

**We are on the right path ...**  
**Ecology and Responsibility**  
Environment Report

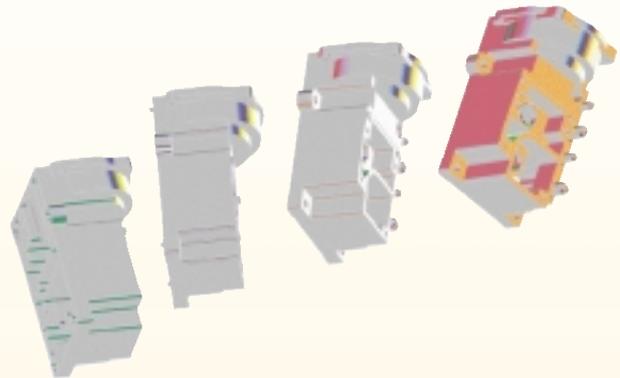
**D**uring the period of over 130 years since our company was founded, we have learnt that taking the right steps in the right direction at the right time is crucial to entrepreneurial **success**.



We have always considered it to be the case that a company must act. This being so, the range of activities has expanded substantially in the recent past. The realisation that the natural and social environment does not stop at the factory gates demands of us today that responsible social and environmental **action** be taken in conjunction with a commercial approach.

What we want is a healthy industrial company with a healthy working atmosphere in a healthy environment. This, of course, is not an immovable goal but a path which must be constantly redefined!

We have started on this **path** – taking small steps here and larger steps there.



**we understand,  
we develop...**



**I**n the early seventies, the parent company was relocated from Osnabrück to Lotte outside of city boundaries. Since then, Kromschroder has paid the extra fares for its staff to use public transport.



As early as 1992, the company appointed an Environment **Officer**. His scope of duties covers not only plant environmental protection (at all production locations) but also advising the Company Management in matters relating to the environment.

Encouraged by a "Waste Guide", the staff have, themselves, been responsible for waste disposal in their work area since the mid-nineties.

The amount of residual waste produced at Kromschöder was virtually halved within a few months.

But this does not exhaust all the capabilities for **waste avoidance**.

When the plant shops were renovated, we always gave consideration to "working climate": Daylight at the workplace for instance not only reduces the energy demand but also promotes the well-being of staff – and, thus,

**work safety.**

One of our cleaning plants emitted chlorinated hydrocarbons in "pre-ecology-aware" times. Now we "face the music" without the public authorities first having to demand **renovation** first. And it also goes without saying that we have taken the consequences from mistakes made in the past.



**W**hen the heating and ventilation system for the plant shops at the Lotte location were **modernised**, we took the opportunity not only to greatly improve working conditions. Heating fans were installed which utilise over 60 % of the waste heat emitted by light fittings and machines so that additional heat needs to be supplied only in the morning and at sub-zero temperatures. This utilises the electrical power twice!

## you act

We have already long used a method which greatly reduces air pollutant emissions when painting gas meters. We converted to an entirely solvent-free powder coating which also saves valuable **raw materials** in 1998.



Product responsibility, as demanded by the Closed-Loop Materials Economy and Waste Recycling Management Act, is nothing new for Kromschöder. Practical ways of recycling have now been found for almost all individual parts of gas meters. A **recycling rate** of 99 % is no longer an impossible vision.

We must now tackle the question of how products will be accepted on return by communicating with our partners and customers.

Healthy working conditions in the offices were considered. Within the framework of a **workstation analysis**, we discussed with all members of staff who work at computer monitors how we could prevent eye strain and back injury.

Thanks to cooperation with universities and technical colleges, Kromschöder has, time and time again, been able to acquire valuable **know-how** in the sectors of quality management and environmental management.



**E**nvironmental protection at Kromschroder is not a vague declaration of intent but is a declared company goal: a goal by which we measure ourselves – and by which we allow ourselves to be measured!

The yardstick is product quality, as demanded by our customers today:

Individual benefits thanks to application which is just as safe as it is economical, social benefits thanks to environment-friendly production, long-life operation and products which are as recyclable as possible.

We would like to be considered as a learning company. However, we do not wish to have to learn from our mistakes but wish to be able to learn as we advance. The facts and figures compiled periodically in the Kromschroder AG "Environmental Protection Yearbook" document the efficiency of our development approach to date. However, they do not demonstrate that environmental successes are based less on formal laws and more on a creative growing development structure.

Not least, when pursuing major goals the prerequisites are reliable associates and staff, time-proven production and distribution partners and, above all, customers with the same conviction. We consider that natural gas is the economical and environment-friendly energy source for our customers.



**Quality  
Economy**

