SUSTAIN-ABILITY REPORT 2023

ROHLEDER
DIE HITEX® MANUFAKTUR

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1. ROHLEDER – WHO WE ARE

Located in the tranquil town of Konradsreuth in Upper Franconia, Rohleder is one of Europe's top upholstery fabric weaving mills. The family-owned company has been synonymous with uncompromising German quality since 1946.

All production steps, including design, sales and marketing, take place at the mill in Germany.

Our 180 employees have an average tenure of 18 years, which amounts to a total of 3,261 years of experience. This extensive experience is reflected in every meter of fabric we produce.

2. MANAGEMENT

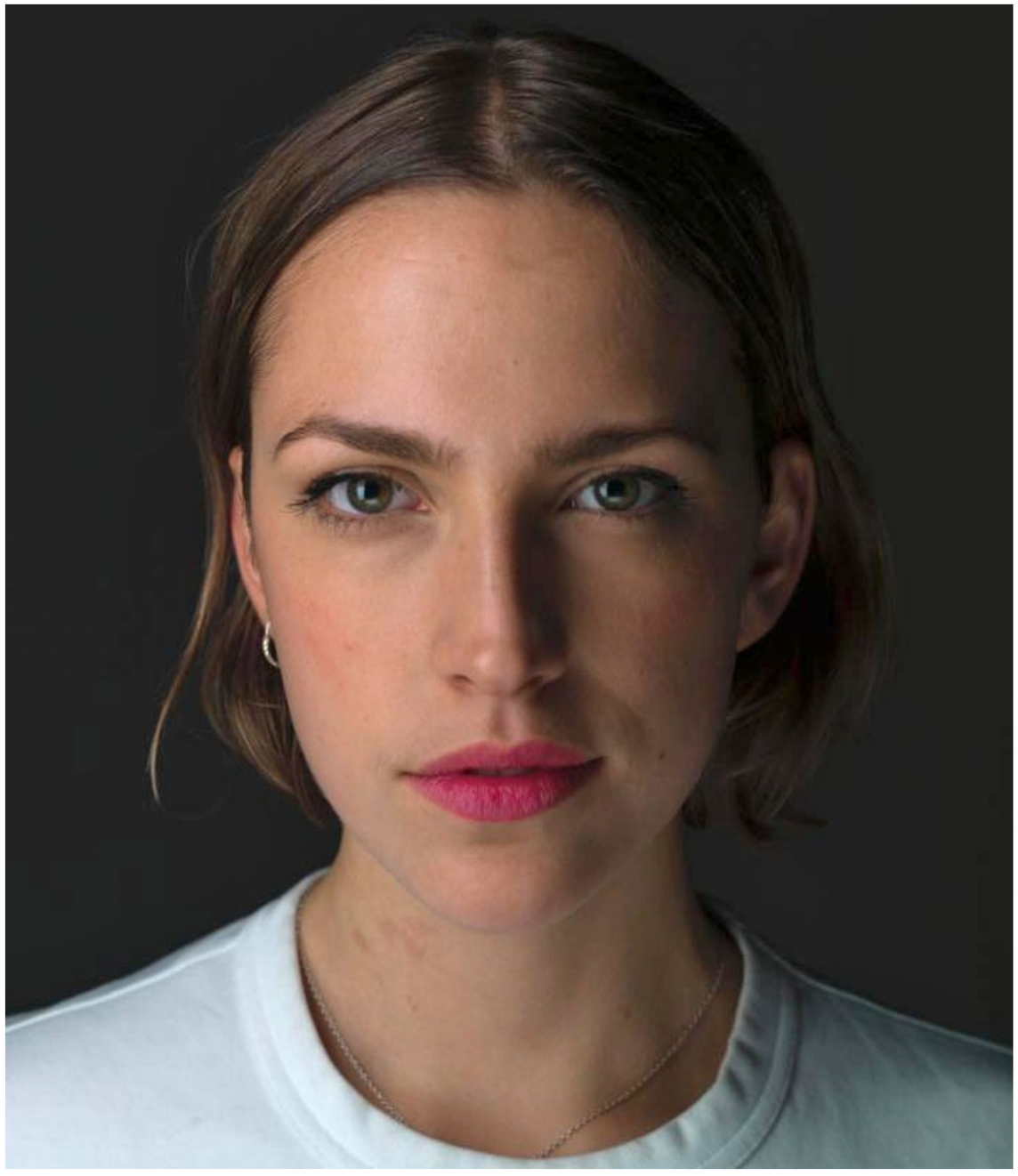
Since 2023, the family business founded in 1946 has been jointly managed by the two chief executive officers, Christoph Häußler and Matthias Hanitzsch.

Matthias Hanitzsch has been working at Rohleder for 17 years. He is responsible for Finance, Controlling and Human Resources. Christoph Häußler, who became joined the team in 2023, is responsible for Sales and Creative Direction. Leni Rohleder, daughter of owner Klaus Rohleder, represents the third generation of the family to continue the tradition. She joined the company in 2021, and is primarily responsible for Change Management and Sustainability. The company owner Klaus Rohleder chairs the Supervisory Board that advises the Managing Directors.

Our agility has enabled us to proactively identify and leverage opportunities in times of rapid market change and unforeseen events. Rohleder‘s commitment to design, quality, and customer satisfaction has secured our market leadership in the premium segment and is the reason why we can look back on more than 75 years of company history. With new ideas, motivated staff, and many innovations, we can continue to look to the future with confidence.

“At Rohleder, we are committed to sustainability and take a holistic approach that considers economic, ecological, and social aspects throughout our entire value chain. Our dedication to sustainability is ingrained in all aspects of our business activities as a responsible family business“.

– Leni Rohleder



3. SUSTAINABILITY AT ROHLEDER

WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY MEAN AT ROHLEDER?

Answering the question of sustainability is complex and requires contextualization. As a production company with a production site in Upper Franconia, Germany, sustainability is not a purely ecological issue for us. With a company history of over 75 years, sustainability means not only climate-friendly production of durable products but also taking a long-term view - to be a reliable partner for our 180 employees and our numerous external stakeholders. We are committed to sustainability by maintaining production in Germany. This reduces transportation distances, promotes transparent production, and preserves local textile culture. Our four pillars of sustainability:

1. Sustainable production

Rohleder produces a resource-conserving manner and 100% locally in Upper Franconia, Germany. Through various process optimizations, we have significantly reduced our consumption of water, electricity, and gas. Our production is climate-neutral, and our solar panels can cover approximately 20% of our electricity consumption.

2. Focus on longevity

Rohleder focuses on longevity - this contributes significantly to the sustainability of our products. Products that are designed to last longer need to be replaced less frequently and therefore use fewer resources.

3. Social engagement

As a family business, the satisfaction of our employees is our top priority. For this reason, a 4-day week with full pay was introduced in July 2023. In addition to many other employee satisfaction measures, we also support kindergartens, schools and societies in our community.

4. Continuous improvement

An ethos of continuous improvement fosters a culture of learning and problem solving, resulting in a committed and motivated workforce. In addition, continuous improvement encourages innovation, optimizes processes and improves product quality.

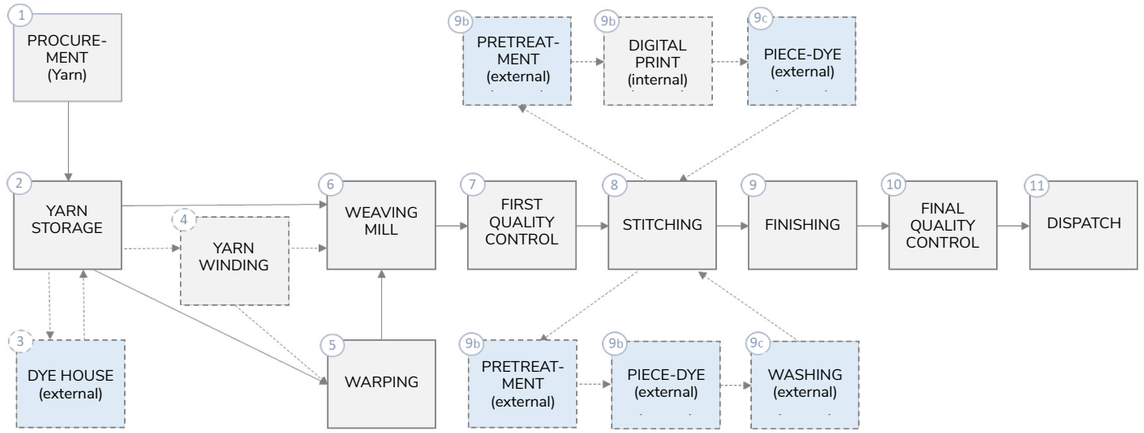
The textile value chain poses many challenges. Through a close partnership with our suppliers, we ensure social and ecological standards in our supply chain. By consistently monitoring our resource consumption and continuously optimizing our processes, we ensure resource-efficient value creation within our own company.

4. VALUE CHAIN AND MATERIALS USED

4.1 VALUE CHAIN

The textile industry has undergone significant changes in recent decades. When the company was founded in 1946, Upper Franconia was considered the stronghold of the textile industry. Today, only a few companies in the region are still active in this sector. This is due to increasing globalization and competition from low-wage countries, which has led to an influx of cheap products from the Far East and Eastern Europe.

As a result, the new, more competitive market environment has led to the relocation or failure of many yarn manufacturers, dye houses, and weaving mills. Despite this, we are proud to say that the majority of our value chain is still based in Germany. Our entire internal value chain takes place at our home base in Konradsreuth. Additionally, most external steps, such as the dyeing of yarns and fabrics, as well as washing and finishing, are carried out within a 60-kilometer radius from the mill. By supporting local partners, we have been able to maintain the local value chain as well as sustained control and transparency into our own value chain. Solely our yarn procurement is international. We currently source our yarns from Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain and Turkey.



4.2 YARN PROCUREMENT

As a company committed to delivering textiles that not only meet our high quality standards, but also satisfy our aesthetic and tactile requirements, yarn sourcing is of the utmost importance to us. To maintain the quality and uniqueness of our fabrics, we rely on yarns that are specially developed for us. Our focus on yarn sourcing reflects our commitment to craftsmanship and attention to detail and enables us to create long-lasting textiles that stand out in the marketplace.

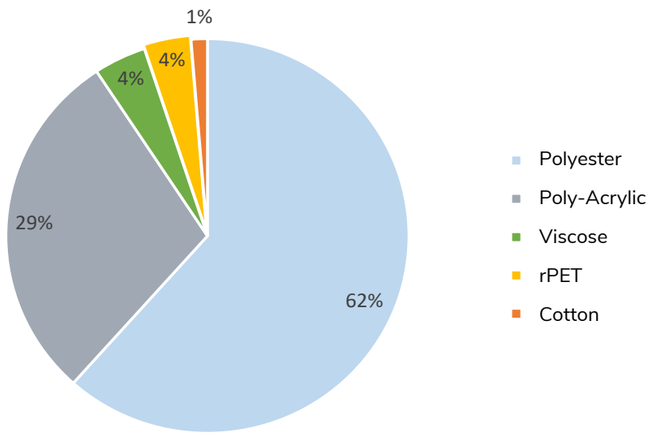
In selecting our yarn suppliers, we ensure that they share our commitment to sustainability. We recognize that environmental responsibility is essential to protecting our planet. For this reason, we carefully evaluate our suppliers for their environmental practices, sourcing methods and overall sustainability performance.

The partners we source our yarn from are located in Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain and Turkey. We ensure close cooperation through regular personal visits. These visits provide us with first-hand information about their production processes, quality control measures and environmental practices.

4.3 FIBERS & MATERIALS

At Rohleder, we have strategically specialized in the use of synthetic fibers. Synthetic fibers are known for their exceptional strength and durability. They can withstand heavy use, are abrasion resistant and retain their color fastness over a long period of time. At the same time, water and energy consumption during production, dyeing and finishing is low. One disadvantage of using synthetic fibers is the use of finite resources. We try to counteract this factor by making our products particularly durable.

Currently, the main material we use is polyester, followed by acrylic. Natural fibers such as viscose or cotton make up a small percentage of our material mix. With the introduction of recycled polyester in 2022, its role in our material mix is expected to increase.



4.4 SUSTAINABILITY OF MATERIALS

Polyester

Polyester is highly resistant to light and weathering. Like other synthetic materials, it is lightweight and has low moisture absorption. Polyester also has high tear and abrasion resistance. Polyester fibers therefore play an important role in the easy-care properties of upholstery fabrics. The low elongation of stretched polyester fibers also allows it to be used as a strong warp material in our fabrics. It also requires very little water to produce. In comparison, the production of cotton requires approximately 11,000 liters of water per kilogram of cotton, while the production of polyester requires only 17 liters of water per kilogram.

Polyacrylic

Polyacrylic is a synthetic fiber with a wool-like consistency. It is characterized by softness, low wrinkle tendency and excellent color fastness. The fibers are lightweight, absorb very little moisture and dry quickly. These properties make acrylic an essential pile fiber in our performance velvets.

Our expertise in processing acrylic allows us to offer environmentally friendly alternatives to natural fibers such as wool that can provide comparable quality and durability. Polyacrylic products allow us to meet our customers‘ demands for durable and easy-care textiles. We recognize that the production of polyacrylic, which is based on acrylonitrile and petroleum, requires a significant amount of energy.

Through the targeted use of these fibers, innovative product concepts and our initiated research concept for the reuse of textile waste, primarily from polyester and polyacrylic, our company strives for a sustainable path. The advantages, especially the durability of our end products compared to natural fibers, outweigh the disadvantages.

Viscose

Viscose is a versatile and uncomplicated fabric with many advantages. It is highly absorbent and provides excellent moisture management. Viscose is also easier to care for and wash than cotton. In the textile industry, viscose gives fabrics a lustrous appearance.

Viscose is based on the renewable raw material cellulose. Unlike purely synthetic materials such as polyester, no petroleum is used in the production of viscose. In addition, the use of pesticides is largely avoided in the cultivation of cellulose.

Although cellulose fibers are of natural origin, the viscose process is a complex and energy-intensive process. Although the amount of water required to produce viscose is higher than for polyester or polyacrylic, the consumption of 640 liters per kilogram is still significantly lower than the 11,000 liters per kilogram required to produce cotton.

Recycled polyester (rPET)

Recycled polyester, also known as rPET, is obtained by melting down existing plastic and spinning it into new polyester fibres.

By using existing plastics for recycling, less crude oil is required for polyester production overall. However, environmentally harmful chemicals can be used in the cleaning, colouring and bleaching processes. This is why we use recycled yarns made from clear PET-bottles, which generally require less cleaning and bleaching than ocean plastic, for instance.

We regularly discuss and critically scrutinise the use of recycled polyester yarns.

5. CERTIFICATIONS & INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIPS

The certification of a company by a third party offers a range of benefits, from guaranteeing product safety to promoting environmentally friendly and humane production processes. For these reasons, we make sure that both our suppliers are certified and that we ourselves are certified in order to create even more confidence in our products. Our certificates at a glance:

CERTIFICATIONS - company wide

OEKO-TEX Standard 100 (since 2021). Both our suppliers and we are certified according to OEKO-TEX Standard 100. If a textile article is labelled with the STANDARD 100 label, this means that all components of this article have been tested for harmful substances and the article is therefore harmless to health.

Climate-neutral manufacturer (since 2021). Rohleder is the first weaving mill in Germany to produce climate-neutral home textiles. Proof of this is provided by an annual calculation of the CO2 footprint in cooperation with the Deutsche Gütegemeinschaft Möbel e.V. (DGM) in the areas of Scope 1, 2 and 3. CO2 emissions are completely offset with the support of climate projects.

Golden M. With its RAL quality mark „Golden M“, Deutsche Gütegemeinschaft Möbel e.V. sets strict standards for furniture. Only furniture with this quality mark fulfils the high test criteria for quality, durability and environmental compatibility and may be awarded the „Golden M“.

CERTIFICATIONS - Individual products / yarns

The FKT test seal (since 1997). The FKT test seal „MEDICALLY TESTED - TESTED FOR POLLUTANTS“ tests textiles for body compatibility to an even stricter degree than the OEKO-TEX Standard 100. Textiles certified by us are therefore proven to be body-compatible and do not release any harmful substances that irritate the skin or are harmful to health. All our branded fabrics (Q2, Q2 second life, Charmelle and Infinity) are certified.

GRS-certified yarns. All recycled yarns that we source for our second life collection are GRS certified. As a company, however, we are not GRS certified.

INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIPS

ACT - Association for Contract Textiles (since 2023). ACT was founded in 1985 as a not-for-profit professional trade association to address a variety of issues related to contract fabrics. Member companies and individuals are involved in the design, development, production, promotion and application of textiles for commercial environments. A primary effort of ACT is to e stablish and promote voluntary performance and environmental guidelines.

6. PACKAGING

The packaging of our materials plays a decisive role during transport and subsequent storage. Environmental friendliness is of great importance here, as packaging usually has a shorter lifespan than the products it protects. Packaging should therefore be designed to be as resource-friendly as possible. At the same time, packaging must protect products during transport and storage. Packaging must therefore be compact and lightweight in order to save resources, space and fuel. At the same time, however, it must be strong enough to protect the goods from external influences such as dirt or damage.

6.1 PACKAGING FOR FLAT WOVEN FABRICS

Our flat woven fabrics, which are generally less sensitive than our velour fabrics, are shrink-wrapped in 100% recycled LDPE flat film. LDPE (“low density polyethylene“) is a common plastic-based packaging material that is widely used because it is very light, robust, stretchy, heat-resistant and water-repellent. One disadvantage is that it is based on a non-renewable raw material, namely crude oil. As recyclable LDPE flat film now exists that can still be recycled, this is a good alternative to conventional flat film. However, completely avoiding the film is out of the question, as it protects the fabric rolls from dirt, dust, odours and moisture during transport and subsequent storage.

Our recycled LDPE flat films can be disposed of in conventional packaging waste.

6.2 PACKAGING FOR OUR VELVETS

As velvet fabrics are generally sensitive to pressure marks, they should be stored hanging. For this purpose, a special cardboard box has been developed that is specially designed for our velvet fabrics. The cardboard used is intentionally not recycled, though cardboard boxes made from recycled material were extensively tested. Several boxes sent abroad became torn or damaged so badly that the textiles inside were irreparably damaged. This is because the paper fibres become shorter and shorter during the recycling process. In order to withstand the often heavy weight of the fabric rolls over long distances, it is therefore necessary to use high-quality, tear-resistant cardboard. The cardboard used is fully biodegradable and can be disposed of with normal paper waste.

PROJECT: LOCAL TAKE-BACK SYSTEM FOR OUR VELVET BOXES

Due to the high quality of the cardboard we use for our velvet boxes, they can be reused in local shipments. We have therefore been operating a local take-back programme since 2023. This programme is available to our regional customers who are supplied directly or who collect their goods from us themselves. The programme was initially tested with a customer in order to develop the framework conditions for the take-back programme. After this collaboration was evaluated positively, we extended the initiative to other customers. As long as the velvet boxes are undamaged, we take them back during the collection of new goods. The local take-back system has enabled us to save almost 2.5 tonnes of cardboard so far, which corresponds to around 10% of our total volume.

-2.5 tons of cardboard packaging in 2023

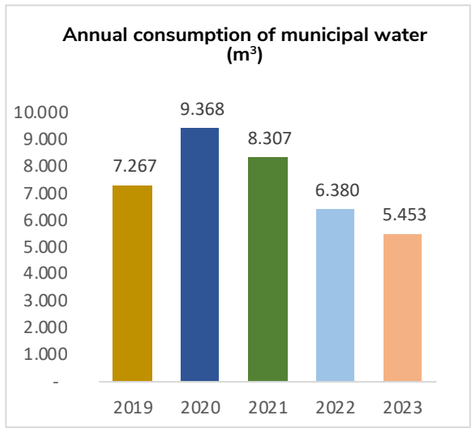
7. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

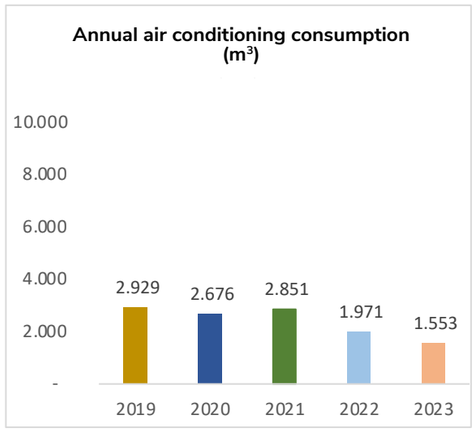
7.1 WATER

Water plays a central role in the production of textiles - and this is also true for us. This is because water is indispensable for most processes along our value chain: from the production of our fibres to the dyeing and finishing of our fabrics, and the cooling of our machines during weaving. We have therefore been committed to the careful use of water, the elixir of life, for decades with various measures for the sustainable use of water in our supply chain and in our own production.

Water management in our production

At our production site in Bavaria, we are already subject to strict regulations and a range of laws to protect surface and groundwater - and rightly so. After all, many regions are already affected by water scarcity and drought as a result of climate change. We have therefore always been committed to the careful use of our resources beyond the legal requirements. Since 1998, we have been monitoring our water consumption and continuously checking which measures are necessary to conserve the vital element of water. Thanks to detailed analyses and continuous optimisation, since 2019, we have been able to reduce our annual municipal water consumption by almost 25%. Our annual water consumption for air conditioning, which accounts for a substantial amount of our total water consumption, was reduced by almost 47% during this period.

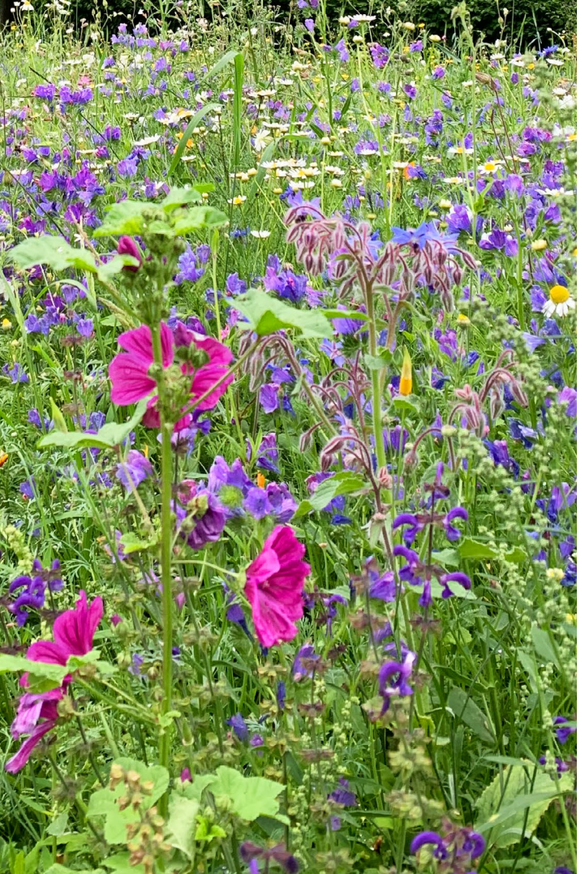




What is the reason for this?

The reduction in water consumption is due to our responsible use of water in our production processes and investments in water-saving technologies. A few examples:

- Our modern equipment processes only require 30-40% of the usual water usage.
- We use well water from a specially constructed company pond to cool process-heat. Here, unconditioned water is returned to the natural water cycle. The company pond is also planted with a variety of plants and provides a home for countless fish, insects and birds.
- Continuous improvement processes (CIP) are of great importance at Rohleder. In close cooperation with our employees, countless CIP projects have already been implemented. This also applies to water management: we were able to optimise the humidity level in our facility without any loss of quality. We also stopped humidifying many warps.
- Optimisation of the air conditioning system: the switching times were optimised and adapted to the production times. The humidity was optimised and reduced.



7.2 CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Rohleder is against the excessive sealing of surfaces. Excessive soil sealing has a direct impact on the water balance: on the one hand, rainwater is less able to seep away and replenish the groundwater reserves. On the other hand, the risk of localised flooding increases, as the sewerage system can no longer absorb the surface water run-off during heavy rainfall. In addition, excessive sealing has a negative impact on biodiversity, because where the ground is sealed, plants cannot grow and no habitats for animals can develop.

In order to create habitats for animals and plants, the area around the production site is extensively planted. This includes a mixed forest of spruce, fir and pine trees, a wildflower meadow, a herb meadow and two landscaped fish ponds. In 2021, we also planted 30 native fruit trees in our wildflower meadow and, together with a local beekeeper, created a home for over 2,000 bees.

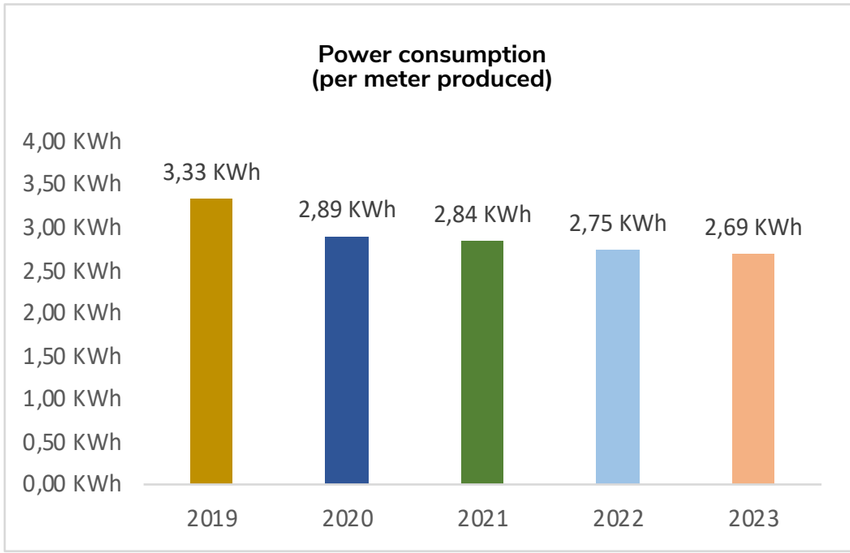
7.3 ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND SOLAR ENERGY

Energy consumption plays a decisive role in production companies, as the use of high-tech machinery requires a lot of energy. Minimising one‘s own energy consumption is therefore important in both ecological and economic terms. The importance of this was emphasised during the energy crisis in 2023.

A. ENERGY CONSUMPTION

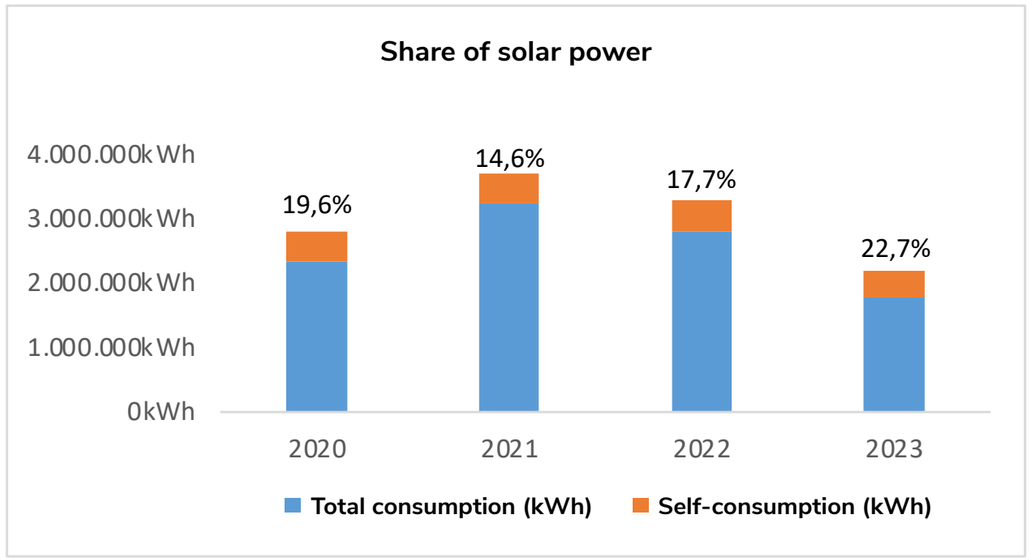
At Rohleder, electricity, gas, heating oil and diesel consumption is measured continuously. Thanks to a variety of measures, we have managed to significantly reduce our energy consumption in recent years. Since 2019 alone, for example, our electricity consumption per metre produced has been reduced by almost 19%. This reduction is due to a wide range of measures:

- **Increased thermal insulation:** structural measures such as renewing the roof cladding have resulted in increased thermal insulation. This means that less energy is required for heating.
- **Production processes:** efficiency-enhancing measures such as knot weaving have resulted in fewer downtimes and more effective machine running times.
- **Energy-saving lights:** gradual transition to LED lights and installation of motion detectors in the factory.
- **4-day week:** The introduction of the 4-day week has further reduced energy consumption.



B. SOLAR ENERGY

In 2020, we invested €500,000 to install a large PV system on the roof of our production halls. Since then, we have been generating a significant proportion of our energy requirements ourselves - around 20% of our energy consumption can be covered by our PV system.



The waste problem is increasing worldwide. While global waste generation currently stands at 2.02 billion tonnes, the World Bank expects global waste generation to reach around 3.4 billion tonnes by 2050, despite various efforts. Unfortunately, the generation of waste often cannot be completely avoided. This is also the case at Rohleder - from the delivery of packaged raw materials to production, unavoidable production waste leads to the generation of waste. In line with the principle of “reduce, reuse, recycle“, we are always looking for innovative ways to reduce our material consumption, reuse materials or, ultimately, recycle them.

7.4 WASTE AND RECYCLING

A. OVERVIEW OF OUR WASTE STREAMS AND WASTE INITIATIVES

Textile waste

Due to design requirements, high quality standards, technical conditions and human error, textile waste cannot be avoided in the production process. Textile waste makes up the largest proportion of our waste in terms of both volume and weight. More than half of the textile waste produced is attributable to our selvedges, which are necessary for the strength and general quality of the fabrics. The rest is made up of yarn remnants, samples and rejects.

Reduce:

- Use of leftover yarns for the selvages.
- Optimisation of the selvedge (reduction in width).
- Optimisation of the bobbin size to optimise yarn consumption and reduce waste.
- Optimisation of the patterning process (fewer or smaller patterns).

Reuse:

- Unused yarn is stored and reused wherever possible.

Recycle:

- In-house production of upcycling products and sale of residual materials.
- Used textiles that can no longer be used are processed into nonwovens by a partner in the region.

Plastics

Plastics are the second largest waste material. This is mainly due to our yarn tubes. Every yarn that is delivered to us is wound onto an LDPE core. Packaging waste is also falls into this category, but at a significantly smaller scale.

Reduce:

- Increasing the amount of yarn per bobbin to minimise the amount of waste.
- No plastic packaging (poly bags) in the online shop.

Reuse:

- Reuse of yarn tubes for internal rewinding of yarns.

Recycle:

- Plastics that can no longer be used are made available to a regional company for recycling. They are granulated, melted down and further processed depending on the application.

Residual waste

Our residual waste is properly separated, collected and handed over to a waste disposal company for processing.

A. OVERVIEW OF OUR WASTE STREAMS AND WASTE INITIATIVES

Waste paper

Cardboard and paper mainly accumulate as packaging material. For example, our yarns are delivered in large cardboard boxes. In addition, waste paper is generated in the administrative area through the printing of documents.

Reduce:

- Paper consumption has been significantly reduced through process optimisation and digitalisation. In 2023, daily paper consumption was reduced by around 190 pages, which corresponds to over 40,000 pages per year.

Reuse:

- Internal reuse of cardboard packaging for various purposes (storage, transport, storage, dispatch online shop).
- Reuse of velvet cardboard boxes with regional partners.

Recycle:

- Waste paper that is no longer used is disposed of separately and made available to a regional company for recycling.

Wood

Accumulates in small quantities. Waste wood is mainly produced when disposing of broken returnable Euro pallets.

Reuse:

- Reusable Euro pallets and assembly pallets are used until they are brittle.

Scrap metal

Accumulates in small quantities.

Reduce:

- To minimise the amount of scrap metal generated, defective machines or machine parts are rebuilt or repaired in our highly specialised metalworking shop

Reuse:

- Scrap metal such as screws, spare parts etc. are regularly reused in our in-house metalworking shop.

Recycle:

- Scrap metal that can no longer be used is disposed of separately and made available to a regional company for reprocessing.

The basic prerequisite for our waste initiatives is the strict sorting and separation of waste - only then can the various material flows be reused and recycled wherever possible.

B. RESEARCH PROJECT - RECYTUBE

Research period: November 2023 - April 2026

Research partner: Institute for Materials Science at Hof University of Applied Sciences (ifm)

Funding organisation: Project Management Jülich (PtJ) - Neue Werkstoffe Bayern

In 2023, Rohleder submitted a research proposal to the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy. Starting in November 2023, we received funding for the next 30 months to research the recycling of process-related selvedges and fabric waste for the production of fabric tubes as seating furniture. This research is made possible by what is known as the circular needle process. In this process, nonwovens are needled into solid tubes using a circular needle machine. The development of a new, three-dimensional form for our textile waste opens up completely new applications, particularly in the furniture industry.

In the coming years, we will therefore be working together with the Institute of Materials Science at Hof University of Applied Sciences on the development of innovative tube and furniture designs that enable the sensible further processing of heterogeneous textile waste.

The basis for this research work lies in the fact that previous round needle tubes were made exclusively from mono or virgin material. The aim is therefore to develop a process that achieves satisfactory results with heterogeneous textile waste (both in terms of material density and material composition).

ifm
Institut für
Materialwissenschaften
der Hochschule Hof

Bayerisches Staatsministerium
für Wirtschaft, Landesentwicklung
und Energie

C. PROJECT: REDUCTION OF PROCESS-RELATED WASTE

Semester project at the Academy for Fashion and Design (AMD) in Berlin

Project period: 13.03.2023 - 30.06.2023

Project partner: Academy for Fashion and Design (AMD) in Berlin

In order to explore further possible applications for our fabric and core waste, the “Sustainable Design“ master‘s programme at AMD Berlin dedicated a semester to our residual materials.

The aim of the project was to develop products using waste such as selvedge cuttings and yarn tubes that are systematically generated during the production process and cannot be avoided. The resulting products should be marketable or usable for Rohleder or direct partners and ideally function within the framework of the circular economy.

Almost 30 students worked on this task between 13 March and 30 June 2023. The project kicked off with a tour and a four-hour workshop at Rohleder. Rohleder then made all residual materials available to the students to create physical prototypes and corresponding business models.

The students presented their results at the end of the project.

Table made from recycled yarn tubes

Table:
Project winner
Jennifer Richter

7.5 AVOIDING THE USE OF CHEMICALS

Around the world, the textile industry uses chemicals in manufacturing and finishing processes such as dyeing, washing and finishing, which are responsible for an estimated 20 per cent of global water pollution. These chemicals can be released in wastewater and affect water quality, which in turn can have an impact on local water supplies. Many of these substances can also be harmful to human health and the environment.

For this reason, we have developed a chemical-free finishing process for our branded fabrics (Q2 and Charmelle). Our fabrics are only treated thermally and mechanically. However, certain properties, such as flame retardancy, which is required by law in some areas of application such as the hotel industry, cannot be achieved without chemical finishing.

We have our fabrics tested regularly to rule out substances of concern. We also keep up to date with the categorisation of the various substances. Our textiles currently comply with the following standards:

- **REACH** - We fulfil the EU REACH regulation and the list of substances of very high concern (SVHC).
- **ITV Denkendorf Medically tested** - Our fabrics have been medically tested in accordance with the strictest requirements by the Fördergemeinschaft für körperverträgliche Textilien im ITV Denkendorf and have been awarded the FKT seal. They are therefore guaranteed to be hypoallergenic and skin safe.
- **Oeko-Tex Standard 100** - Our products have been tested for harmful substances in accordance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100 and are therefore classified as harmless to health.
- **Prop 65** - Our fabrics fulfil the requirements of Californian law and do not contain any chemicals on the Prop 65 list. This applies both to the non-toxic material components and to our environmentally friendly production and finishing steps.
- **California AB-2998** - We certify that our items do not contain any flame retardant chemicals listed in California AB-2998.
- **Conflict Minerals** - Our products do not contain conflict minerals.
- **Red List** - Our articles do not contain Red List substances in quantities above 100 ppm.
- **PFOA- and PVC-free** - Our fabrics do not contain any components of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
- **Free from PFAs** - Our fabrics and finishes are free from PFAs.

7.6 CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

Industrial processes generally generate emissions, which can come from a variety of sources, such as the burning of fossil fuels for energy or the use of materials that release greenhouse gases during their manufacture. Various measures can be taken to minimise these impacts, including improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy sources and offsetting emissions through carbon reduction projects.

Since 2021, in addition to the first two measures, we use carbon offsetting to offset our emissions and achieve climate neutrality. This process is certified and takes place in collaboration with the German Furniture Quality Association (DGM) and the Climate Pact. Every year we calculate and balance our carbon footprint (Scope 1, 2 and 3) and offset the calculated CO2 emissions by supporting climate projects.

Rohleder contributes to the global financing of climate protection by supporting climate protection projects. Climate protection projects reduce, avoid or bind greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, for example through the expansion of renewable energies, the protection or reforestation of forests as well as through social impact projects or other technologies. The impact is calculated in tons of CO2 and is verifiable. The projects carried out within the framework are certified in accordance with international standards such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) or the Gold Standard and are regularly audited by independent third parties. Climate protection projects are therefore an important instrument in the fight against climate change.

8. OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Sustainability is an ongoing process. We are committed to continuous improvement and regularly review our practices. In collaboration with industry peers, experts and stakeholders, we endeavour to drive innovation and develop sustainable solutions. In order to make our own development in the area of sustainability transparent, we would like to summarise our progress in an annual sustainability report in future. This report presents developments, events and key figures for the 2023 financial year. The next report for the 2024 financial year is expected to be published in spring 2025.

Would you like to work with us on sustainability? Only together can we shape a sustainable future. Feel free to contact us to share your ideas and suggestions on the topic of sustainability in the upholstery industry.

ROHLEDER
DIE HITEX® MANUFAKTUR

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