

Important decarbonisation milestone for Nordzucker: sugar production to be powered by biomethane out of beet residues in Denmark

By signing cooperation agreements with Nature Energy, Nordzucker is setting a major milestone on the road to producing CO₂-neutral by 2050. Nordzucker supplies Danish beet residues to Nature Energy who produces biomethane for sugar production. From 2025 on, Nordzucker will use it for decarbonisation of the sugar production in the two Danish factories. It is planned to reduce the CO₂ emission in these plants stepwise up to 37,000 tonnes until 2030.

Braunschweig, 27. September 2024 – For the path to carbon neutrality in production by 2050 at the latest, Nordzucker Group has set up a programme called GoGreen. Besides to the significant reduction in energy consumption, the use of renewable energies is a core element of the programme. Therefore, it is a major milestone that Nordzucker now has signed an agreement with Nature Energy on the supply of biomethane, ensuring that sugar can be produced by renewable energy. The biomethane will be produced out of beet residues of Nordzucker building a circular process.

The agreement concerns Nordzucker's two Danish factories in Lolland-Falster in the southeastern part of Denmark operated by Nordzucker's Danish subsidiary Nordic Sugar.

Nordzucker supplies residual beet pulp to Nature Energy's biomethane plant on Lolland. The goal is that Nordzucker uses the biomethane for decarbonisation of sugar production and to reduce the CO₂ emission in the two Danish sugar factories stepwise up to 37,000 tonnes by 2030. The withdrawal from fuel oil and coal and the transition to natural gas and biomethane has been made possible by the new gas pipeline established by the Danish government in Lolland-Falster that was opened in September 2024.

CO₂ emissions are lowered by 40 percent by using biomethane

“We are delighted to be working with Nature Energy, an international leader in the field of biomethane. It is the first time we are using biomethane to such an extent out of our beet pulp for our sugar production in Denmark,” emphasizes Alexander Godow, Chief Operating Officer. “For us, it is a major milestone in our GoGreen programme to decarbonise our sugar production. We are using this cooperation with Nature Energy as a first step into renewable energy making our production more sustainable,” he explains. It is foreseen to reduce step by step until 2030 40 percent of the CO₂ emissions of the two Danish factories using biomethane.

Nordzucker is committed to CO₂-reduction targets in production

“Nordzucker is committed to sustainability and has set itself climate targets. By 2030 – in addition to the measures we have already implemented over the past decades – we are committed to cutting emissions from our factories by half. This is an important intermediate step towards CO₂-neutrality in production by 2050. In our GoGreen programme we are developing roadmaps for all Nordzucker sites to achieve this goal,” Alexander Godow explains.

Nordzucker's GoGreen Programme

Nordzucker aims to achieve climate-neutral production by 2050 at the latest. In addition to phasing out coal by 2030, energy efficiency is to be significantly increased so that energy consumption per ton of sugar is to be halved by 2045. As part of the GoGreen project, several Nordzucker experts are working on concepts to utilise renewable energy for the company's own supply and to halve energy consumption in sugar production.

Nordzucker

Nordzucker is one of the world's leading producers of sugar from beet and cane. The Group extracts sugar products in various forms, such as white sugar, organic sugar, raw sugar, refined sugar, specialities and liquid sugar. Nordzucker also produces animal feed, molasses, fertilisers and fuels from renewable energies as well as electricity. In the 2023/2024 financial year, the company generated revenue of 2.9 billion Euro.

The company continues to grow and is expanding its portfolio to include plant-based proteins, in particular from the regionally grown yellow pea. To this end, a new plant is to go into operation in Groß Munzel, Lower Saxony, Germany, in 2026.

Nordzucker already produces sustainably in many respects: from regional cultivation, with short transport distances, under the highest quality and social standards and with complete utilisation of the arable crops. The aim is for all production to be CO₂ -neutral by 2050 at the latest.

Nordzucker is committed to sustainability, from the farmer to the consumer, and makes sustainability an integral part of the company. Excellent products and services, growth prospects and continuous improvements are the driving force behind a dedicated and international team of more than 3,900 employees at 21 European and Australian locations.

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