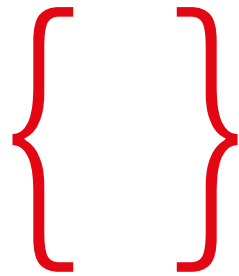


*Saubermacher*



ZERO  
WASTE  
*Guide*





ZERO  
WASTE  
*Guide*



# **Our path to Zero Waste**

**SUSTAINABILITY AT SAUBERMACHER  
2018-2021**



# #1

**It's about  
responsibility**

For people.  
For the environment.  
For the company.

# #2

**It's about  
the future**

For society.  
For regions.  
For ecology.

# #3

**It's about  
sustainability**

We protect the climate,  
take social responsibility  
and manage the company  
for the future.

# #4

**It's about  
values**

Ethical fundamentals  
are what we're based on.  
We support one another  
and live the maximum  
possible customer  
orientation.

# #5

**It's about  
innovation**

Through R&D and  
collaboration with  
partners, we set new  
standards in the  
circular economy.

# #6

**It's about  
quality**

We give 100% to  
needs-focused solu-  
tions and maximum  
recycling rates.

# #7

**It's about  
raw materials**

We recover recycled  
raw materials from  
waste and preserve  
natural resources.

# #8

**It's about  
facts**

We measure our CSR  
activities as part of an  
integrated management  
system.

# #9

**It's about  
awareness**

We act responsibly  
with a view to leaving  
our children and grand-  
children an environment  
worth living in.



IN THE FUTURE, WE  
WANT TO ENSURE  
THAT WE RECYCLE  
EVERYTHING, WITH NO  
WASTE LEFT BEHIND.

**ZERO.**

ZERO POINT ZERO.  
TO ACHIEVE THAT, WE  
GIVE ONE HUNDRED  
PERCENT.

# TABLE OF *Contents*

- 07 //** Our environment as a shared world  
Saubermacher founder Hans Roth
- 09 //** Raw materials through the circular economy  
Interview with CEO Ralf Mittermayr
- 13 //** Climate and environmental protection
- 17 //** Social responsibility
- 22 //** Future-oriented corporate management
- 24 //** With one another. For one another.  
Feedback from our customers
- 27 //** About the company
- 29 //** Saubermacher at a glance
- 31 //** Certifications and awards
- 33 //** Lightweight packaging –  
potential for closed-loop circulation
- 39 //** Sustainability in figures
- 41 //** For the young and young at heart





OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

**#1**

**It's about  
responsibility**

**For people. For the environment.  
For the company.**



# OUR ENVIRONMENT

## *as a shared world*

**Who would have known, just a short while ago, that a fairly minor virus would have such huge effects? Today, we all know one thing – that even the smallest of things can have a significant impact.**

Each and every one of us can do something to benefit our environment and help to tackle climate change – separate refuse and avoid waste. Saubermacher has been committed to an environment worth living in for more than 40 years. For more than four decades, our corporate values have been characterised by responsibility for people, the environment and the company.

‘For an environment worth living in’, whether in the community, in business, in commerce or in industry, has been our motto. Through it, we endeavour to shape the environment as a shared world.

In this focus on the shared world, we want to find new and better ways to improve environmental awareness, extend product lifecycles and boost the recycling and production of recycled raw materials.

Collaboration with research is an important starting point in our quest for new pathways. We are on the cusp of the shift



towards a truly circular economy, and this kind of change demands plenty of innovation expertise. Waste management must become a supplier of raw and primary materials. Only then can a truly circular economy become a reality. This requires industry and disposal companies to close ranks and join forces.

Take advantage of our knowledge and experience amassed over 40 years of waste and recycling management and help to improve the sustainability of your company.

Working with universities and research institutes, we aim to

advance thematic leadership in the resource sector. We want to continue to innovate in all of the areas in which we work.

Together, we can take small steps that jointly help to achieve a lot – after all, if one thing is true for everyone, it’s this: ‘I cannot change the world alone, but I can make a mark.’

**Hans Roth**  
Chairman of the  
Supervisory Board



OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

**#2**

**It's about  
the future**

**For society. For regions.  
For ecology.**



# RAW MATERIALS

## *through the circular economy*

**CEO Ralf Mittermayr has successfully guided the company's fortunes, in lockstep with the entire Saubermacher team, since 2014, proclaimed the Zero Waste strategy and led operations into the digital future. But where is the journey headed in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility and the Green Deal? What challenges need to be tackled, and will there still be a need for waste management in the future?**

### **Saubermacher is a four-time sustainability world champion. What does sustainability mean for the company?**

Mittermayr: Sustainability is an indispensable part of our strategy and encompasses the climate and environment, social and governance (ESG). We are proud to have been named the world's most sustainable disposal firm multiple times. The GRESB Rating is proof that Corporate Social Responsibility is in Saubermacher's genes.

### **Does a sustainably aligned Saubermacher create added value for customers?**

Mittermayr: Undoubtedly. Our clients benefit from security in disposal and recycling, maximum customer focus, comprehensive expertise and the certainty that what Saubermacher does is not only good for them, but for the environ-



ment, society, the company and its employees as well.

### **What are the company's sustainability goals?**

Mittermayr: The focus is long-term success. Through cross-industry cooperation and partnerships with public bodies,

such as towns/cities and associations, the Saubermacher Group as a whole can advance a truly circular economy. We want to be fully climate-neutral by 2040 ourselves, and to increase CO<sub>2</sub> savings for our customers through innovative recycling solutions.



**Many people talk of climate neutrality within ten or twenty years. How does Saubermacher intend to accomplish this goal?**

Mittermayr: There are whole packages of measures that are constantly being adapted and expanded. As an example, we want to increase the proportion of self-generated green electricity from around 8% (Saubermacher Group) as it is now to 15% by 2025, and by the same year move all of our countries over to 100% green electricity, as is currently the case in Austria. A third of our 115 service vehicles are currently zero-emission. The overwhelming majority of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which in

total amount to some 15,000 tonnes per year, come from waste transporters. In addition to ongoing optimisation of our logistics, we're also testing alternative drive systems. We placed orders for our first hydrogen HGV in 2021 and we're planning to purchase an electric HGV this year. Plus, there are lots of smaller steps in our efforts, such as a water recycling system in our sewer cleaning vehicles that saves as much as 70,000 to 100,000 litres of drinking water per HGV per day.

**Where are the greatest challenges?**

Mittermayr: The cycle will only be closed once waste is fed

back into production as a recycled raw material. This requires not just expertise and technology, but a change to the legal framework to define the end of waste. One thing is obvious: the start of a truly circular economy with recycled raw materials will mark the end of traditional waste management.

**Everyone is talking about labour shortages at the moment. What is Saubermacher doing for its employees?**

Mittermayr: My colleagues do a great job. We might be a business, but we see ourselves as much as a large family. The togetherness, the ability to rely on one another, paired with expertise, commitment and the



# Sustainability. Our goals:

- 
**Climate and environmental protection**  
 Climate-neutral by 2040.  
 A reduction of 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2035 for our customers.
  
- 
**Social responsibility**  
 Added value for customers and society.  
 A reliable and fair employer.
  
- 
**Future-oriented corporate management**  
 Responsible enterprise, continuous improvement and innovation.

motivation to ensure the best possible quality for customers and the environment are what distinguish us across borders. Naturally, the highest possible occupational safety and compatibility and balance between work life and family life and leisure time all come first.

### **A few years ago, you proclaimed the Zero Waste strategy. Is that still in place?**

Mittermayr: More than ever before! Our goal is to process all waste materials so that they can be reused. We constantly measure our progress, partly using the recycling rates of our plants. As an example, our high-tech sorting plant for

lightweight packaging in Graz is now reaching a recycling rate of 86 %, our refrigeration appliance processing plant in the Czech Republic is reaching 96 % and biogenic waste is being processed into valuable bio-compost and soil in its entirety. There, we're closing the product cycle ourselves.

### **What is Saubermacher's contribution to the climate fitness of its customers?**


Mittermayr: If you look at the new law on company sustainability obligations – keywords EU Supply Chain Law – our recycled raw materials put us right at the beginning of a 'green' supply chain. In addition, our clients can also benefit from

our consultancy services for waste avoidance and sustainability.

### **Do you have a tip for businesses to aid them with their climate protection?**

Mittermayr: As ever, prevention is better than the cure. That's why it's so important to bring in specialists to help. Recyclable products and Zero Waste in businesses? When it comes to energy independence, raw materials security and protecting our climate, every contribution helps. And, customers and employees will thank those companies that do it, if not demand it as a fundamental requirement.





OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

**#3**

**It's about  
sustainability**

We protect the climate, take social  
responsibility and manage the  
company for the future.

# CLIMATE AND

## *environmental protection*

**Measures for more recycling and less CO<sub>2</sub>: thermal and material recycling of waste helps to protect natural resources, reduce dependence on raw materials and minimise harmful climate gases. Over the past four years, Saubermacher has invested around 31.3 million Euros into optimising logistics, improving its recycling plants and other added-value areas such as R&D and Smart Services. Thanks to the activities of the Saubermacher Group, the environmental pioneer has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 600,000 tonnes per year and has put the boundary conditions in place for truly closed-loop circulation within the sense of Zero Waste.**

## A walk through our measures:

### LOGISTICS

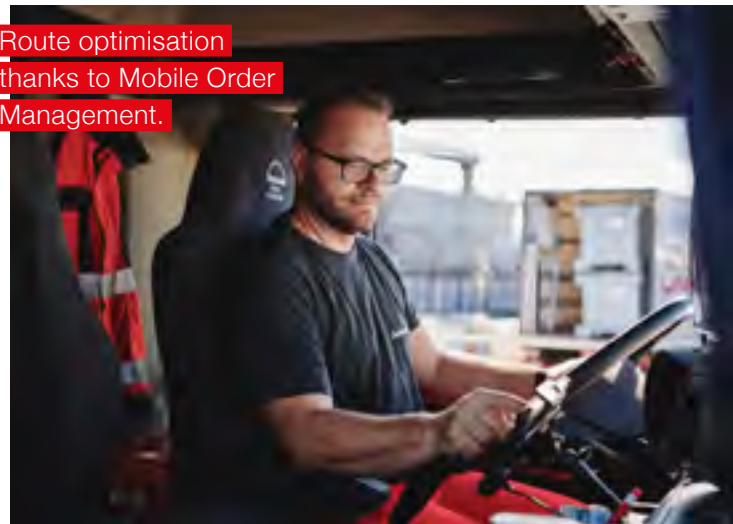
#### **Mobile Order Management 2.0 – digital order processing**

Until 2019, order documentation processes involved numerous manual process steps. Every year, we would print, manually check, scan and approve more than four million documents, including delivery notes, weighing slips, routing slips and accompanying documents. Now, all route planning and order assignment are carried out in real time in our HGVs using our proprietary app, which is installed on mobile devices.

#### **Alternative drive systems for HGVs**

Saubermacher is continuously investing in its vehicle fleet and purchasing vehicles that meet the EURO VI emissions standard. Since 2018, we've had two hybrid HGVs in the fleet – one in Vienna and another in Lower Austria. We're constantly testing different drive versions with a view to expanding the range in operation. We placed an order for our first hydrogen HGV in 2021 and we're planning to purchase an electric HGV this year. Our aim is for all waste transport activities to be zero-emission by 2040.

Route optimisation  
thanks to Mobile Order  
Management.



#### **Zero-emission service vehicles**

Saubermacher purchased 27 electric cars as service vehicles in 2021, and we don't intend to stop there. In addition, we've also installed 26 charging stations at our headquarters, plus a further fifteen at Saubermacher locations throughout Austria. This represents an investment of more than 150,000 euros, helping to save around 160,000 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. Our Austrian sites all currently use 100% green electricity.



## DIGITAL SERVICES

### Materials scanner improves waste separation

The reusable materials scanner integrated into our refuse collection vehicle uses Artificial Intelligence to identify mishthrows in waste. Using a communications platform, clients and residents can receive direct feedback on the quality of their separation, reducing mishthrows and lowering disposal costs. The largest trial project to date has been ongoing in Mürzthal since summer 2021 and includes six local authorities and a total of 10,000 households.



Materials scanner HGV ensures transparency.



How the recycling materials scanner works:

### Smart Collection Platform – improved quality and efficiency

The Smart Collection Platform optimises waste logistics for disposal at public waste collection points, such as those used for glass and old clothes. This helps to make overflowing waste collection points a thing of the past, and optimises collection intervals and transport routes.

### Daheim app for local authorities

The Daheim app was originally conceived as a reminder app for waste disposal dates but has evolved to become an interactive communication platform with multi-channel system. It allows local authorities, associations, schools and businesses to send information to residents' smartphones quickly and easily.

### wastebiz – climate-neutral waste transport

wastebiz is an app that allows (construction) companies to easily, quickly and transparently organise disposal of their construction site waste. It is the world's largest logistics platform for digital construction site disposal and focuses on climate protection: through intelligent algorithms and cooperation with regional disposal companies, the platform has already been able to reduce transport distances when compared to conventional waste management, and therefore lower CO<sub>2</sub> by up to 23 % per year. Private customers can also take advantage of climate-neutral disposal through the online shop wastebiz.at.

### Smart waste bin also reduces CO<sub>2</sub>

High-tech sensors known as ANDI (the German acronym for automatic, sustainable, digital, innovative) in waste bins use innovative and complex methods to measure fill levels, temperature increases and movement patterns. This then helps to ensure automatic, needs-based disposal, whilst also helping to reduce empty runs.



Smart sensors organise waste disposal automatically.



## RECYCLING

### Upgrade to high-tech sorting plant (Graz, Austria)

Saubermacher has invested around 2 million Euros in modernisation of its processing plant for lightweight packaging. Around 32,000 tonnes are processed every year. The recycling rate has increased by 20 % to 86 %.

### New recycling plant for lithium-ion batteries (Bremerhaven, Germany)

The plant, which was completed in 2018, operates a self-developed process to industrial standards. For metals, we are already achieving recycling rates of up to 95 %. Exceptional: the active mass recovered is not organically contaminated.

### Refrigeration appliance processing (Havlíčkův Brod, Czech Republic)

The flagship plant was commissioned in September 2018 and recovers around 96 % of materials, including plastics, iron, aluminium and copper. All environmentally harmful CFCs are properly eliminated.

### Warehouse for special waste (Kidričevo, Slovenia)

The recycling centre enables the processing of up to 51,000 tonnes of hazardous waste per year. The warehouse has been modernised and environmental and safety



Recycling plant for lithium-ion batteries achieves maximum recycling rates.

standards, particularly with regard to fire safety, have been elevated to the state of the art.

### Alternative fuel generation (Retznei and Vienna, Austria)

The substitution of alternative fuels for crude oil and gas, which recycling plants create using regional waste, is an important factor in CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and energy independence. Saubermacher is a pioneer and the largest producer of alternative fuels in Austria.

### Chemical/physical treatment plant (Trofaiach, Austria)

Since 2018, the new plant has treated liquid special waste in chemical, physical and biologi-

cal processes, sending more than 85 % back to the natural water cycle.



Acids, bases and oil/water mixes are processed in Trofaiach.

## OTHER ADDED-VALUE AREAS

### Sustainability assessment for customers

Saubermacher also supports other companies on their journey towards improved sustainability. Services range from conventional waste management to waste water assessments, Zero Waste concepts and CO<sub>2</sub> balance sheet preparation. This helps to minimise waste volumes, highlight the prerequisites for material recycling solutions and analyse products for their circular capability; we have cooperation agreements with organisations such as Magna, AT&S and Uwe Damm.



With sustainability advice, Magna has been able to achieve an internal recycling rate of 94 %.

### 100% recycling waste bin

Saubermacher waste bins, also known as 'Ecobins', are made almost completely from old waste collection containers. This means that old Saubermacher bins are used to produce new ones. That's a truly circular economy!

### A leading edge through R&D

Research and development at Saubermacher are an important mainstay in ensuring that the company is future-fit. We research new recycling options and endeavour to create innovative solutions that lead to improved recycling rates,

e.g. for lithium-ion battery systems or liquid wastes, and to ensure that more raw materials are available for recycling. Saubermacher is constantly consolidating its expertise and investing for greater climate protection, including in digitalisation.

### Installation of photovoltaic systems

In order to supply recycling plans with more self-produced solar electricity, photovoltaic systems have been installed in Trofaiach and Retznei. These systems are also used to supply electric car charging stations for employees and visitors. The aim is to expand self-production across the group to 15 % by 2025.



The internal R&D team is constantly researching new (recycling) solutions.

# SOCIAL

## *responsibility*

**Saubermacher creates added value for customers and society. Our corporate philosophy has social values front and centre. This means taking responsibility, not just for the environment, but for the shared world as well. We are a reliable and fair employer for employees and we enter into long-term, sustainable partnerships with our customers.**

### Insights into our social commitment:

#### FEEL-GOOD FACTORS

##### **Measures for company health promotion**

In 2019, Saubermacher was awarded the quality seal for company health promotion for the fifth time. The comprehensive health programme includes a range of fitness options, check-ups, vaccinations and seminars on smoking cessation. In addition to physical health, Saubermacher also focuses on employees' mental health.

##### **Successful HR development**

Thanks to successful succession management, we succeeded in filling more than 90 % of management positions internally in the period under review (2018 to 2021). In 2021, a 2.5-year training programme was commenced. With a total of more than 280 events and 3300 participants, Saubermacher sets great store by training and further education.



Ergonomics training teaches employees proper posture.





### Helping Hands

An association to help Saubermacher employees in need. More than 100,000 euros were collected between 2018 and 2021 under the motto 'Rapid help without the bureaucracy'. This has allowed us to help an average of 80 colleagues in different emergency situations every year.

Helping Hands provides financial support for the purchase of a stair lift.

### My Guides

More than 30 employees are also available at Saubermacher as a direct point of contact for colleagues and provide support relating to fairness, satisfaction and enjoyment in the workplace.

### Employee survey

Regular surveys provide insight into Saubermacher employees' satisfaction levels with their employer, and provide incentives for further development. The last survey was conducted in autumn 2021 and showed that around 92 % of employees are either satisfied or very satisfied. 90.2 % of employee have a high emotional attachment to the company.

### Compatibility of work and family

Saubermacher supports its employees with flexible working time models, home-working options and various initiatives such as parental leave, the Family Day and free-of-charge consulting hours.



More information on Family Day 2019:



## Damir Baler

**WEIGHING OPERATOR AND MY GUIDE PREMSTÄTTEN**

'The compatibility of work and family is a very important motivation factor. Satisfied and engaged employees are crucial to the successful development of any business. Saubermacher understands the importance of this and offers various options, including flexible working time models, help with care, re-entry after parental leave, maternity leave and paternity leave and much more.'



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## Monika Grill

**BUSINESS SERVICES  
EMPLOYEE AND  
MY GUIDE  
KREMS**

'My work at Saubermacher helps me to better understand the significance of climate and environmental protection and pass on what I know about resource protection and sustainability, in my personal life as well.'

## MAXIMUM CUSTOMER FOCUS

### Environment and action days

Joint activities with customers and partners on days of action, such as World Bee Day or World Environment Education Day, help to strengthen business relationships and make an important contribution to environmental protection and biodiversity.

### Customer survey

Saubermacher conducts a customer survey every two to three years. The opinions and needs of non-customers are also analysed. The last survey of more than 240 customers was conducted at the beginning of 2021: 97 % trust in Saubermacher. The Net Promoter Score of 63.8 % has risen considerably since 2018 and is significantly higher than that of competitors.

### Saubermacher Academy

The Saubermacher Academy takes place twice a year for customers. Experts from Saubermacher, authorities, universities and specialists provide information and training on environmental topics.



Insect hotels for World Bee Day for the Dobl-Zwaring local authority.



Experts provide information on innovations in waste management.



## ADDED VALUE FOR THE COMMUNITY



Re-use: At Ehrenhausen Middle School, pupils have recently begun using tablets that were once used by Saubermacher.

### Annual awarding of the Hans Roth Environmental Prize

The award is given to young scientists working in waste and recycling management in Austria and Slovenia. The main prize is an award of 3000 euros.

### Prison day release

The Saubermacher locations in Premstätten, Trofaiach and Krems have offered inmates of local prisons employment for many years, giving them the change to earn a small income during their time in custody. This helps to make their route back into the labour market a smoother one.

### The heroes of climate protection

This prize recognises outstanding contributions to climate and environmental protection in Austria. Hans Roth and Minister for the Environment, Leonore Gewessler, presented the 2021 award to the young Severin Pock from Graz at the company's headquarters in recognition of his waste collection and anti-littering activities.

More information on 2021 climate heroes here:



Hero of climate protection 2021: Severin Pock from Graz.





Recycling Day at  
Mürztaler Saubermacher.

### Recycling Day 2019

On the initiative of Altstoff Recycling Austria, primary school children in Styria learn how to avoid waste, separate it correctly and keep the environment clean through play.

More information on the  
2019 Recycling Day:



Green noise barrier wall  
on Puchstrasse.

### Being a good neighbour

The industrial zone historically located on Puchstrasse has become more noticeable for residents since structural modifications caused by the Mur power plant. Saubermacher is fulfilling its responsibility as a good neighbour and has constructed a 95 metre long, ten metre high noise and privacy barrier wall along with a new habitat for flora and fauna along the bank of the river Mur.

### Ecotour

Transparency and environmental education are a key focus at Saubermacher. At the recycling plants in Retznei and on Puchstrasse in Graz, students and other interested parties can glimpse behind the scenes as part of guided tours and form their own impression of the world of recycling and waste recovery.

- + Every Tuesday  
from 8 am to 3 pm  
(pre-booking required)
- + Registration:  
ecotour@saubermacher.at

More information on the Ecotour:



# FUTURE-ORIENTED

## *corporate management*

**Saubermacher also seeks to act in a way that is economically sustainable. Responsible enterprise, continuous improvement and innovation are the basis for our business success. Our focus is on securing the company's future in the long term, not on profit generation in the short term. We ensure constant cooperation so that we create win-win situations for customers and partners.**

### **Strong partnerships: Public Private Partnerships**

Public Private Partnerships are an important stability and economic factor in the region for businesses and local authorities. PPPs are cooperation agreements between the public sector and Saubermacher in the form of a joint company

with collective management. These partnerships help to improve the transfer of expertise, secure regional jobs, improve security of disposal and improve innovative strength whilst at the same time relieving budgets. Saubermacher is a partner in a total of 19 PPPs in four countries – Austria, Slo-

venia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The most recent PPP, 'Schilcherland Saubermacher', began at the end of 2019 in southwestern Styria. The PPP provides around 17,000 residents with professional waste disposal and a state-of-the-art waste collection centre.



Most recent PPP: Schilcherland  
in Deutschlandsberg.



Hans Roth with his sons Stefan and Hannes at the presentation of the Hans Roth charter.



### Hans Roth charter and advisory boards

Hans Roth presented his charter in September 2021. The charter is intended to serve as a guide for management and operations at Saubermacher. The guide unites the corporate philosophy and the value foundation of Hans Roth. The charter should be seen as a lighthouse of values and goals, pointing the way both internally and externally. It serves as orientation for employees, partners and customers on how Saubermacher should be managed and operated. The presentation of the Saubermacher guide was paired with the establishment of an employee advisory board, a values advisory board and an economic advisory board to ensure that the corporate philosophy can continue, even if Hans Roth is no longer fronting the company.

### Compliance and ethics guidelines

Saubermacher provides employees with a code of conduct to assist them in their day-to-day work. All new employees receive compliance training when they join the company. Knowledge is refreshed every two years.

### Banking and Insurance Day

Saubermacher invites its banking and insurance partners to a meeting at least once annually to inform them of the developments and strategic plans taking place within the company. This structured exchange helps to strengthen relationships and improve mutual trust.



### Christian Obergruber

**PLANT EMPLOYEE AND PART OF EMPLOYEES' ADVISORY BOARD**  
TROFAIACH

'As part of the employees' advisory board, I represent the interests of colleagues at our site. It's a very important task. If there are problems, I can contact the Saubermacher helpline.'

# WITH ONE ANOTHER.

## *For one another.*

### Feedback from our customers



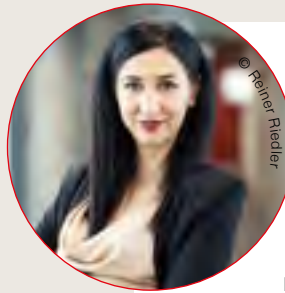
'At Saubermacher, sustainability and the environment were already being advanced, even at a time when they were not really talked about elsewhere. Infrastructure services in relation to waste disposal should be made available sustainably, whilst protecting resources and avoiding undesirable side effects for the environment, all in a way that is both affordable and that ensures security and quality of disposal. Cooperation with Saubermacher, thanks to its commitment to sustainability, constantly opens up new opportunities to meet these demands.'

**Franziska Olischer,**  
Vice Mayor and City Councillor for Environmental and Local Authority Services in Mödling, Mödlinger Saubermacher PPP



'Saubermacher guarantees professional disposal of all waste fractions produced in NHM Vienna in compliance with the safety and environmental protection guidelines and regulations. In addition, NHM Vienna also benefits from Saubermacher's lengthy experience in the disposal of hazardous substances. Saubermacher is a reliable partner when it comes to sustainable waste management.'

**Katrin Vohland, General Director and Chief Scientific Officer at the Natural History Museum Vienna**



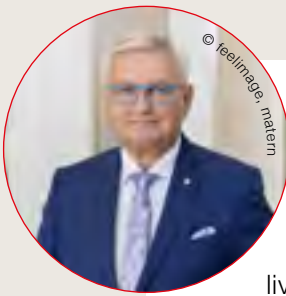
'For us as a company, sustainability is of high importance as it helps to improve the well-being of our patients. To be able to achieve our sustainability goals, it's important that there's a willingness amongst our partners to continuously improve.'

**Larisa Delia Peric,**  
Waste Consultant at Böhringer Ingelheim



'The circular economy is climate protection. As innovation leaders for a circular economy, we also need disposal partners like Saubermacher who have sustainability in their genes. After all, it's only together that we can sensibly achieve EU recycling targets economically and ecologically.'

**Harald Hauke, Member of the Executive Board at ARA AG**



© feelmade, main

'Cities and local authorities have been examples, trendsetters and multipliers for sustainability and climate-protection measures for years. The more partners, companies and private initiatives that follow this example, the better it is for our joint goal: achieving climate targets and preparing and leaving our environment in the best possible condition for future generations. I am very thankful that GVA Tulln lives sustainable disposal management. It's not just an example for local authorities, but for people across the region, and ultimately benefits each and every one of us.'

**Alfred Riedl, President of the Austrian Association of Local Authorities and Chairman of GVA Tulln**



© M. Karzaj

'Both in the public interest and anchored in KAGes' climate and energy strategy, cooperation with environmentally aware and regional companies and disposal partners is something to be endorsed. Sustainable waste management is essential to achieving the KAGes' defined objectives of climate neutrality and energy security by 2040.'

**Gebhard Falzberger, Operations Director at LKH-Univ. Clinic, Graz**



© Foto Figliar

'The local authority of Pernegg has been working with Saubermacher for many years, allowing it to jointly recycle the waste generated by our community in the most sustainable and efficient way possible. For me, the visits by kindergartens and primary schools in the ASZ are especially important so that children have the opportunity to practise the awareness that all of us can contribute to a clean environment from a young age. Commitment to sustainability is especially relevant as Saubermacher is taking responsibility for our future. There have been many years of investment in research and development and the company looks for – and finds – solutions for future developments. This makes Saubermacher a guidepost to the future of the industry as a whole.'

**Eva Schmidinger, Mayor of Pernegg**

'On the essential path towards a functional and sustainable circular economy there is a need for innovative and reliable partners. It's precisely this quality that Saubermacher has brought to SPAR for so many years. This way, Saubermacher has given us many years of important support in our endeavours to operate as sustainably as possible.'



© Werner Krug

**Christoph Holzer, Managing Director at SPAR Styria and South Burgenland**



© Philipp Ehrhart

'Sustainability is more important than ever and making a contribution is a key concern for us as a company. Sustainable waste disposal is a clear foundation stone of future-oriented action for us.'

**Maurice Beurskens, Managing Director at Gurkerl.at**





OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

# #4

It's about  
values

Ethical fundamentals are what we're based on. We support one another and live the maximum possible customer orientation.



# ABOUT

## *the company*

**Saubermacher AG is a multi-certified and distinguished disposal and recycling company based in Feldkirchen, near Graz.**

The family business was established in 1979 by Hans and Margret Roth with a view to contributing daily to an environment worth living in. As a full-service provider in disposal and recycling of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, the company acts as a competent partner to around 1600 local authorities and 42,000 companies. The company adds value to the region through cooperation agreements with local authorities in the form of Public Private Partnerships, which combine the strengths of local authority organisations with the private sector.

Saubermacher performs not only regionally but internationally too, with its many years of disposal competence, and operates in seven countries with more than 3400 employees. The environmental pioneer is a leader in Waste Intelligence and over the past few years has worked with partners and customers to develop digital innovations, such as wastebox, the Daheim service app, the materials scanner and more. In-house research and development are important success factors in ensuring readiness for new waste streams, more stringent requirements and higher recycling rates. Within this, customers are always the focus and benefit from the highest level of quality and competence, paired with regionality and sustainable commitment.

Thanks to its environmentally responsible processes, state-of-the-art recycling methods, innovative projects and numerous CSR activities, Saubermacher was, in 2021, named the world's most sustainable disposal company for the fourth time running (GRESB Rating).



**Sabine  
Tanzer**

**PROCESS ENGINEER  
IN RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
FELDKIRCHEN**

---

'As a process engineer, my focus since my training has been on energy efficiency and environmental protection. In the R&D department, I have the opportunity to implement these focal points in development and plant projects. Through recycling and emissions reduction, we make an important contribution to the circular economy and to lived sustainability.'

A large industrial facility with a prominent cylindrical tank labeled "WEISSWASSER-TANK" and "Zero Waste". The tank is surrounded by complex piping and machinery. The facility has a high ceiling with wooden beams and large windows. The overall scene is industrial and modern.

OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

**#5**

**It's about  
innovation**

Through R&D and collaboration  
with partners, we set new standards  
in the circular economy.

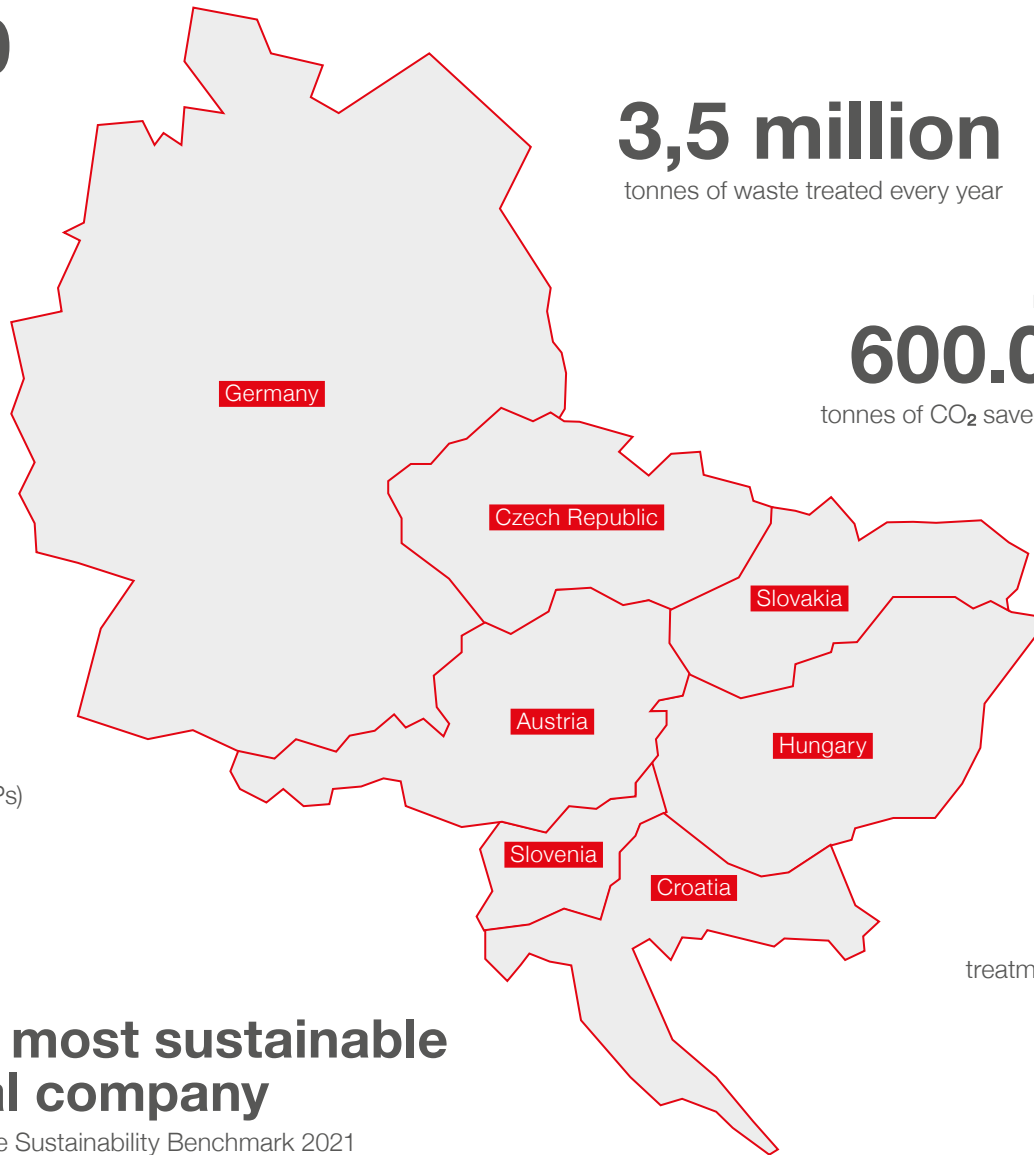
# SAUBERMACHER

*at a glance*

**680**  
(special)  
vehicle

**3,5 million**  
tonnes of waste treated every year

more than  
**600.000**  
tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved per year



**19**  
Public Private  
Partnerships (PPPs)

**World's most sustainable  
disposal company**

Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark 2021

**77**  
treatment plants

**3.400**  
employees



**Ozan Karadogan**

**HGV DRIVER AND  
MY GUIDE  
VIENNA**

'As an HGV driver, I ensure that no waste is ever lost but can be recycled. Environmental and climate protection concerns all of us. This is the way I contribute, for my children and their future!'





OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

# #6

**It's about  
quality**

**We give 100 % to needs-focused solutions  
and maximum recycling rates.**

# CERTIFICATIONS

## *and awards*

**Saubermacher has been recognised in quality and safety management, HR and sustainability for its services, standards and tireless efforts on behalf of people and the environment (reporting period 2018 to 2021).**

### Qualität

- + ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001
- + Certified as a disposal specialist
- + ISCC EU certification (ISCC = International Sustainability and Carbon Certification)
- + SCC\*\* certification (SCC = Safety Certificate Contractors) for tank cleaning
- + EMAS certification
- + Master enterprise
- + Austrian federal crest

### Human Resources

- + Family-friendly Styrian company, Department for Business, Styria, 2019
- + 'Company Health Promotion' quality seal, BGF network, 2019
- + Top employer, Trend, 2021
- + National 'Family and Career' prize, Federal Ministry for Women, Family, Integration and Media, 2020
- + Silver 'Best Recruiters' quality seal, Career Institut & Verlag, 2021/2022
- + Austria's Best Managed Companies, Deloitte initiative, 2021
- + Top 10 employer in Austria, Trendence Graduate Barometer, 2018
- + Top Company, Kununu, 2019

### Sustainability

- + World's most sustainable disposal company for the fourth time running, GRESB Rating, 2021
- + TRIGOS Styria, 3rd place in the 'Climate Protection' category, respACT, 2021
- + Logistics prize, 2nd place, Logistics Network Association, 2021







OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

**#7**

**It's about  
raw materials**

**We recover recycled raw materials from waste  
and preserve natural resources.**



# LIGHTWEIGHT PACKAGING –

*potential for closed-  
loop circulation*

**Utilising the circular economy to recover raw materials, save CO<sub>2</sub> and protect the climate? With sorted waste and innovative treatment technology, we can. The use of recycled raw materials helps to protect natural resources and avoid waste.**

## **More recycling needed**

The EU's Circular Economy Package stipulates that the recycling rate for plastic packaging waste must be a minimum of 50 % by 2025 and 55 % by 2030. Even though Austria is a forerunner in waste separation and recycling, we are a long way from reaching this goal. To achieve the target by 2025, recycling needs to be doubled from 75,000 tonnes to 150,000 tonnes. In addition to proper waste separation, collection, depth of sorting and recycling all have a major impact on recycling rates.

## **High-tech and continuous improvement**

At its location on Puchstrasse in Graz, Saubermacher operates Austria's largest automatic sorting plant for lightweight packaging. The plant processes around 32,000 tonnes of plastic and commercial waste per year. There are 89 employees working in a three-shift

pattern at the location, together with a sorting robot equipped with Artificial Intelligence. The location's principal task is un-mixed separation into fourteen material types, including PET packaging, aluminium cans and composite drinks cartons. In addition to packaging waste from domestic households, Saubermacher also collects and recycles special plastic waste from commercial operations and industry. The environmental pioneer achieves re-

cycling rates of more than 86 % through use of a film separator, near infrared sorting machinery, a (non-)iron separator, Artificial Intelligence and, importantly, manual sorting. Through R&D, ongoing investment and continuous improvement, the proportion of recycling over the past few years has been increased to 46 %.

## **Irena Jarc**

**SORTER AT THE  
PLASTIC SORTING PLANT  
PUCHSTRASSE**

'My contribution to environmental protection is saving valuable raw materials from becoming waste.'





The high-tech sorting plant in Graz achieves a recycling rate of 86 %.

### Plastics – a unique challenge

Only unmixed plastic packaging can be recycled. This means that, in the best case scenario, the products will consist of single-component plastics, such as pure polystyrene from a yoghurt pot. These materials, once sorted and treated in the Saubermacher plant, can be processed into new products, including fleece pullovers, PET bottles, etc. Many packaging types consist, however, of multi-component plastics. Examples include cheese packaging. The lower plastic tray is hard, while the top part consists of a peel-away soft film. In tech-

nical jargon, this is known as a composite material. The problem with these composite materials is that they cannot be separated, which also means that they cannot be recycled. Saubermacher shreds this material and processes it in special plants into alternative fuels, such as at ThermoTeam in Retznei, Austria. Alternative fuels are used in place of fossil fuels for energy production, such as in the cement industry. The calorific value of 1 kg of plastic is the same as that in 1 litre of heating oil. The recycling rate for thermal processing is around 40 %. Material and thermal recycling save around

39,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This is the equivalent of a mixed forest that is more than three times the size of Lake Wörthersee.

### More recycled raw materials through improved separation

For lightweight packaging to be properly recycled, it needs to be disposed of in the correct bin. Use of the materials scanner in several pilot regions across Austria is an attempt to reduce misthrows of recyclable waste by raising awareness. The aim is to get more lightweight packaging to find





its way to where it belongs – in the yellow sacks or bins. Waste separation training and waste advice for customers are also used to help raise awareness and inform. After all, Artificial Intelligence and high-tech are only part of the solution – the best ‘sorting machine’ is ultimately the human being. He or she decides whether waste goes in the correct bin, thus helping to protect resources.

## OTHER ZERO WASTE INITIATIVES

### **Cradle to Cradle at Saubermacher Hungary**

Rejected parts from the production of automotive components, such as dashboards, bumpers, etc., are sorted, dismantled, shredded in special plastic mills and reused as raw materials in the automotive industry. This means that the raw materials cycle is completely closed, with no waste left behind.

### **‘Packaging with a future’ initiative**

Raw materials processors, packaging and consumer goods manufacturers and waste recyclers are working together to combine existing individual solutions in the packaging field to form a single holistic solution. The objective is to use packaging in the most resource-preserving way. Saubermacher is a part of this initiative.

### **Chemical recycling**

Saubermacher is undertaking researching into ‘chemical recycling’ for polyolefin recovery, seeking to recycle a higher proportion of plastics in the future.



# FROM WASTE

## *to raw material*

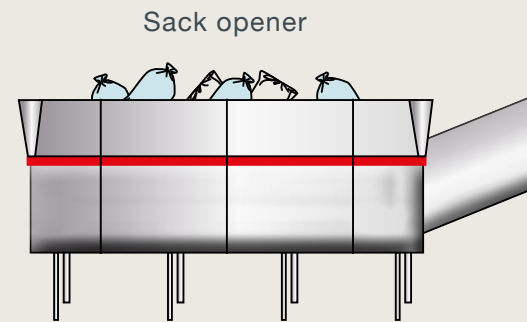
How the sorting plant works.

© Saubermacher



### Delivery

An average of 125 tonnes of lightweight packaging are delivered every day. The first step involves a sack opener, which rips open the yellow sacks.

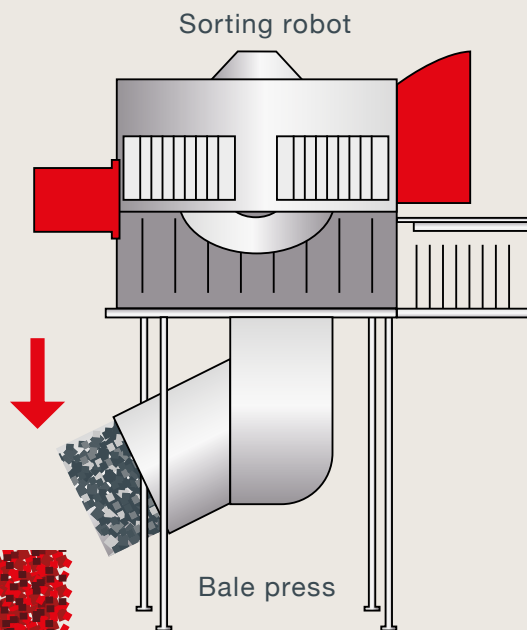


© Julia Baldauf



### Sorting robot

We test robots and Artificial Intelligence in order to facilitate operational processes and increase the depth of sorting.

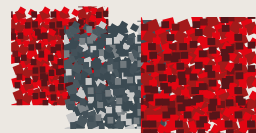


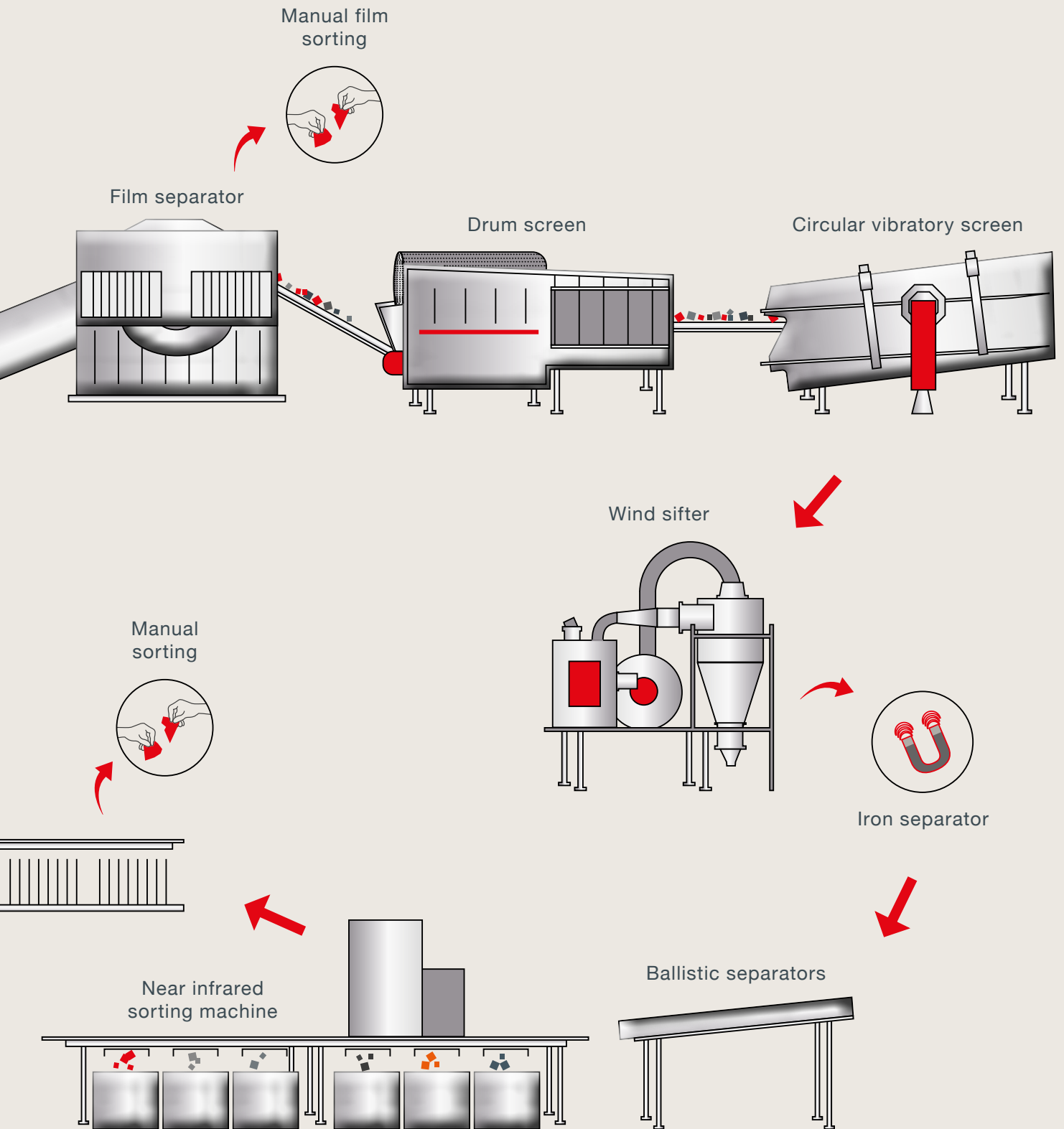
© Julia Baldauf



### High recycling rates

In spite of high-tech and Artificial Intelligence, the only way of achieving outstanding rates thus far has been through additional manual sorting.







OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

# #8

**It's about  
facts**

**We measure our CSR activities as part of an  
integrated management system.**



# SUSTAINABILITY

*in figures\**

	Unit	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Economy</b>					
Group turnover	EUR million	305	321	315	370
<b>Employees</b>					
Number of employees (excludes parental leave, apprentices/trainees, military service)	People	917	939	898	940
Proportion of women in total workforce	%	22,5	22,7	23,3	23,9
Reportable occupational accidents	Number	54	36	30	48
Annual days of absence due to illness per employee	Days	7,1	7	8,3	7,2
<b>Energy use</b>					
Power consumption	kWh	6.667.180	8.016.235	7.963.403	7.952.597
Power from photovoltaics	kWh	29.859	46.722	48.851	51.591
Natural gas	m <sup>3</sup>	41.200	51.748	58.664	57.120
District heating	kWh	996.196	1.238.000	976.249	1.219.910
Wood chips	loose m <sup>3</sup>	100	79	54	91
Heating oil EL + L	Litres	48.196	28.422	29.791	30.529
Diesel total	Litres	4.671.881	4.593.752	4.215.694	4.338.365
Natural gas (CNG)	kg	6.796	5.912	4.384	5.611
Water consumption	m <sup>3</sup>	18.395	23.873	21.735	23.942

Key figures as of  
31.12.2021

**27**

electric service vehicles

**5**

environmental actions  
with customers per year

**33**

My Guides

**80**

colleagues supported by  
Helping Hands every year

**60**

Ecotours per year

\*With the exception of Group turnover, all figures relate to Saubermacher Austria.



OUR PATH TO ZERO WASTE

#9

It's about awareness

We act responsibly with a view to leaving our children and grandchildren an environment worth living in.

# FOR THE YOUNG

*and young at heart*

**Sigi, the Saubermacher mascot,  
needs your support!**

Sigi is careful to separate his waste correctly,  
because he cares about the environment.  
Please help Sigi through the maze to find  
the right car!



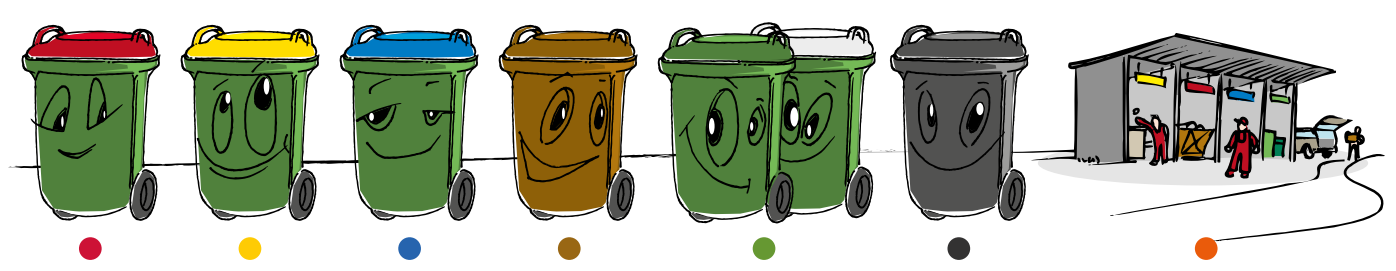


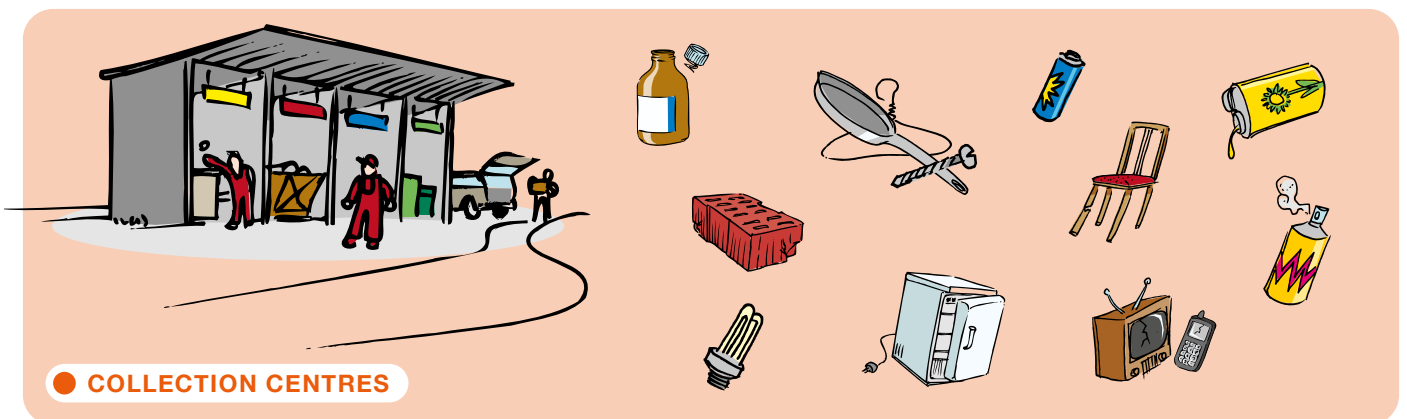
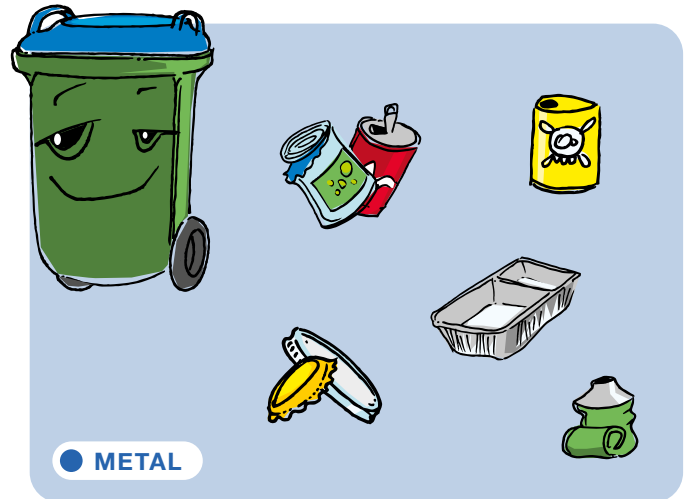


**COLOUR**  
*me!*

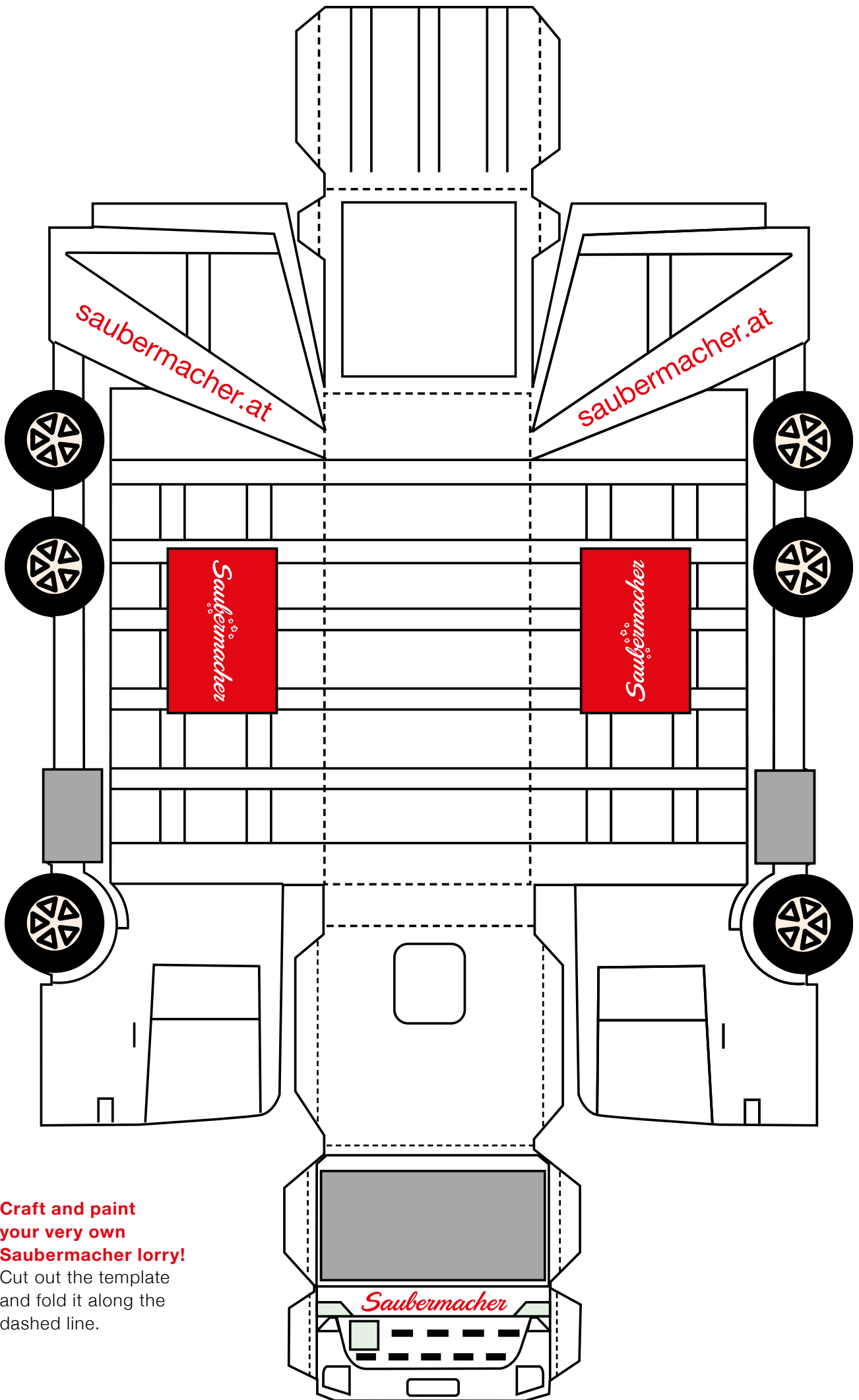
# Are you a waste separation pro?

Which waste goes in which bin?  
Show us how good you are at sorting  
waste and circle the waste in the colour  
of the matching bin lid!









**Craft and paint  
your very own  
Saubermacher lorry!**

Cut out the template  
and fold it along the  
dashed line.



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*Saubermacher*

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