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Vecoplan takes part in the international SDG Innovation Accelerator programme

Promoting UN sustainability goals with young talent

How can companies position themselves more sustainably and in this way make a meaningful contribution not only to themselves and their customers, but also to society at large? The UN Global Compact Network Germany offers its members the opportunity to promote young talent from their own ranks and thereby implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. A team of five Vecoplan employees took part in the programme.

“Responsible consumption and production”, “Climate action” and “Decent work and economic growth” – these are just three of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. As a member of the UN Global Compact Network Germany, Vecoplan has undertaken to represent these SDGs internally and to specifically address them. To this end, a team of five Vecoplan employees took part in the international SDG Innovation Accelerator programme. The specialist recycling company sent four of its young professionals to take part in the programme, accompanied by Thomas Sturm, an experienced colleague, who is Head of QESH (Quality, Health, Safety and Environmental Management) at Vecoplan. “We deliberately chose motivated and interested colleagues from different divisions, each of which contributes to the SDGs: Human Resources, Finance, Development and Purchasing,” says Sturm. “The more interdisciplinary their cooperation is, the more efficiently the goals can be achieved.”

The first InnovationCamp was held in April, and three further events took place in the following months. In total, teams from 14 well-known companies in the financial, retail, telecommunications, automotive and mechanical engineering sectors took part. The young specialists learned about the core competencies of corporate sustainability and the SDGs during the individual programme phases and in the online academy between the phases. They identified and prioritised specific sustainability goals, generated new ideas and used tools to convert ideas into projects. The SDG Innovation Accelerator concluded with a pitch in September, when the teams presented their solutions, completing the programme successfully. “We presented a pragmatic approach directly from our product portfolio,” says Sturm. “We’re using a specific project to determine the CO₂ footprint of one of our main

products – the VAZ 1700 series shredder. Our aim is to cover as many aspects of the SDGs as possible by reducing this footprint.”

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Meta title: Vecoplan took part in the international SDG Innovation Accel74erator programme

Meta description: Vecoplan employees took part in the international SDG Innovation Accelerator program to implement as many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals as possible in the future.

Photo captions:



Photo 1: Friederike Juraschek and André Schell, two of the young Vecoplan specialists at the pitch event.



Photo 2: They returned to Vecoplan with a lot of positive impressions and a wealth of new knowledge (left to right): André Schell, Fabienne Messer, Jana Lehnhäuser, Friederike Juraschek and Thomas Sturm.

Photo credits: Vecoplan® AG

The high-resolution images can be downloaded [here](#).

Vecoplan AG is a producer and supplier of machines and systems for processing and handling primary and secondary raw materials for material and thermal recycling. These include wood, biomass, plastics, paper, other materials, and household and commercial waste. The company lays the foundation for functioning recycling thanks to its extensive portfolio. Vecoplan supports its customers as a partner for single-machine orders, complex plants, and mega projects. 580 employees currently work at the company's sites in Germany, the USA, the UK, Spain, Austria, Poland, Italy, and France.

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