

Press release

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Nordzucker and Fridays for Future in dialogue on sustainability

Phasing out coal by 2030 / CO₂ neutrality in all plants latest by 2050 / High investments require a level playing field in Europe

Braunschweig, Germany, 9 January 2020

As a food manufacturer with close links to agriculture, Nordzucker assumes responsibility for the environment and society. Sustainability along the entire value chain has a high priority. What this means in concrete terms with regard to the future energy supply of the factories has been explained in an objective discussion with Fridays for Future representatives, who have been invited by the company.

The production of sugar from beet in our regions secures jobs and is carried out to high environmental and social standards. Since the 1990s, Nordzucker has been one of the first companies in Germany whose environmental and sustainability management is regularly certified. The group is already setting standards for energy consumption and CO₂ emissions and exceeds legal requirements: Since 1990, energy consumption has fallen by 40 per cent and CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 60 per cent. The Group already uses mainly natural gas as an energy source. Added to this is the very high efficiency of combined heat and power generation. At 85 percent, its energy utilization efficiency is significantly better than that of conventional power plants (max. 50 percent).

Phasing out coal by 2030 - CO₂ neutrality by 2050 at the latest

During the discussion, Nordzucker representatives explained the "Go Green" programme for converting all factories to renewable energies.

The potential of possible technologies and their applicability in the factories are currently being evaluated. The technologies are then tested in real production so that they can be implemented throughout the group. This conversion requires considerable investment.

The Group plans to phase out coal for all plants by 2030. Climate neutrality should then be achieved by 2050 at the latest. In the objective discussion there was agreement that in general a switch from fossil fuels to renewable energies is only economically viable at higher CO₂ prices. This makes it all the more important to eliminate the existing distortions of competition within and outside the EU. An earlier switch will only be possible under suitable political and economic conditions.

A continuation of the talks was agreed.

Background

Nordzucker Group

Sugar is our world. The Nordzucker Group, based in Braunschweig, Germany, is one of the world's leading sugar manufacturers. Our beet and cane product range includes white sugar, raw sugar, refined sugar, specialities and liquid sugar. In addition, the company produces animal feed, molasses, fertilizers and fuels from renewable energies as well as electricity. Sustainability along the entire value chain is a high priority. A total of 4,000 employees in 21 European and Australian production and refining plants across the Group strive towards providing excellent products and services and thus form the basis for further growth.