



## is our mission, innovation is our drive.



Sustainability is of central importance to us at Dreve. We see it as our responsibility to harmonize economic, social and environmental aspects in order to ensure long-term success. In our efforts to have a positive impact on the environment around us, we have decided to document our comprehensive sustainability measures in this report.

We are increasingly being asked about our sustainability efforts by customers, business partners and other stakeholders. We see this not only as a recognition of our efforts so far, but also as motivation to further strengthen our transparency and responsibility. This sustainability report serves not just as a response to these requests, but also as a tool to share our experiences and progress.

We are convinced that our commitment to sustainability not merely helps to minimize the environmental impact of our business activities, but can also serve as an inspiration for other companies. By sharing best practices and an open commitment to sustainability, we can collectively have a positive impact on society and the environment.

Our sustainability report is a step in this direction. We hope that it provides insights to our efforts and encourages other companies to take similar initiatives. Together, we can make a significant contribution to a more sustainable future.

Victoria Dreve





# reasons why sustainability is important

Overall, sustainability is key to ensure a future worth living for us and future generations.

Achieving a balanced and sustainable equilibrium requires adopting a comprehensive approach that incorporates considerations for environmental, social, and economic factors.

- **1. Conservation of natural resources:** By acting sustainably, we ensure that we do not deplete our planet's limited resources. This includes the conscious use of water, air, soil, forests, and other natural resources.
- **2. Environmental protection:** Sustainability aims to reduce pollution, protect biodiversity and mitigate the effects of climate change. By acting sustainably, we can minimize air, water and soil pollution and reduce the loss of natural habitats
- **3. Social justice:** Sustainability also includes social aspects. A sustainable development regards the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations. This includes fair working conditions, social equality and access to education, healthcare, and clean drinking water for all.
- **4. Economic stability:** Sustainability can help to create a stable and resilient economy. By using resources efficiently, achieving energy savings and developing renewable energy sources, we can reduce dependence on finite and polluting resources. Sustainable business practices can also create new jobs and contribute to sustainable economic development.
- **5. Ethics and responsibility:** Sustainability is based on the idea that we (as a society) bear the responsibility for our planet and future generations. It is about deciding consciously to achieve long-term benefits for the environment and society, rather than seeking short-term goals.

#### Dreve gets sustainability award "EcoZert"



The certificate is only awarded to companies that show an improved use of resources, a proven commitment to social aspects and meet key economic indicators. We are delighted to be honored for our commitment by this certificate.



## The family company

#### **Innovation aus Tradition**



With over 75 years of experience, Dreve stands for quality, precision, and technological progress.

#### The Dreve company's history

The history of the family business Dreve in Unna is characterized by a long tradition and great innovative spirit. Over the course of 75 years of organic growth, we aim to provide you with a concise overview of the key milestones in our journey.

#### The Dreve company was founded in 1949 by Wolfgang Dreve.

As a dental technician, he initially developed dental materials, in particular plastics for prostheses. Our company started as a small laboratory in Unna, Germany.







Over the following decades, we continuously expanded our product portfolio and gained international importance. Our expertise focused on the development and manufacturing of first-class medical products, particularly in the dental and audiology market.

The history of Dreve illustrates a successful family business that has evolved to a global player through continuous progress, technological innovation, and a strong customer focus.

Dreve is an innovative company that has specialized in the development and manufacturing of customized solutions for the dental and medical industries.



#### The 70s

The 1970s marked the beginning of the development of our silicone materials specifically designed for hearing aids. This breakthrough innovation revolutionized the industry by achieving an optimized fit and greater comfort for hearing aids. As a result, we became the world leader in silicone materials for hearing aid professionals.

#### The 80s

In the 1980s, Dr. Volker Dreve, the son of our founder, took over the management of the company. Under his leadership, we not only expanded our product portfolio but also solidified a more robust international presence. We developed to a global player in the dental and audiology industry.



#### In the course of time

Over the years, we have constantly invested in research and development to create pioneering solutions and products. Our close collaboration with research institutes, universities, and experts has enabled us to drive technological progress.





#### **Today**

Today, we are a globally well-known family business with connections in over 100 countries. Our wide range of products and solutions for dentistry, audiology and other medical fields is internationally appreciated. Our passion for quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction is key to our work.

With over 75 years of experience, Dreve stands for quality, precision, and technological progress. The company offers its customers individual products and services to perfectly meet their requirements and needs.

#### **Strategy & Future**

Shaping the future through sustainable strategies – our responsibility for tomorrow



PDCA stands for Plan-Do-Check-Act and is an iterative method that Dreve uses for the continuous improvement of processes, products, or services. It is also known as the "Deming Cycle" or "Shewhart Cycle", named after the pioneers of quality management, W. Edwards Deming and Walter A. Shewhart.

Our approach follows an iterative cycle. It implies that we repeat this process continuously to achieve constant improvements. Each iteration is built on the experience and knowledge of the previous one and contributes to the continuous optimization of our processes, products or services.

For us at Dreve, this cycle is an extremely effective method. It helps us to identify problems, develop solutions and continuously improve our performance. We strongly believe that this approach enables us to work continuously at the highest level and to constantly improve.

#### Plan (planning)

In this phase, we thoroughly analyze the current situation. We define our goals and measures as well as draw up a detailed plan. We identify necessary resources and draw up an action plan that will help us to realize the desired improvements.

#### Do (implement)

Then we implement the action plan that we have developed in the planning process. We carry out the planned measures and implement the changes in our processes, products, and services.

#### Check

In this phase, we collect results and data to check whether the implemented measures have brought the desired improvements. We analyze the information collected to determine whether our goals have been achieved and to identify any deviations or problems.

#### Act

Based on the findings from the previous phase, now we decide how to proceed. If our goals have been achieved, we can standardize the measures and define them as a new way of working. If we had identified deviations or problems, we adjust our plans and restart the cycle.

#### Award from the "Bündnis für Familie" in Unna

We are proud having been honored with the Pluspunkt Familie award twice, underscoring our recognition as a family-friendly company in the Unna region.



This award underlines our commitment to offering our employees family-oriented working conditions and supporting their work-life balance.

We actively support the compatibility of career and family through various measures and programs. These include flexible working times and flexible parental leave, part-time jobs, and various home office options. We can also offer the wonderful opportunity to leave employees kids in the "Villa Mausezahn" (special Corporate childcare) during their work.

The second Pluspunkt Familie award confirms again that we are on the right track achieving a family-friendly environment. We are proud to be a company that focuses on the needs and challenges of its employees in terms of family and career. This award motivates us to improve continuously our family-friendly measures and to support our employees in the best possible way.



### network

### Sustainable purchase and regional suppliers

A sustainable network in the region is of central importance as it is the basis for long-term cooperation and positive change. By promoting and supporting local organizations, we do not only strengthen the community, but also contribute to regional development. These partnerships enable us to work together to find effective solutions for local challenges and enhance sustainable changes in the region.

#### Think Global – Buy Local

Dreve consistently pursues a sustainable procurement strategy in which we draw great attention to ecological and social aspects.





We strive to minimize the transportation footprint of our goods by opting for the shortest possible routes, thereby reducing  $CO_2$  emissions. By choosing local suppliers, we can not only minimize the environmental impact of transportation routes, but also support the local economy and promote jobs in the region.

In addition, we maintain long-term and cooperative relationships with our suppliers. We are dedicated to keep a transparent and open communication way. By building these relationships, we can work together as a team on sustainable solutions that go beyond mere economic aspects. Our goal is to construct a robust, strategic, and enduring network that stands the test of time, ultimately yielding benefits for all involved parties.



A central point of our sustainability strategy is purchasing preferably from suppliers within our region.



#### After all our efforts, we are pleased to be able to label our products as "Made in Germany" now.

The label stands for quality, reliability and high standards.

We are convinced that products manufactured in Germany meet the high expectations of our customers and at the same time reflect our sustainability standards.

Taking a closer look at our purchasing, we can see that most of our revenues derives from European countries, including Germany on the first position in the ranking.



Focusing on European suppliers enables us to ensure short distances and close cooperation. In addition, geographical proximity makes it easier to comply with environmental standards and monitor social criteria through the supply chain.

We will continue to intensify our efforts in the future to ensure that our procurement processes are in line with our sustainability goals and make a positive contribution to the future.

#### **Commitment for the community**

We actively contribute to a positive change in the society through fundraising campaigns and aid projects. Our dedication is centered on supporting those in need and contribute to a better future. These initiatives reflect our commitment to social responsibility.



Do good things together, making a positive contribution to society, is very important to us at Dreve. For a long time already, a key effort is to support various charity organizations, both worldwide as well as local around Unna.

**Supporting charity organizations** is a tradition that we enjoy effecting every end of the year. Each year, we donate a considerable amount of money to a well-selected organization. These partner organizations are diverse and cover a wide range of topics. Previous beneficiaries include well-known institutions such as the Kinderschutzbund, the Tierschutzbund and Ärzte ohne Grenzen. Our selection is based on the conviction that our support is most urgently needed there.

In ad-hoc situations, we also rely on the commitment of our employees. We are delighted that our employees are actively involved in our social commitment. In recent years, we collected clothing, food and toiletries, which we have passed on to people in need. These campaigns also enable us to provide help directly on site. For example, donations were sent to refugees in the Ukraine or to the local Tafel in Unna.

In addition to our global support, we are particularly keen to strengthen our local community. We work closely together with organizations such as Lebenshilfe. By ordering there we create work opportunities for them. We also show our solidarity on special occasions, such as Christmas, e.g. by giving gifts.

Our long-term support of charity organizations, whether through financial donations or the active participation of our employees, reflects our firmly rooted conviction that we have a corporate social responsibility. Our aim is to leave a lasting and positive impact, whether globally or locally. We are proud to be part of a community that is committed to making the world a better place and working with other organizations to create positive change.



## on people

It is particularly important to us to support our employees comprehensively, as we see their role as crucial for the success of the company.

#### Well-being, creativity, productivity

A positive working space not only promotes well-being, but also boosts creativity and productivity.

We invest in training, development opportunities and work-life balance to support the personal career of our employees. Their satisfaction is key to our long-term success and reflects our commitment to an inspiring work environment.

#### This is what we offer our team

- + Trainings
- + Community
- + Corporate childcare

- + Home office
- + Discounts & Fitness Specials
- + Eurorad Bike Leasing













#### **Training opportunities**

#### Investing in the growth of our team

In a dynamic and constantly evolving business world, it is essential for companies to invest in continuous training.

We see it, as our responsibility to constantly monitor these developments and therefore we offer our employees a wide range of internal and external training courses. This is extremely important to ensure, that the latest skills and knowledge is acquired.

The external training courses offer our employees the opportunity to develop beyond their role in the company. There are mandatory training courses that fulfill certain regulatory requirements, depending on the position or area of expertise. These training courses ensure that our employees always remain up to date with the latest legal requirements and regulations. Furthermore, their safety in the workplace must be guaranteed, which is also very important to us.

In addition, employees also have a personal interest in further training in certain specialist areas. For this reason, we enable them to attend training courses that match their individual interests and goals. Whether it's marketing, data analysis, project management or creative skills – we support and encourage them to strengthen their skills and knowledge in the topics they are interested in and where they see their potential.

In addition to external training, Dreve has a dedicated team of internal trainers who offer special training programs.

These internal trainings cover a wide range of topics including leadership skills, communication skills, project management, teamwork, technical skills and many more. Training is offered face-to-face as well as in virtual formats to meet all expectations.

Providing these diverse training opportunities has many advantages. Firstly, we enable our employees to expand their skills and deepen their knowledge, which leads to greater job satisfaction and motivation. By acquiring new skills, they can also improve their career opportunities and work on their career within our company.

In addition, we also benefit from investments in training. By ensuring that our employees have up-to-date specialist knowledge, we can develop innovative solutions, remain competitive and meet the challenges of an always changing market.



#### The corporate community

#### Success derives from a strong team

At Dreve, we focus on creating and fostering a strong and harmonious community within our company. We firmly believe that a collaborative working setting not only enhances employee wellbeing, but also contributes to improved collaboration and performance.





For this reason, we regularly plan events and activities with the aim bringing the team together and strengthening it. For example, our popular Christmas party had a long tradition. However, we have expanded our repertoire and now celebrate an annual summer festival, which has become a real highlight event in our calendars.

At our summer party we get together in a relaxed atmosphere and enjoy the live music, food trucks and various activities. It is also an opportunity to get to know each other better outside the work context, build new relationships and strengthen a shared team spirit.

In addition, we also recognize the importance of common successes and special events in daily working life. For example, when a successful audit is passed or special holidays are coming up, we like to surprise our entire workforce with cake which creates a positive atmosphere and promotes team spirit.

Another example of our efforts to push the company's community is celebrating special occasions. This year, we are delighted to celebrate Dreve's 75th anniversary,

will be highlighted with a festive event. This celebration offers the opportunity to look back on our successes and to cheer to the goals and challenges ahead.

At Dreve, we are very keen to create an atmosphere in which our employees feel not only part of a team, but also part of a large community. Through our events and activities, we want to ensure that they have the chance to get to know each other, discover common interests and build a strong bond with each other and, above all, feel comfortable.

Our efforts to support the community turned out to be extremely successful. We have learned that our employee satisfaction is very high and there is a high involvement to the company, also reflected in positive teamwork and productivity.

We will continue our efforts and find new ways to further strengthen and support our corporate community. We firmly believe that a strong team is the foundation for our success.



#### The Corporate childcare

Dreve is extremely proud to offer a high-quality corporate childcare. We see it as a valuable opportunity to make a positive contribution to society and make life easier for families.

It is more than just a service for us – it is a responsibility that we fulfill with great dedication. We understand, how important it is for parents to be able to leave their child in trustworthy hands while work. That is why we want to create a safe and lovely institution for children with the best possible care and support.

Our team consists of experienced and passionate staff that is aware of the needs of each individual kid. We offer an exciting, age-appropriate and educational organization in order to encourage the individual development and well-being of the children. We are extremely happy and satisfied that we established the "Villa Mausezahn". It is a privilege to be part of the children's life and to offer them with positive and supportive surroundings. Dreve is committed to make sure that parents can totally concentrate on their work as they know another one is caring about and looking after their kids. The corporate childcare is an important part of our business, and we will continue to do everything for it with greatest care and passion.

A special thanks goes to the city of Unna for their support and cooperation.





#### Home office

#### The offer of alternating teleworking for more flexibility

In today's fast business world, flexible worktime is getting increasingly important.

That is why we at Dreve have decided to offer the option of alternating teleworking, with a home office share of up to 50 percent for our employees. We are convinced that this flexible working structure has many advantages for both our employees and our corporation.

A key feature of home office is that our employees benefit from a better work-life balance. They are more flexible at home than in the office and can fulfill personal commitments. This leads to greater satisfaction and an increased sense of well-being, which in turn has a positive impact on their motivation and productivity.

But it's not just our employees who benefit from this working option. We as a company also see advantages in it. By reducing the presence in the office, we can use our resources more efficiently and save costs. In addition, the flexible working structure supports employee loyalty, as we can meet their individual needs. Satisfied employees are more committed and motivated. Furthermore, they contribute to improve the company's performance.

Of course, it is important that open communication and transparent objectives are guaranteed to maintain collaboration in a partially virtual working environment. We rely on modern technologies and promote regular exchanges within our team to successfully meet any challenges that may arise.

By implementing our home office regulations, employees are not only more flexible, but also contribute to more sustainability. With the opportunity to work from home, we can significantly reduce their commute. Even though most of our personnel comes from the region, every saved distance counts for a positive balance. This measure leads to a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and thus actively contributes to protecting our environment.

Overall, we are proud to offer our employees the option of alternating teleworking (up to 50 percent home office). We strongly believe, it leads to a positive working atmosphere in which employees can develop their full potential. After all, their well-being and satisfaction are the key points to our joint success.

#### **Corporate discounts**



#### Exclusive offers for the team

Dreve offers its staff exclusive discounts in a Corporate Benefits Portal. These special benefits are designed to show that we appreciate our employees.

With the corporate discounts, we provide access to exclusive benefits and savings. We understand that our employees' lives are not just about work, but also about personal needs and desires. Through this offer, they benefit from various discounts from different brands, online shops, and stores. We want to make their lives a little easier and reduce their financial burden.

We see these benefits as a way of strengthening employee loyalty. The benefits show our appreciation and ensure that our employees feel part of our corporate family. This creates a positive working atmosphere and achieves commitment and motivation.

The corporate discounts are also a sign of the partnership-based relationship we have built up with other enterprises. It is important for us to be part of a network of companies that work together to offer the best to staff

Ultimately, we are happy to offer corporate discounts to our employees, as we are convinced, that they create a win-win situation for our employees and us. It is also a way to give something back and support the team while strengthening employee loyalty and well-being.



#### We are also holding a partnership with the company FitX since 2023

FitX is a well-known fitness studio chain across Germany with a wide range of high-quality training options and professional staff. With this cooperation, we offer employees a discounted membership and want to support them in leading a healthy and active life.

Achieving fitness goals at FitX improves also employee's work-life balance. We want to help our personnel to

increase their motivation and maintain their physical and mental health. We strongly believe that healthy and active people are more productive and happier, so it is important for us to provide them with this resource. This cooperation is a further step towards supporting comprehensively the well-being of our employees and creating an encouraging working environment.



#### **Eurorad – the corporate bike**

#### ep entotad

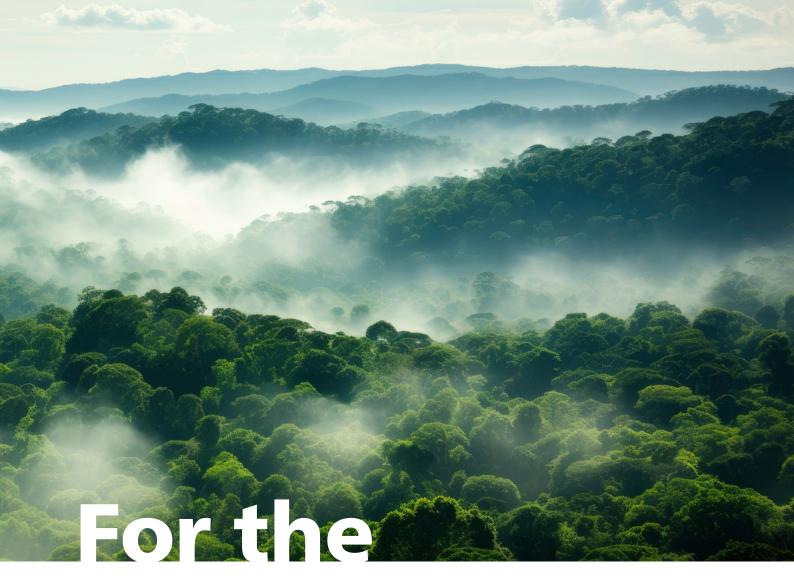
#### Bike leasing for active people

In times when sustainability and health-conscious working conditions are becoming increasingly crucial factors, bike leasing is getting more important for employees and is an attractive option. Eurorad's bicycle offers provide an attractive opportunity for employees to lease through their salary. This innovative option has many advantages for employees and employers.

Through this cooperation with Eurorad, Dreve offers its personnel a great opportunity to get a high-quality bicycle or e-bike without spending a huge amount of money at once. Instead of buying the bike, they can rent it for a period and pay monthly through their salary. This allows to spread cost s and reduces their financial burden.

Bike leasing gives our employees access to a wide range of bicycles, including city bikes, trekking bikes, mountain bikes and pedelecs. They can choose the bike that suits best and use it for the way to work, leisure and as an eco-friendly alternative to a car.

The option of cycling to the job enhances well-being and the health as well as helps to create a positive working atmosphere with increased loyalty and satisfaction of the employees. In addition, it is a contribution to Dreve's environmental goals. Bicycle leasing reduces the  ${\rm CO_2}$  footprint and supports sustainable mobility , which we are already striving for with various measures.



## environment

#### Shaping the future, printing sustainably

We are not just committed to the pursuit of economic success, but also strive for a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach at Dreve. In addition to our focus on eco-friendly packaging and conscious measures protecting the external environment, we are also committed to protect the environment with the help of our own products.

#### FotoDent® biobased model

#### An outstanding example of this is our "FotoDent® biobased model" resin, which is a pioneering innovation.

FotoDent® biobased model is a light-curing resin that not only impresses with its performance, but, more importantly, with its sustainable composition. A significant proportion of 50 percent of this resin consists of renewable raw materials. This innovative approach offers numerous ecological advantages compared to conventional, petroleum-based plastics.

The ecological advantage of bio-based raw materials lies in their lower climate impact during production. Conventional petroleum-based plastics release a large amount of carbon dioxide, whereas biomass only releases as much carbon dioxide as the plants have previously absorbed. The conversion of carbon dioxide into valuable raw materials therefore makes a positive contribution to reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide pollution.

Our sustainable selection of suppliers is particularly important for this plastic. In choosing our suppliers, we have carefully ensured that the raw materials used do not compete with food production and that local conditions in manufacturing are considered. This enables

an environmentally friendly supply chain and underlines our commitment to social responsibility.

The integration of FotoDent® biobased model into our corporate sustainability strategy illustrates the high priority that sustainability and environmental protection have in our business model.

In addition to the ecological aspects, the biobased resin has other positive characteristics. It is free from carcinogenic or fertility-impairing substances and has an extremely low level of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Compared to conventional 3D printing materials, it therefore has a significantly lower impact on the atmosphere.

The material properties of the biobased FotoDent® model material have been specifically tailored for use in the aligner workflow. The optimal viscosity of the material helps to reduce the amount of cleaning effort for each printed part.





With the introduction of FotoDent® biobased model, we are making a statement for sustainability, environmental consciousness, and innovation. The use of biobased plastic not only reduces the environmental impact, but also takes a significant step towards a more sustainable future. We show how companies can have a positive impact on the environment through innovative products and strategic action.



#### Electromobility

#### Sustainable mobility - Moving forward responsibly

Our company hast decided to push electromobility. Currently, 25 percent of our vehicle fleet already consists of electric cars. We have set ourselves ambitious targets to further increase this figure. To facilitate the use of electric cars, we have already installed four charging points with a total of eight charging spaces. This allows our employees, customers and visitors to charge their electric vehicles conveniently and reliably. By expanding this infrastructure, we are promoting electromobility.

Through our internal data collection, we clearly observe a continuous increase in the use of charging stations for electric cars and vehicles with hybrid drives. This is an encouraging sign and confirms that our efforts towards electromobility are a step in the right direction. The growing demand for charging stations indicates that both, our employees and customers, increasingly appreciate the benefits and convenience of electromobility. Being part of this positive development is essential to

us, and we will continue to expand infrastructure and opportunities for sustainable mobility.

However, our commitment to electromobility goes beyond the provision of charging facilities and we are constantly modernizing our vehicle fleet and converting to electric cars. By using these environmentally friendly vehicles, we are not only reducing our ecological footprint, but also making a valuable contribution to climate protection.

We are convinced that electromobility is the future of transportation. We are committed to developing and implementing innovative solutions to further advance and promote electromobility. Our aim is to make a sustainable and environmentally conscious contribution, while offering our customers and employees modern and future-proof mobility options.

#### Photovoltaic system

#### The energy of the sun

Since the extensive installation of the photovoltaic system in October 2022, Dreve has made great progress in the use of renewable resources. In just a few months, we have seen significant savings in our electricity supply, and during the summer months we have even achieved full coverage of our electricity needs through the solar panels.

The investment in solar panels was a significant step towards sustainability and has proven to be extremely profitable. Our panels use solar energy to generate electricity and offer an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional energy sources.

Very impressive is the fact that during the summer months we have been able to achieve full coverage of our electricity supply from the solar panels. This means that we were able to cover all of our company's electricity needs from renewable energy sources without having to rely on external power sources. This is not only an important contribution to environmental protection, but also a major step towards energy independence.

The positive results of the first few months of using our solar systems encourage us to further expand our use of renewable energies. We are proud to reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and at the same time achieving financial benefits for our company.

The installation of solar panels in 2022 was an important investment for our company and the positive results we have achieved so far reinforce our commitment to renewable energy. We look forward to continuing our progress and setting an example of sustainable business.





#### Recycling

#### Transport packaging and commercial sales packaging

The Dreve Group has been awarded with the recycling certificate of Interzero Circular Solutions Germany GmbH for the year 2022. As a proud partner of Interzero Circular Solutions Germany GmbH, we have successfully received the certificate, which values our efforts in relation to the disposal of transport packaging and commercial sales packaging.

This certificate confirms that the registered transport packaging and commercial sales packaging of our customers is collected by the Interzero partners. In addition, this packaging is recycled and therefore meets all the requirements of the German Packaging Act.

We are very pleased to be working with Interzero and making our contribution to the sustainable circular economy. With this award, we will continue our commitment to environmentally friendly recycling and do our best to continue to handle packaging responsibly.

Together we will achieve our sustainability and environmental goals and have a positive impact on the future of our planet.

#### Recyclables

We are pleased to announce that Dreve has made an individual contribution to climate and resource protection in 2022 through our collaboration with Interzero. By recycling, we were able to achieve impressive savings in material costs.

Throughout the year, our efforts saved a total amount of 58,157 kilograms of primary resources. This means that we have efficiently reused valuable raw materials instead of extracting new ones. This saving has a direct impact on the protection of our natural resources and helps to reduce our ecological footprint.

In addition, we were also able to save 4,498 kilograms of greenhouse gases by recycling valuable materials. This

contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an important step against climate change. By avoiding these gases, we are helping to reduce global warming and secure a sustainable future.

This achievement shows that we, at Dreve, are fulfilling our commitments to climate and resource protection and actively contributing to creating a better and more sustainable world. We will continue to do our best to intensify our recycling efforts and minimize our impact on the environment.

#### "EcoPack" - Sustainable packaging

It is a pleasure to share the progress we have already made in this exciting journey as we continuously work to intensify our sustainability efforts even further.



We have initiated an important internal process: the conversion of all our packaging to sustainable alternatives. Our focus is not only on the excellent presentation of our products, but more importantly on how we wrap and ship these products to our customers. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting the environment and building a sustainable future together.

One of our first significant actions in this process is the introduction of gray and brown cardboard packaging. By opting for brown cardboard, we avoid the use of bleaching agents, that not merely saves energy, but also reduces chemical pollution of the environment from substances such as chlorine dioxide or hypochlorite.

However, our efforts exceed the packaging itself. We also rely on renewable paper cushions, which we efficiently form and produce directly on site. These pads are 100% recyclable. They are delivered together with other cardboard packaging, eliminating the need for additional transportation and thus minimizing our environmental footprint.

Another big step is the use of eco-friendly paper tape. This self-adhesive tape is silicone-free and has a natural rubber adhesive coating. It can be recycled together with the cardboard and so recycling is much easier and fits perfectly into our concept of a material cycle economy.

Even our delivery papers, which accompany every shipment, contribute to our comprehensive sustainability strategy. The delivery bill is made from 100% recycled paper, which is a sustainable alternative to conventional materials.

We are thrilled with the success of this packaging change so far and also confident about the future as we continue to find innovative ways to package our products in an eco-friendly and sustainable way. Our goal is more than offering great products, but also to protect our environment and create a sustainable future for next generations.

In addition to our sustainably packaged goods, we also monitor and review the way the goods reach our customers. We now rely on DHL GoGreen to ship our goods and control our  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions at the same time. With this green option, we are actively supporting DHL in offsetting emissions worldwide through external climate protection projects – a practice known as 'offsetting'. Our goal is to achieve external compensation for the emissions generated. DHL is doing this by purchasing carbon credits, which in turn support projects such as equipping households in developing countries with more efficient stoves. Together, we are creating a more sustainable and responsible shipping solution for the future.

