



Making an impact without leaving a mark

Ecobalance 2017

südwollgroup

Contents

Introduction	3
Südwolle Group's collections	4
Fancy yarns go Bio: HF and Loris	6
Our expert for natural luxury yarns: GTI	7
Mount Hesse update	8
Every detail counts! What we changed in our factories in 2016	9
ZQ and the Responsible Wool Standard	10
Merino wool won't add to microplastics pollution	12
Südwebs insights	13
Objective measures	14
Inspiration for ecological awareness all around us	18
The next generation of coloured weaving yarns	19
Fashion is everywhere	20
The expedition of Merino	22
LCA and animal welfare in New Zealand	24
Our passion for society	26
About Südwolle Group	28

Welcome to our latest Ecobalance



As a supplier for wool, a niche market product, we constantly strive to make our products more valuable. Not because of the Euro or Dollar monetary worth, but because of reasons why to buy our products – on a functional, objective or even strictly emotional level. Niche markets have different rules compared to mass markets, so shouldn't we appreciate a highly valuable material, which is not comparable to less valued synthetic fibres or cotton?

Everyone in the industry is constantly talking about sustainability – but what does 'sustainable' really mean? Nowadays, every day-to-day action is 'sustainable'. This term has been generalized over the past few years and used in many contexts.

Too many to be actually meaningful anymore? I think each and every one of us should take a step back and ask: How can I apply the concept of ecological awareness to my daily business? How can I think out of the box and make 'sustainability' a business model, not just a term? What would be my personal, more practical term for what I do when I act responsibly?

One example for a different application of environmentally friendly actions is the upcycling project with HTW Berlin and LPJ Studios, presented on page 20. There, being 'sustainable' is solid: The students used resources that otherwise would have been thrown away and breathed new life into them – practical application and personal interpretation of 'sustainability' with an actual meaning behind it.

I would like to thank everyone who helped putting this Ecobalance together, especially those who are not mentioned on the following pages. I hope you enjoy the reading.

Hans-Georg von Schuh
Managing Director Sales

Südwolle Group's collection – our range of products



For our founding business with a long-standing tradition and a recognized name in the worsted weaving market for over 50 years, Südwolle supplies premium weaving yarns for men's and women's wear. In 2016, we went back to the basics and focused on using what we already have rather than consuming more. We developed qualities made of recycled wool which is obtained from the reuse of manufacturing by-products. These are transformed in our own factories, so there is no unnecessary transportation. The Südwolle pure wool yarns are suitable for soft and light fabrics and their distinctive features are their natural imperfections – some might say it is a weakness but we see it as a sign of being genuine and authentic.

Biella Yarn is specialized in flat knitting yarns for exclusive, high fashion apparel. Fashion is multi-dimensional and pairs well with technology. This is evident with the development of Softwist technology, extending the properties and applications of pure Merino by natural stretch and clean stitch. Last year we launched an organic yarn collection. To date, the demand was overwhelming and demonstrated the need to expand the certified organic yarn range. A full yarn collection was developed that moved away from the niche products and into the main market. This trend will influence our strategies for the years to come.

Yarn in Motion (YIM), as the name suggests, never stands still. These are our yarns for high-tech Merino circular knitting and seamless used for outdoor performance, underwear, elite sportswear and fashion. In 2016, we launched combinations of wool yarns with recycled polyester sourced from post-consumer and post-production waste to demonstrate our further commitment to minimizing environmental impact, saving resources and using what we have more efficiently. Let us not throw away the garments but keep the yarn in motion!



Richter delivers hosiery yarns for many purposes – from business to fashion, sports and outdoor activities. Over the past year, a substantial share of the Richter products became ecological yarns. This shift has occurred by expanding the stock-supported yarn program and offering its majority as Naturetexx® Plasma treated. This technology only uses electricity and air instead of chlorine, in order to make wool machine washable. The Richter yarns that are Naturetexx® Plasma treated are bluesign® and, depending on the raw material input, GOTS and IVN Best certified.



For Stöhr it is all about technical innovations, custom-made to customer specifications. Known as the specialist for wool-based technical yarns, Stöhr is a key supplier for automotive and upholstery markets. In addition, the ability to meet the high standards for colour, function and durability make the corporate and uniform wear sector a natural fit. The Stöhr business maintains a high dedication to renewable materials and elimination of chrome dyes within all production cycles.



The philosophy of our quality Air jet yarn producer, Soey, does not stop with the yarns, it starts with each fiber in the production process. Our promise does not mean the continuity of mediocrity, but the constant drive in technical, environmental, and social excellence. Due to creative ideas, our technical experts achieved in 2016 a considerable reduction of energy consumption per kg yarn. Above all, the versatility of Soey yarns remains first choice for end uses ranging from apparel to technical applications.

On the following pages: special features of GTI and HF/Loris.

Fancy yarns go Bio: HF and Loris



With its Biofancy collection HF shows that fancy and fashionable does not mean having to compromise on environmental respect.

Since October 2015 HF Filati complements our product portfolio in the segment of fancy yarns. Produced exclusively in Italy, the two collections, HF and Loris, stand for creativity and imaginative interpretations, combined with selected raw materials.

The product offer is very diverse, stitches and colours are studied carefully to accentuate the yarns' characteristics. In Veneto, Italy, where the yarns are manufactured, there is a small knitwear department established to produce standard and tooled swatches.

Historically HF and Loris are known for their summer collections, thanks to the wide offer of fancy viscose and cotton yarns. Their strong focus on the responsible treatment of natural resources plays a major role in their

products. Recently a special program of ecologically valuable fancy yarns was launched within Loris, called "Biofancy". This exclusive capsule includes bio yarns made of organic cotton, silk and linen as well as recycled polyester. The yarns' raw materials and all components of the dyeing process are GOTS certified and our answer to our customers' growing demand for ecological products.



HF's futuristic booth at Pitti Filati Fair 2017

Our expert for natural luxury yarns: GTI



Fibre drying



Processing the wet fibres



Picking out wood bits

GTI shows its connection to natural fibres and ecological influences by using uncommon materials like the Himalayan nettle for our luxury yarns.

GTI S.p.A (Gruppo Tessile Industriale) is part of Südwolle Group since October 2015. With the integration of this high-end yarn manufacturer, we were able to enlarge the product portfolio for our customers. Founded by Antonio Ricignolo in 1928, GTI specialises in the production of worsted and woollen luxury yarns exclusively out of natural fibres. These products can be used for weaving as well as for flat and hand knitting, with counts from Nm 0,5 to 400. Alongside the original brand "Ricignolo 1928", today there are two additional collections: "Lane Edelweiss" and "Lane Grawitz".

Since its beginnings, GTI has constantly focused on in-depth research and cataloguing of natural fibres. This expert knowledge of all animal and vegetable fibres that can be spun, together with the expertise in selecting the finest fibres, makes GTI a unique yarn manufacturer. Yak, camel hair, baby alpaca, cashmere, silk, linen, used alone or in blends, are treated with an expertise that has its roots in the artisan's workshop.

Being connected to natural fibres and ecological influences, GTI is permanently searching for new eco-friendly solutions and concepts. One example is the story of 'Oyster', a yarn made of 100% Himalayan nettle that is part of the recent GTI collection. This particular fibre offers natural brilliance and combines the characteristics of mohair with those of tussah silk. The plant that grows wild in forests at an 1800m to 3000m altitude regrows every year

to about 3 meters. Due to the great leaf production, it absorbs large quantities of CO₂ and helps to maintain soil stability. It is harvested in Nepal, by hand, using local labour. Collecting and selling the raw material, Himalayan nettle helps the families in this region to earn around 600 dollars per season. Applying this GTI yarn means supporting the Himalayan dwellers that otherwise would have very few possibilities to make a living.



The Himalayan nettle is an important source of food and medicine.

Want to find out more? Check out www.gtispa.com.

Mount Hesse update

Retaining nutrients is very important and Mount Hesse farm is tested regularly to ensure optimal growth of plants and crops, providing intensive grazing for Merino sheep.

Soil science is an important aspect of farming on Mount Hesse. There are varying soil types that store nutrients and water in different ways. We monitor our soils with soil tests so that macro elements such as phosphorous, sulphur, potassium and nitrogen keep being concentrated in the grounds and do not dispose into the sub surface water system or run off into streams.

The farm is being fenced to classify land and the ground is tested regularly so that we get optimum growth from our crops and plants. The western district of Victoria is known for its acidic volcanic territory so we have made every effort by applying lime to lift the pH of our soils to allow crops to thrive in this once difficult environment.

As the farm is on a volcanic plain some stone needed to be moved and crops with an optimized pasture were sown. Prior to this a check is made to determine that there are no native animals that will be disturbed and areas are set aside for their use.



Mount Hesse's fenced paddocks for different soil types

Trees are planted in these piles of stone which provide shade and shelter for the sheep and a home for the many birds, insects and small animals found on the property.



Thank you David from Mount Hesse for providing us with this article!



Did you know?

Approximately 10% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions are stored in soil.

Soil is made up of 45% minerals, 25% water, 25% air and 5% organic matter such as broken rocks and decaying plants and animals.

Every detail counts! What we changed in our factories in 2016

Last year lots of changes were made in our production sites. From small steps like replacing old light bulbs with energy efficient LED illuminants to exchanging machines with ones equipped with more powerful motors that need less electricity to run at full speed. There are always improvements, trials and efforts made in order to constantly find a better way of producing without compromising on yarn performance. Examples are mentioned in the following.

Overall energy savings of around 60% and less CO₂ emissions were obtained by simply replacing fluorescent lamps in all our mills with a total installed capacity of 30 kW by LED illuminants with a total capacity of 15 kW.

Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung

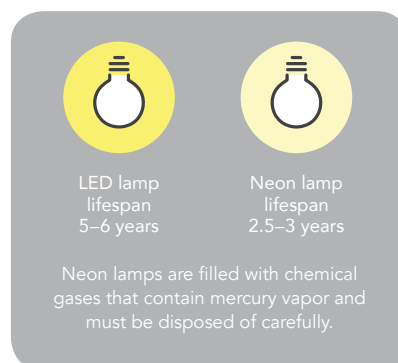
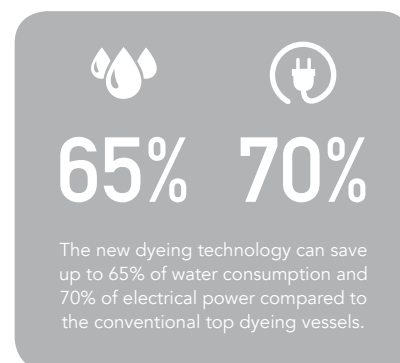
With its German technology Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung guarantees a reliable process for dyeing standard and bespoke colours. We use eco-friendly technology Naturetexx® Plasma for the treatment of wool tops without chlorine, using only electricity and air. This treatment makes wool machine washable. Last year, trials were performed to explore the potential of new vertical dyeing machines, which consume drastically less water and energy when compared to conventional top dyeing vessels. Upgrading to these dyeing vessels could be a big step forward in Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung.

Want to find out more?

Check out www.naturetexxplasma.com

Safil

Safil is our cone dyeing specialist. A broad spectrum of vessel sizes keeps a low relation of input water for each kilo of yarn produced, using only the minimum water needed for each kilo of yarn. This results in an outstanding ecological performance. Only using the required level of input water combined with the amount of yarns dyed has resulted in 70% of energy savings in 2016.





Merino sheep graze freely on New Zealand pastures

ZQ and the Responsible Wool Standard



ANIMAL
WELFARE



ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT



SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



TRACEABILITY
(CERTIFICATION
PROCESS)



RESEARCH &
EDUCATION



FIBRE QUALITY



ECONOMIC
STABILITY

The ZQ Accreditation programme draws on existing legislation and establishes additional requirements which must be achieved in order to meet the standard. It has been recognised by the Textile Exchange as equivalent to the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS).

Mount Hesse continues to be part of the ZQ wool programme and we value the on-going assessment of legislative requirements and best practice that has led to new additional standards being implemented this year.

We got certified!

Zhangjiagang Yangtze Spinning, including DyeCo and Shenglong Textile Treatment, has just been certified with the Responsible Wool Standard.

The New Zealand Merino Company's ZQ standard which was established in 2006 has for the past decade provided a traceable, 3rd party audited programme verifying the ethical production of wool. During 2017, a new ZQ standard is being implemented which sets higher standards

and aligns with changing legislation. Changes are required in response to greater understanding of best practice, heightened global concern on animal health, welfare, and environment. The aim is to provide confidence to the global business community aimed at protecting human rights in the supply chain.

Mount Hesse shares the ZQ values that the protection and enhancement of animal welfare and health is core to our business. There is significant interest and sensitivity among many consumers and broader society as to the welfare of farmed animals. ZQ accreditation draws on existing legislation and establishes additional requirements Mount Hesse must achieve in order to meet the standard.

For customers seeking RWS certified wool we can inform that the ZQ standard has been recognised by the Textile Exchange and by the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) as equivalent to their own new (2016) standard which addresses the areas of animal welfare and land management.

This means that ZQ certified wool meets the RWS requirements, providing access to wool for customers who wish to become certified in the RWS chain

of custody. The ZQ standard addresses significantly more than RWS, by including standards and best practice regarding social responsibility, fibre quality, research and development, grower education and fair pricing.



Thank you Dave Maslen from The New Zealand Merino Company for providing us with this article!

Did you know?

ZQ sheep graze on pastures in 'free range' extensive farming conditions where it's ensured healthy animals are provided these five key freedoms.



**FREEDOM FROM
HUNGER OR THIRST**



**FREEDOM TO DISPLAY
NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**



**FREEDOM FROM
DISCOMFORT OR
INADEQUATE SHELTER**



**FREEDOM FROM
PAIN OR DISTRESS**



**FREEDOM FROM
INJURY OR DISEASE**

Merino wool won't add to microplastics pollution

Microplastics, including microbeads and microfibers, are being washed into our waterways, polluting our oceans on a growing scale. Being 100% biodegradable, wool offers a better longterm solution without impacting on the environment like plastics.



Microplastics pollution affects every one of us directly

Over the years, many of our every-day items traditionally made from natural materials such as wool, glass, metal and wood have been replaced with plastics.

The problem

8 million tonnes of plastic enter our oceans every year in the form of bags, fishing nets and plastic containers which can take 1000's of years before they break down. A large amount of this waste is hidden from view, known as microplastics.

Did you know?

Microplastics are tiny synthetic particles or fibres which are less than 5mm long. These plastics slip through filters and are being washed into our waterways, polluting our oceans. The particles get mistaken for food by fish, and thus enter the foodchain. Plastic is starting to appear in our vegetables, as wastewater is used to fertilize agricultural pastures.

Microplastics come in a variety of forms; "MicroBeads" are tiny particles of plastic added to many products (e.g. toothpaste, facial scrubs, household cleaners) to

provide improved abrasive cleaning. Awareness of the use of microbeads has resulted in the Federal Microbead-Free Waters Act becoming law in the USA in 2015, with many other countries following this example.

Another, less known form of microplastics are microfibres. A recent study funded by outdoor clothing manufacturer Patagonia found out that a single synthetic fleece garment can shed up to 250,000 microfibres during laundering. These plastic fibres are being found in our oceans, along coastal regions and inside the stomachs of marine life. Perhaps what is even more concerning is the fibres ability to absorb toxic pollutants, which concentrate within the tissue of the fish we are consuming and suspended in the water we are drinking. National Geographic have even reported finding microplastics in honey and beer!

Did you know?

A study funded by outdoor clothing manufacturer Patagonia found out that a single synthetic fleece garment can shed up to 250,000 microfibres during laundering.

The solution

The good news... Wool is 100% biodegradable, meaning that wool will break down to its natural base elements. We, in partnership with The New Zealand Merino Company and ZQ Merino, are investigating a research programme to better understand the rate and mode of wool biodegradation in water. This will also analyse any potential threats posed by dyes or associated wool treatments.

Consumers are increasingly concerned with what their products are made from and how it affects their environment. Natural materials like wool are favoured not only for its many attributes like softness, warmth and moisture control but is now being recognised for its renewable and biodegradable benefits.



Thank you to Rhiannon James from The New Zealand Merino Company for providing us with this article.

Südwebs insights

Südwebs, our new department for product management and innovation, sets a strong focus on the ecological responsibility of Südvolle Group's yarn through every stage of the production.

In the following interview, Verena Richter, responsible for certifications and ecological audits, talks about why this topic is so important in our everyday business and about the ideas behind the new department. Her task is to take care of your inquiries – from an ecological point of view.

Mrs. Richter, please tell us ...

... about how the textile industry caught your attention.

Before my A-levels I had to find an answer to the question everyone has to face some time in their educational development: Where's your place in the professional world? When I attended a presentation of University of Münchberg (Germany) I was fascinated about the opportunities in the field of textiles: the different applications e.g. in the automotive or medical sector and that there is so much more to know about the fabrics that we are using every day. So I made my decision to study textile chemistry and textile finishing there.

... about how you got in touch with the technical side of the textile industry at Südvolle Group.

After studying, I worked for a commercial enterprise for a while. This experience was not deeply satisfying for me. At the time, I was working with the final product – the garment – setting up requirements for suppliers, but I could not influence the steps before. I wanted to get in touch with every part of the production chain to influence the outcome and to make improvements. I wanted to see the other side. That is why I started working for Südvolle Group, a yarn supplier.

... about the growing complexity of ecological requirements.

The basis for most of our products at Südvolle Group for third party, environmental certification is OEKO-TEX®. Higher demands may require bluesign®, GOTS and IVN Best certifications. Many of our yarns also fulfil their criteria. Very often our customers also have their own lists of chemical or physical restrictions. This also needs to be considered. In some circumstances these demands are relatively straightforward and it is easy to advise solutions. In others, we need to work hard on the outcome, do trials and use all our expertise to find a solution. In some cases we also have to admit that we will not reach all requirements. To successfully manage such projects you need to have the know-how, working experience, a good team of internal experts and sparring partners, and you need to understand both sides: the supplier's and the customer's.

Generally, the amount of inquiries for our customers increased a lot over the last year. Since I started working for Südvolle

Group (in March 2016), the importance of this topic has grown drastically for all parties involved. Brands do not want any hazardous chemicals, in their production or in their products and customers seem to be much more aware of their environmental impact.

... about the trigger that lead to the new department Südwebs.

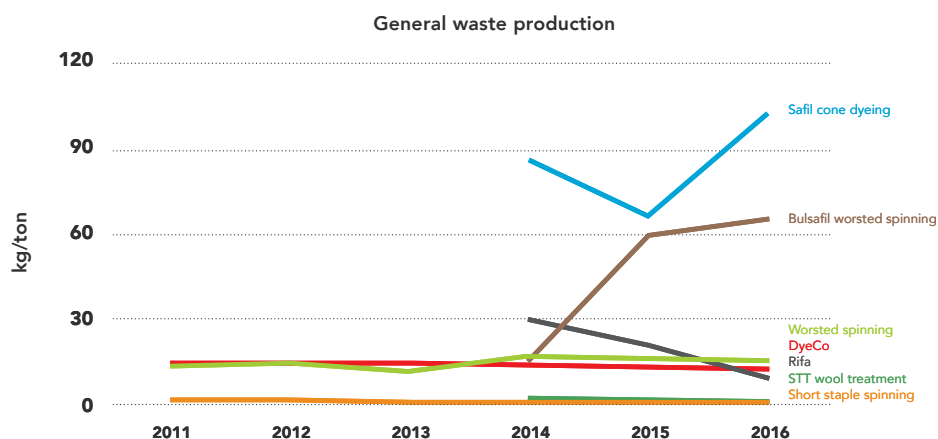
In the past, we had the Technical After Sales Service that responded to customer requests and managed customer claims. At some point, this did not seem to be sufficient any more to improve our business and to remain competitive. Now, we seek to operate in a more proactive way. We analyze our customers' needs and try to constantly optimize both internal and external processes. By learning new methods we improve our products step by step and through market research we try to anticipate trends and develop new business models. Südwebs is our competence centre, not only for technical support, but also for sharing know-how, steer product developments and connecting people and ideas. Our goal is to manage innovations to be a real partner for our customers.



Thank you to Verena Richter from Südwebs for this interview.

Objective measures

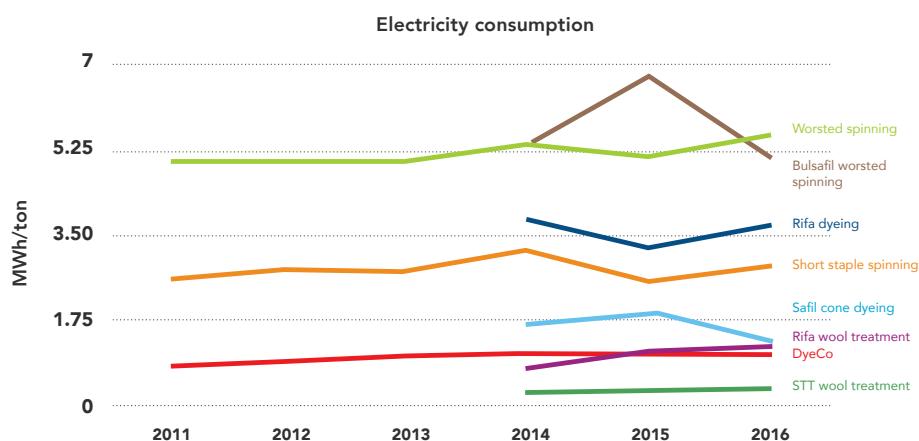
In 2015 both Safil and Bulsafil were cleared out which resulted in a sudden drastic rise of general waste in 2016.

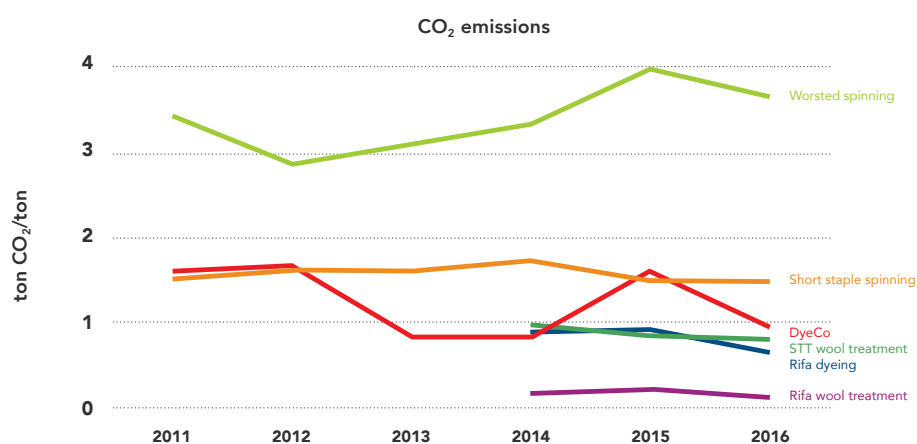


For the first time in August 2016 in all parts of Bulgaria the production stopped due to a four week vacation which is visible in electricity consumption at Bulsafil. Furthermore, eleven old low-performance machines were replaced with twelve new ones with optimized power consumption based on new generation motors.

Less energy was consumed at Safil because of several days of production downtime due to holidays.

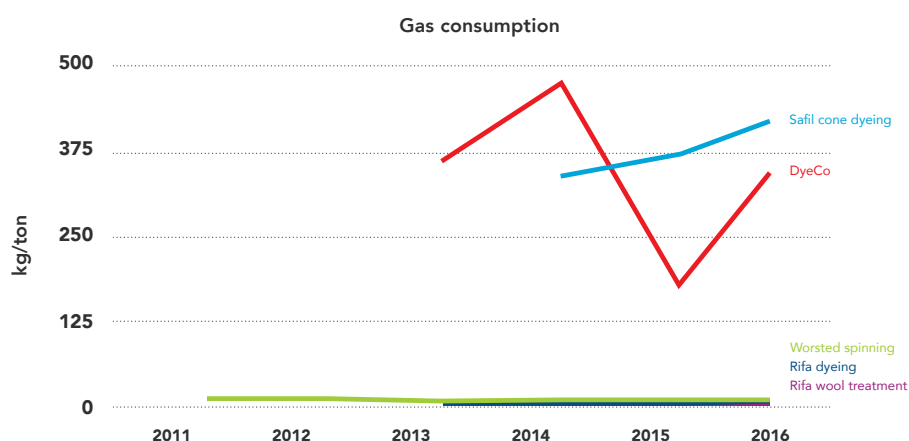
The electricity consumption for worsted spinning increased slightly due to spinning finer counts at Silvania Worsted Spinning. Finer yarn needs longer running time compared to higher yarn counts.





The increase of CO₂ at DyeCo in 2015 was a direct result of firing the burners of steam mostly with fuel oil. This led to a higher emission than firing with nature gas, which could be reintroduced in 2016.

At all our worsteds spinning mills a reduction of CO₂ emissions can be reported although the energy consumption rose in 2016. The reason for this lies in the growing usage of renewable energy sources that emit drastically less CO₂ than conventional sources.



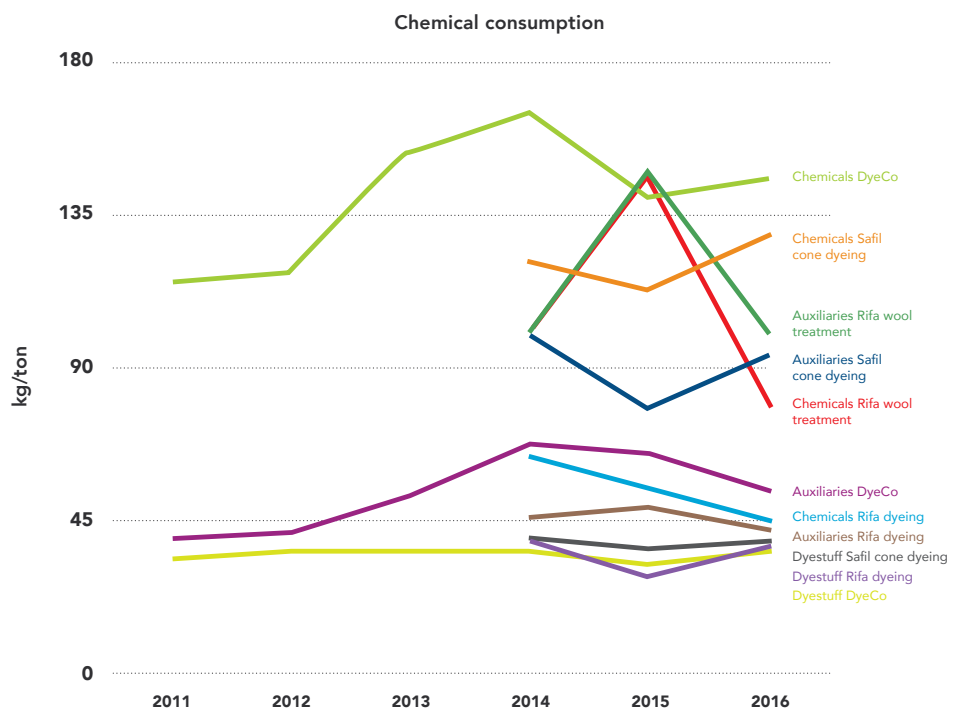
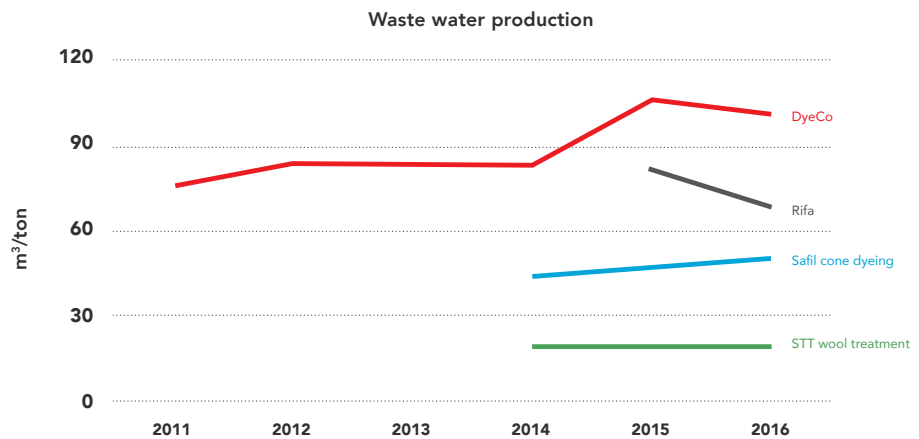
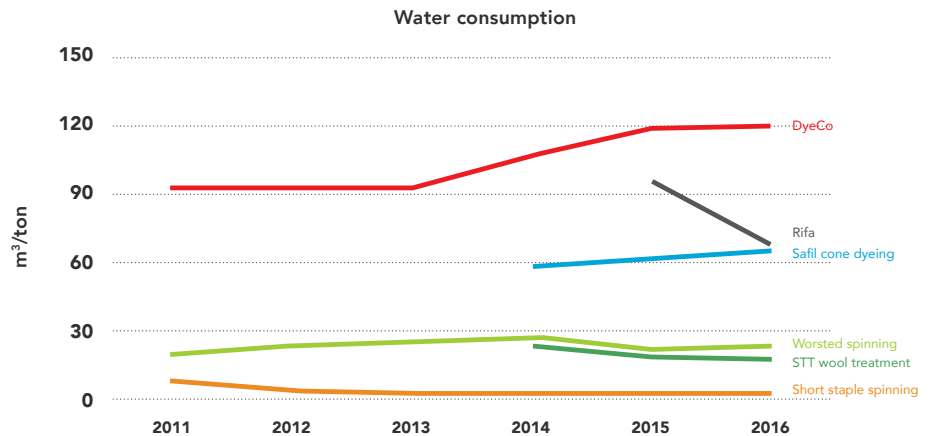
In 2014 gas burners were installed at DyeCo in all the boilers that were running mostly on diesel until then. The fluctuation in gas use is due to a damage in the heat recovery system of the boilers in 2015 until the beginning of 2016, which led to more use of diesel than gas.

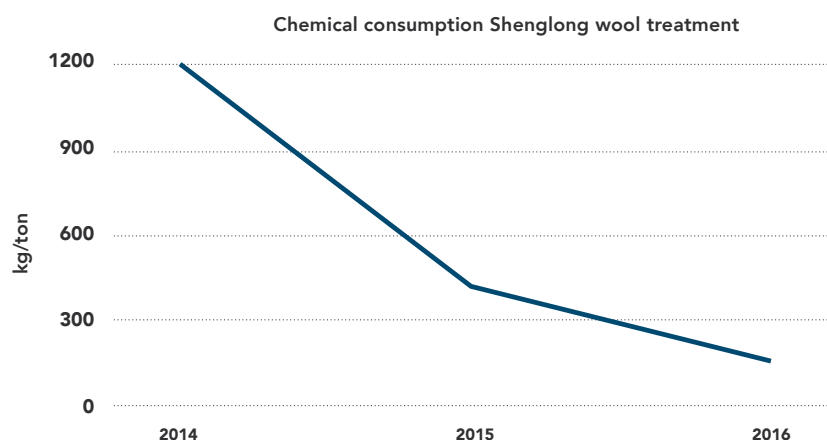
The reduction of water consumption at Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung is a direct result of an optimised device utilization. Last year the dyeing vessels could be loaded to their full capacity due to successful planning processes which led to avoiding inefficient dye cycles.

Reduced water consumption at Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung due to a process optimization results in less waste water production.

Chemical and auxiliary input at Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung both for dyeing and wool treatment, decreased in 2016 as a result of successful vessel utilization to their full capacity resulting from optimized planning processes. The increase in used dyestuff can be traced back to a raised demand for black shades which require the highest amount of dyes.

The increase in dyestuff, chemical and auxiliary consumption at Safil can be traced back to a change in orders: in 2016 more pure woollen yarns than blends were processed. 100% wool yarns require longer dyeing time with more dyestuff, chemicals and auxiliaries.





We are proud to present a drastic reduction of chemical input of more than 65% in the first year and again 65% in the second year at our textile treatment mill in Shenglong, China, acquired in 2014. Keeping this success in mind we are looking forward to further trials and innovations in order to offer you a more ecologically responsible and high-standard product.

Note on the data

The manufacturing processes and quantities are quite different for different products. Therefore in this data we separate the performance of:

- Our dyehouse DyeCo in China

- Our dyehouse Safil in Italy

- Our dyehouse and treatment plant Richter Färberei & Ausrüstung (Rifa) in Stadtallendorf, Germany

- Our wool treatment plant in Shenglong Textile Treatment (STT), China

- The combined performance of our worsted spinning mills in China, Poland and Romania

- The performance of our short staple spinning mills in China, where the open-ended spinning mill got replaced by the air jet mill since 2015

- Our spinning mill Bulsafil in Bulgaria

We present values per ton of yarn rather than absolutes, since this gives a clearer picture of trends – removing the impact of changes in production volume from year to year.

Previous versions at www.suedwollegroup.com

Inspiration for ecological awareness all around us

In November 2016, Südvolle Group celebrated the Global Sales Meeting outside of Nuremberg, Germany, in a very special and first of its kind energy independent location. Over 150 participants gathered as we celebrated the launch of our newest division, Südwebs.

This new endeavor shares a consistent theme with the selection of the Energypark Hirschhaid meeting site – renewable best practice. Nestled in the mountains outside of Nuremberg, the Energypark is a renewable energy facility. It is the dream and life-work of CEO Frank Seuling.

Operating as a successful attorney, Mr. Seuling left his position and committed all of his resources to building the Energypark, the first of its kind in Germany. The facility is a converted, abandoned factory from the 1970's and a perfect demonstration of reuse.

Technologies that are present in the reconstruction include solar carports, roof systems with photovoltaics, renewable lighting systems, electromobility, and insulation systems. The facility is 100% energy independent with the ability to provide heating, cooling, light and water from its own resources and has received numerous awards and EU certifications. The Energypark also operates as a testing ground for new technologies and works with partner manufacturers to ensure that the state-of-the-art equipment is commercially viable.

Functioning now as a competence center, the Energypark was the ideal venue and source of creativity for the launch of Südwebs. Inspired by Mr. Seuling's risk taking and dedication to his dream, the Global Sales members participated in interactive workshops that will lead Südvolle Group into the future.



Thanks to an innovative air conditioning concept the large meeting hall can be heated and cooled in a resource-friendly way. The installed ventilation system distributes the warmth with a heat recovery system and uses old floor channels to pre-heat or pre-cool the air.



The external facade of Energypark Hirschhaid with over 1,500 wooden beams

The next generation of coloured weaving yarns

Last year, our 'all-rounder' dyeing mill DyeCo has taken a major step forward in environmental protection by leading the process of phasing out chrome dyes in the production of our coloured weaving yarns in all our dyehouses worldwide. Although afterchrome dyeing is not banned, we – along with many brands and retailers – wish to distance ourselves from the whole issue of chromium.

Phasing out chrome dyes in our production facilities was a long and technically demanding process that took over a year to complete. The technical challenge was to match the existing shades as accurately as possible, taking care of metamerism, fibre coverage and fastness performance.



Did you know?

We offer over 160 stock supported, coloured weaving yarns and changed the recipes of 1/3 of them.

To achieve this, we worked very closely with our clients as well as with our dye suppliers and their R&D centres. We tested all newly available dyes and selected the most suitable reactive dyestuffs for our processes and for our client's requirements.



Did you know?

Avoiding afterchrome dyeing helps to reduce AOX (Adsorbable Organic Halides) in waste water which is in line with the requirements of Greenpeace's campaign 'Detox by 2020'.

We also organized the proper communication with technical guidance to our clients and implemented a procedure to hold an appropriate amount of yarn stock for an adequate period of time of both 'old' and 'new' recipes.

Südwolle Group is fully committed to the environmental protection and constantly seeks to use the best available technologies for the benefit of the whole textile supply chain.

Stéphane Thouvay
Managing Director,
Product Management
& Innovation



Fashion is everywhere: Our upcycling project with University Berlin

Look and handfeel are two of the most important factors in the world of fashion. They are also attributed to the need for the production of numerous fabric swatches. But once the yarn or garment is produced, the samples are no longer needed and usually thrown away. That is why LPJ Studios and Biella Yarn cooperated with University Berlin in an upcycling project.

That is where LPJ Studios and Biella Yarn come into play. LPJ Studios' idea was to collect those designs, refine them by further processing and making fresh fashionable garments. Biella Yarn became

the ideal yarn brand with a broad range of swatches to reuse and upcycle.

This idea prompted the cooperation between LPJ Studios and the technical-economical University Berlin: Students from 3rd semester under the leadership of Professor Grit Seymour and Hedwig Bouley created new clothing and accessories from samples and yarns provided by Biella Yarn – producing garments with history.

The most promising designs were acknowledged by a jury consisting of Sonja Ruppert from Marc O'Polo, Nicola Bramigk from Smart Travelling, Thu Thao Nguyen and Professor Grit Seymour from HTW Berlin and Sabrina Stachura from Biella Yarn. The winner of the Biella Yarn prize was the group 'Illusion' consisting of students

Duong, Hien, Yu Bin and Esmeralda. They were invited to Italy to get an insight in the production process and a look behind the scenes of how yarn is made.



Did you know?

The difference between upcycling and recycling is the process of breaking an item down and recovering its raw materials for recycling. When upcycling something, the product may be reworked but the material stays the same - and is at minimum if not better quality than when you started.



Some examples of the creative upcycling designs

© Andrea Badrutt, Southern Ocean



© Andrea Badrutt, Grytviken



© Andrea Badrutt, Traverse



© Andrea Badrutt, Team - Elephants Island



© Andrea Badrutt, Creangletscher



© Andrea Badrutt, Team - King Haakon Bay



Some images from SEA expedition

The expedition of Merino

In the remembrance of the historical event 100 years ago, Südvolle Group provided Merino clothing from Yarn in Motion and Richter for the team making the centennial voyage on Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous expedition.

In 2016, the centennial anniversary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's heroic sailing expedition was made possible by the warmth of Merino. The expedition named "S.E.A. – Sir Ernest's Anniversary" was led by Antarctic sailing pioneer, Wolf Kloss, in the famous boat, 'Santa Maria Australis'. Südvolle Group, in partnership with the multinational team of twelve sailors and mountaineers, was selected to provide Merino baselayers, underwear, gloves, socks and hats to the crew so they could endure the severe and frigid temperatures throughout the journey.

The expedition marks the anniversary of Sir Ernest's 800 nautical-mile voyage around the Falklands, landing on Elephant Island, to South Georgia in an effort to save his crew. Widely respected for his leadership and passion, Shackleton never lost a man during this crossing. Today, in the remembrance of the historical event 100 years ago, Südvolle Group provided Merino clothing from Yarn in Motion and Richter to keep the team safe and warm.

Sir Ernest's voyage is recognized as legendary: traversing glaciers, mountains and managing extreme conditions. Our branded Merino is ideally suited to protect travelers in these compromising conditions, keeping the wearers warm and dry throughout the days. Shackleton was often celebrated for possessing "superhuman abilities in extreme conditions". Merino wool is the perfect combination of warmth, anti-odour and moisture management. Superhuman qualities? Perhaps! But definitely suited for the seven day tour in South Georgia.

To find more information on this historical account, the book "Expedition" was published in 2016 by Malik Verlag.



Thank you
Denine Woodrow,
US-American
sales agent,
for providing
us with this article.

-10°C

The winters on Elephant Island are characterized by a permanently frozen ground, temperatures around -10°C and darkness. Summers are slightly warmer with maximum 3°C. With 10 months of snow each year, you definitely need a good set of Merino underwear for travelling there.

LCA and animal welfare in New Zealand

Since 2008, Südwolle Group has regularly measured the environmental performance of its manufacturing facilities. This enables us to drive innovation and improvement over time.

A life cycle to wool apparel has taken this benchmarking to a new level. Each phase that contributes to a product's environmental impact is considered, from the raw material at the beginning of its life, through the processing phases and distribution, to consumer use and end-of-life phases. Life cycle assessments (LCA's) provide a transparent and thorough analysis to provide opportunities to improve.

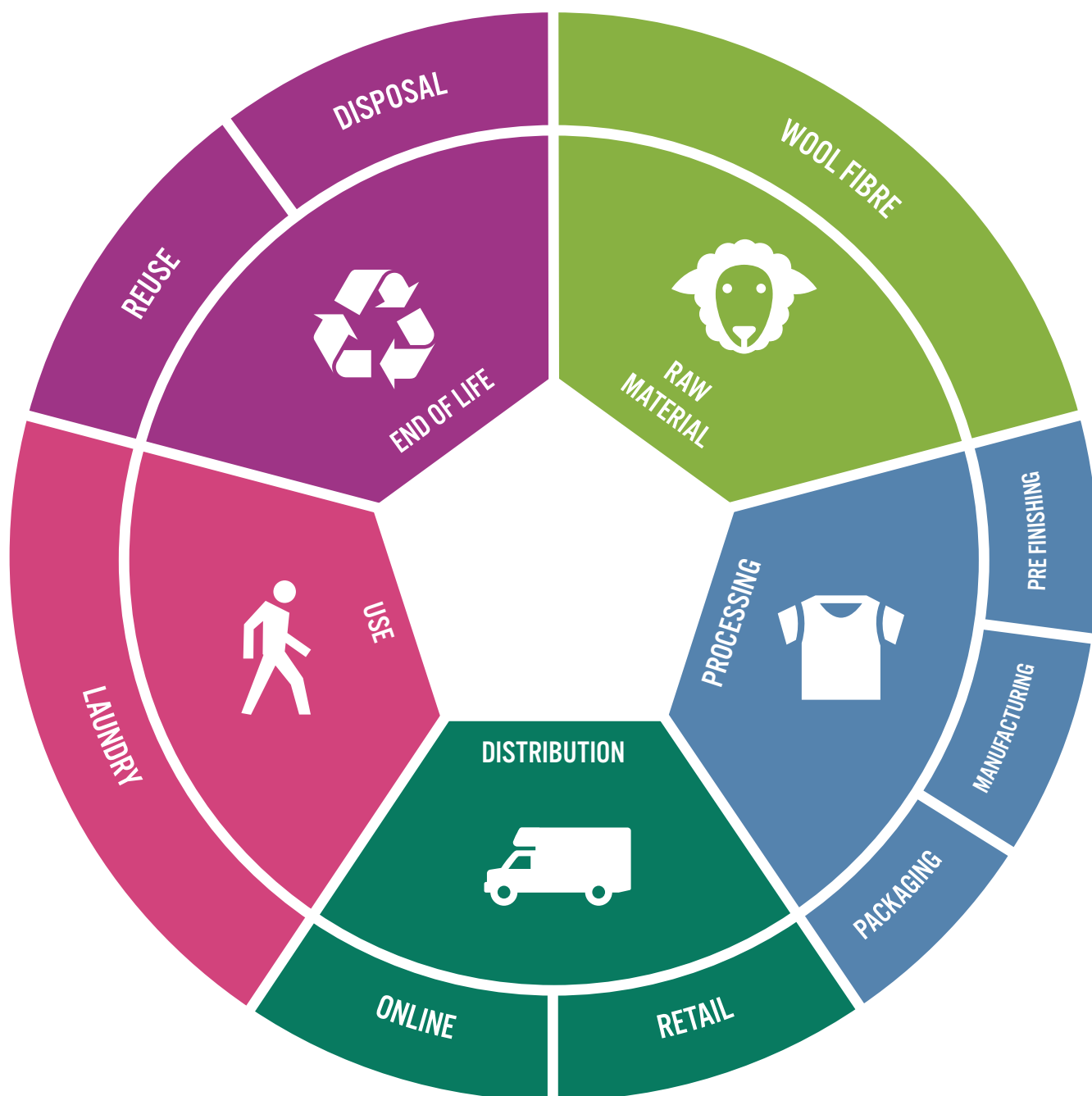
Südwolle Group, in partnership with The New Zealand Merino Company and ZQ Merino have been at the forefront of LCA methodology development for the past 6 years. Recently, Südwolle Group participated in a comprehensive study which benchmarked the full life cycle of a Merino garment that used Südwolle Group yarn sourced from Merino growers in New Zealand. The work was carried out by leading sustainability consultancy, Thinkstep.

Following on from this apparel work from 2015, what constitutes the 'use' of a product has been re-evaluated and a secondary report was issued in 2016 with this new data. The original report held data of products being used for only one year however this has now been replaced

in the new report by data from products being used for at least two years, showing wear, wash and drying habits. This LCA study continues to provide inputs for wool eco-credentials used in developing best practice tools for textile designers and developers.



Thank you to Donna Didham from The New Zealand Merino Company for providing us with this article.



A garment's lifecycle analysis

Our passion for society

Social responsibility means sustaining the equilibrium between the economic development and the welfare of society and the environment. Südvolle Group has not only a passion for wool, we also have a passion for society.

Our annual CSR overview reflects our efforts to inspire and connect people,

invest in opportunities that accelerate global problem solving, and ultimately empower people everywhere to work towards eradicating poverty, unemployment, climate change, and hunger. We encourage feedback from stakeholders and aim to be open and transparent about our progress, as well as about the challenges we face.

Amongst many projects, we would like to outline the following ones:

Internationale Orgelwoche Nuremberg (ION)

Long traditions should be preserved. That is why we sponsor the international organ week in Nuremberg, Germany. Since 1951 church musicians from St. Lorenz and St. Sebald organise the International organ week. Today it is one of the largest and oldest festivals for sacred music in Europe. Every second year, the International Organ Competition of ION takes place during the festival. During 10 days, mostly in May and/or June, fans of sacred music are invited to enjoy organ concerts, choirs and symphony performances.

United World Colleges (UWC)

Our UWC sponsorship encompasses schools and colleges in 17 countries and national committees and selected contacts in more than 150 countries. UWC schools, colleges and programmes deliver a challenging and transformational educational experience to a diverse cross section of students, inspiring them to create a more peaceful future. Applicants for UWC scholarships are generally chosen by national committees. They have a slightly varying selection system, but are unified by the UWC mission and values and recognized by the UWC international office, and by extension, by the colleges themselves.



Children develop personal skills through playing

Carl Blum House

The Carl Blum house is a nursing home for elderly people in Kaliningrad (Russia). Due to poverty in this region, there is an urgent need for supporting elderly people. The house has been founded in 2006 and celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016. During these years, the number of nurses could be increased as well as the number of residents. Also building improvements have been made.

Neues Museum Nuremberg

The New Museum in Nuremberg (Germany) is located in awe-inspiring surroundings. On over 3,000 square meters of collection and exhibition space, the Free State of Bavaria state museum shows art and design from the 1950s to the present day. Paintings, sculptures, photography, video art and installations are uniquely linked to international design pieces in a close spatial setting and framed by extraordinary architecture. As a supporter of the New Museum, Südvolle Group enables the maintenance of the collection and the organization of temporary exhibitions.

Paslisa

Paslisa is an orphanage in Romania and is the initiative of one of the founders of Südvolle Group. The objective of the orphanage is to provide opportunities for self-help and personal development of mentally and physically disabled young people. Currently around 200 people are being supported. Also by renovating the building the orphanage could develop positively.

**University of Applied Science /
Campus of Excellence**

The city of Hof (Germany) not only enjoys a good reputation in the textile industry but also recognises the importance of good education. The University of Applied Science offers students an interesting program of studies, some of them related to the textile industry. The Campus of Excellence is a privately held, independent educational Institution. The objective of the Campus is to stimulate and further develop the talent and potential of students in order to discover and evolve personal and professional skills more effectively. The Campus also helps with career planning and networking.

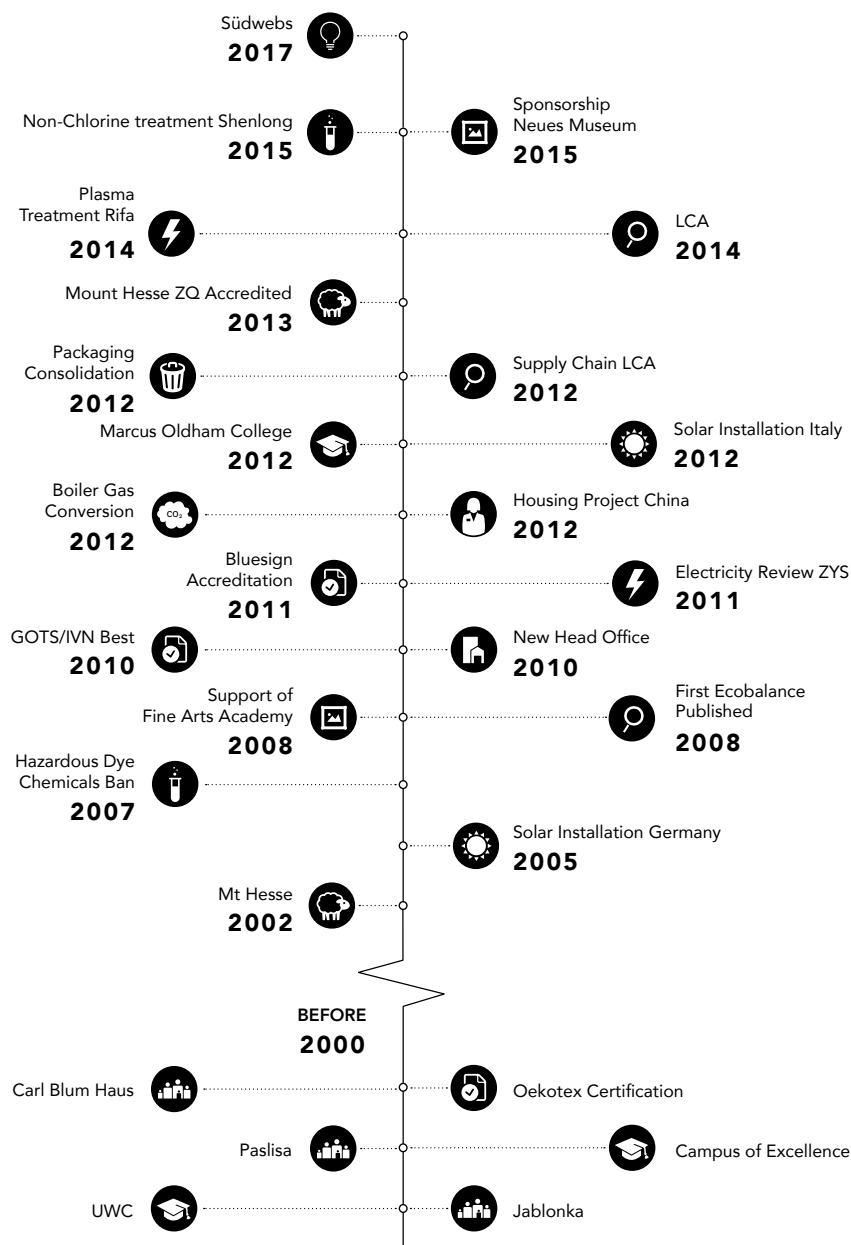
Jablonka

Jablonka is a day care facility for (street) children out of socially weak families in Kaliningrad (Russia). They do not only get food and clothing, but also support in doing their school homework and have the opportunity to play in a secure environment. By the end of 2015, a pedagogue joined the team for teaching music, German language and handicraft work. Südvolle Group is proud of its long-term engagement.

Marcus Oldham College

Marcus Oldham College at Geelong Victoria is Australia's leading farm business management, agribusiness and equine business management college with a reputation for providing quality education. The emphasis is on business management which provides skills that are readily transferable across a wide range of careers. Students from all states of Australia and overseas live on campus and study in an environment which establishes networks across Australia. Due to the close relationship to wool, Südvolle Group is very happy to support the Marcus Oldham College.

About Südwolle Group



Südwolle Group, a family-owned business in operation since 1966 and headquartered in Nuremberg, Germany, produces raw white and dyed worsted wool yarns. We spin yarns made of 100% wool as well as wool blends with natural fibres like mohair, cashmere, alpaca, silk, cotton or linen and man-made fibres like polyester, polyamide, viscose, Tencel®, acrylic and aramids.

Our products are woven and knitted into fashion, lifestyle, outdoor consumer and corporate apparel, as well as into upholstery and other technical textiles. Südwolle Group has manufacturing sites in Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and China and offers supply from warehouses in Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, North America and China. We have the same high standards for quality, environmental performance and people management in all our facilities, regardless of location.

südwollegroup

yarns@suedwollegroup.de · www.suedwollegroup.com

