

GRILLO-Werke AG

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Q1 2025



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT GRILLO

Sustainability is no longer a trend - it is an integral part of our corporate strategy and daily work. In this issue of our newsletter, we take a look at the latest developments and progress in the area of sustainable development at GRILLO in the first quarter of the new year.

One highlight was the signing of the climate agreement with the city of Duisburg, which commits us to concrete measures for a climate-neutral future. We also achieved further important milestones with our successful ISO and product footprint audits and the bronze medals in the EcoVadis rating.

In our new interview series, we also introduce our sustainable development team. After Bastian Bach in the last issue, today we start with Sven Schwarzbach, who provides exciting insights into his work and the challenges surrounding sustainability reporting and carbon accounting.

Together, we are driving sustainable solutions forward - for an environmentally friendly future and a strong position in the market.

Enjoy reading!



Interview with sustainability experts

Today: Sven Schwarzbach

Sustainability plays a central role in our company - and there are dedicated colleagues behind the strategies and projects. In our new interview series, we are introducing all the members of the sustainable development team one by one. Today we start with Sven Schwarzbach. He gives us exciting insights into his work, current projects and the challenges in the area of sustainability. Enjoy reading!

Sven, why are you part of the sustainable development team? What motivated you to join?

Sven: Initially, the request came from the Group's Head of Sustainable Development, Dr. Bastian Bach. Due to the restructuring of the company forms into independent GmbHs, it was a good idea to have a "caretaker" in each operationally active company. Through my work as a management representative for environmental management in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14001 at Zinc Metals GmbH and Zinc Powder GmbH, among other things, the topic of sustainability was part of my duties anyway, so it quickly became clear to me that I wanted to be involved. In addition, the team is made up of people who in some cases have a lot of experience in the individual companies and topics, so it is always instructive for me as a "newcomer" to exchange ideas.

What are your tasks in the project team? What are the current projects you are working on?

Sven: As part of the team, I am the contact person for the topic in the two companies mentioned and take potential topics to our regular meeting, where we discuss the next steps together.

Our current main task is to prepare for the reporting obligation arising from the CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive). The difficulty and complexity lies in the fact that this European directive has not yet been transposed into German legislation and we therefore still have to do a bit of crystal ball reading.

In addition, we are about to finalize the creation of so-called PCFs (Product Carbon Footprints). These PCFs show our customers how much CO₂ is generated per tonne of our products from raw material extraction to delivery. They are increasingly in demand and are therefore an important part of a sustainable approach.

In particular, the collection of data as well as testing by certification companies is a constant challenge for us, as these are in high demand due to the increasing requirements. The aim is to complete the PCFs for zinc powder and zinc and zinc-aluminum wire by the end of Q1/2025. At this point, it is also worth mentioning the EcoVadis awards for Zinc Metals and Zinc Powder, where we achieved bronze in each case despite new, stricter evaluation criteria. This was very challenging and time-consuming for me in particular, as it was the first time I had answered questionnaires of this scope and complexity.

Which projects do you particularly enjoy? What do you particularly enjoy working on?

Sven: I don't want to break this down to individual projects. All the work in this area as part of a team always brings new topics and perspectives that I didn't have on my radar before. There are certainly projects that are less fun, but ultimately these also have to be tackled and worked on.

Where do you see GRILLO's strengths, particularly in terms of sustainability?

Sven: Even though I am still relatively new to the company, I very quickly realized that GRILLO's strengths ultimately lie in the cohesion of the whole team and I think that will also be its greatest strength in the future challenges that the topic of sustainability will definitely bring with it. GRILLO has already achieved a lot in this area in the past, even if it is not visible to many. We need to build on this and continue along this path - for the environment, but also to meet the sustainability requirements of our customers. Mr. Grillo himself has recommended "climate management" to the individual companies. This also shows the importance of these issues at the highest level. Of course, a solid economic basis is the basic prerequisite for this.

Which product is your favorite GRILLO product in terms of sustainability?

Sven: There is no favorite product for me. All zinc products are interesting in their own right from a sustainability perspective. In the raw material zinc alone, for example, we can already offer a so-called low carbon variant, the CO2 equivalent of which is significantly lower than the normal variant. There are also a number of ideas that are already being examined in our production to generate savings potential. Zinc will remain an exciting product in the coming years and I am happy to be part of it.

Thank you, Sven!

NEWS



Feb. 25 — **Bronze medal in EcoVadis rating**

GRILLO Zinc Metals GmbH and GRILLO Zinc Powder GmbH have been awarded the bronze medal as part of the renowned EcoVadis certification. This honor is an important achievement, especially in view of the stricter evaluation criteria.

EcoVadis, one of the world's leading sustainability rating agencies, assesses companies in various categories, including sustainability principles, reporting, labor and human rights aspects as well as ethics, inclusion and equality. The bronze awards confirm the responsible and sustainable business practices of both companies.



Feb. 25 — **Meeting at the IZA in Brussels**

In his role as Head of Sustainable Development, our Dr. Bastian Bach took part in the annual face-to-face meeting of the European Zinc Environment Committee (EZEC) at the International Zinc Association (IZA) in Brussels on February 13, 2025. The meeting focused on current developments in European environmental and sustainability assessment, presented by experts from IZA and the member companies. Particular attention was paid to networking and future cooperation, especially in the area of life cycle assessment and sustainability assessment of zinc products.



Mar. 25 — **Audit weeks at GRILLO**

Important monitoring audits have been on the Group's agenda over the past few days. From the week of March 10, the ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 certifications of Zinc Metals GmbH and the integrated management system at RHEINZINK were reviewed. In the week of March 18, the ISO 50001 audit took place at Chemicals, Zinc Metals and Zinc Powder GmbH. At the same time, the product carbon footprints for our powder and wire products were audited.

The intensive audit weeks were successfully completed thanks to the great support of many colleagues, whose commitment contributed to the smooth running of the audit.



Mar. 25 — **GRILLO signs climate agreement with the city of Duisburg**

Our involvement in the Duisburg Climate Pact, which has set itself the goal of jointly shaping the path towards a climate-neutral and climate-resilient city of Duisburg, was already part of our previous issues on sustainable development.

An important milestone has now been reached at this year's partner meeting on March 21 at the Lower Rhine Chamber of Industry and Commerce: the first climate agreement between the City of Duisburg and the managing directors and board members of the climate partners was signed. Our Executive Board, represented by Ulrich Grillo, also signed this groundbreaking agreement.

By signing the agreement, the participating companies commit to pursuing specific targets and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and resource consumption by 2030 and 2035 respectively. In addition to environmental considerations, these measures also offer economic benefits - from competitive advantages and a stronger reputation to resource savings and cost reductions. Innovative solutions are to be developed and promoted through close exchange with other member companies and the City of Duisburg.

Together for a sustainable future!



Questions or suggestions?

Bastian Bach and Nadine Hoffmann look forward to hearing from you via Teams, e-mail, Viva Engage or telephone.