredded, dried, and turned into granulate.

By incorporating paper fibers (secondary materials) that come 100% from FSC-certified sources, fossil raw materials are saved and replaced with renewable resources. The production of products made from Tectan® does not have any ecologically adverse impact on air, land, and water.

Tectan® products are suitable for multiple uses, can be 100% recycled, and can be processed into new products made from Tectan®.

Circular Economy

Zero waste strategy

Our products and processes are designed in such a way that all generated production residues are returned to the manufacturing process. All other generated waste materials can be recycled or reused thermally.

100%
of production residues and waste materials are recycled.

Waste management

Methods of disposal

	2021	2022	2023	Unit
Amount of secondary raw materials processed by EVD	1.526	1.526	1.640	t
Total waste	9,49	6,11	5,93	t
Recycled waste - energy recovery	9,49	6,11	5,93	t
Disposed waste - landfill	0	0	0	t
Recycling rate	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	

Hazardous and non-hazardous waste

	2021	2022	2023	Unit
Total waste	9,49	6,11	5,93	t
Recycled waste, hazardous*	0,96	1,62	0,48	t
Recycled waste, non-hazardous*	8,53	4,49	5,45	t

* Energy recovery

Training and Awareness-Raising

Employees identify with the company's goals

Each individual employee bears a fundamental responsibility for occupational safety, health protection, environmental protection, energy efficiency, and the quality of their work. The expertise, skills, and commitment of our employees ensure the continuous development of the company.

We raise awareness among our employees about important environmental and energy issues. Each individual employee ensures that material and energy consumption is kept to a minimum. A sustainable work environment contributes to employees identifying with the company and increasing their motivation. They receive targeted qualifications and training as needed.

Advanced training

We support our employees' personal and professional development by annual employee dialogues to identify their individual needs. Therefore, we provide several opportunities for the functional and technical upskilling required in the various areas of our organization. We encourage lifelong learning.

109
training hours per employee in the year 2023