

# From nature for people: Environmental management by conviction

## The path of WALA Heilmittel GmbH



A colorful banderole on a white background - the memorable design of the Dr. Hauschka series is probably one of the best known on the natural cosmetics market. Founded in Ludwigsburg in 1935 and now based in Bad Boll, the company produces over 900 different medicines and around 140 preparations of controlled natural cosmetics. The basis of all products is the anthroposophical understanding of man and nature and carefully selected natural raw materials from controlled organic cultivation and fair trade relationships.



The path with nature is ultimately the only one that leads to the future - WALA is convinced of this. For this reason, environmental protection is one of its fundamental corporate goals and is constantly developing within the company. All activities and efforts in this regard are lively and continuous.



Actions speak louder than words: the transition to green electricity, the use of packaging made from recycled materials, ecological construction supervision, biodynamic cultivation of the cultivation areas are just some of the many company-specific environmental topics. Based on this awareness, WALA GmbH decided as early as 1999 to obtain certification in accordance with ISO 14001 and EMAS.



### Challenges in environmental management

WALA offers a comprehensive product portfolio, from natural cosmetics for face, body and hair care to decorative cosmetics (Dr. Hauschka Skin Care), medical care products (Dr. Hauschka Med.) and medicines (WALA Medicines). This enormous range requires a variety of different traditional and modern processing procedures and



ensures the efficient use of technology and processes. faces special challenges.

The management system takes into account all company processes that have an impact on the environment and thus supports process control. This requires, above all, human resources. WALA is a role model in this respect: the management is responsible for leading the strategic environmental group, there are two full-time environmental officers and the commitment of the internal environmental group is high and continuous - all of which demonstrates the high priority given to this issue in the company.

Where traditional manual labor reaches its limits, state-of-the-art technology is used. To ensure that the high quality requirements and various conditions and obligations are met, WALA does not use synthetic preservatives and attaches importance to germ-free production and filling. The regular and strict review of the legal requirements as part of the EMAS assessment helps to control these requirements.

Savings potentials are due to quality requirements, a discontinuous production process and



small batches quite limited. The requirement for holistic environmental management along the entire value chain cannot always be met either, as the example of folding cartons shows: in 2016, the search for a supplier who can produce folding cartons from recycled paper in accordance with WALA's requirements was unsuccessful.

### Proven success - save and certify let

WALA is constantly growing. Because more and more people are buying its products, larger quantities are being produced which consequently requires more employees and additional space. This makes it difficult to compare the key figures from year to year. However, if you hold WALA's environmental statement in your hands, you can see how many modern measures have been implemented in order to still achieve the desired goals. And every year, the team of environmental auditors confirms the improvement in environmental performance:

- ▶ Use of LED lighting: around 47% less electricity consumption in 2016
- ▶ Hazardous waste: reduced by almost 50% between 2015 and 2016
- ▶ Material recycling: share increased by 6% in 2016 Of 40 improvement proposals submitted in 2016, only 3 have so far been classified as not feasible.

However, WALA's measures also extend beyond the boundaries of the company - it is the driving force behind a regional transport project: together with other stakeholders, it is determining how the public transport infrastructure can be improved.

WALA employees can obtain green electricity through a special tariff. And the



WALA - Facts

Branch	Manufacture of pharmaceutical products (EAC 13)	
Site size	4 locations, 1 logistics center under construction, net floor space 46,233 m <sup>2</sup> , of which 23,089 m <sup>2</sup> Building footprints	
Number of employees	Total of approx. 1000 permanent employees	
Project duration	Since January 2014 (request for quotation), revalidation April 2017	
Motivation	Philosophy of the company: "From nature for man".	
Environmental indicators (as of UER 2016)	Materials purchased: 621 t Raw material quantities processed: 618.6 t CO2 emissions/sales. Products: 1.48 t/t	CO2 emissions/vm. Products: 1.48 t/t Water consumption/vm. Products: 22.9 m3/t Total energy/vm. Products: 8.4 MWh/t



WALA Foundation is committed to the worldwide promotion of biodynamic cultivation projects and partnerships and biodiversity.

WALA did not take the step toward environmental management according to ISO 14001 and EMAS because it "had to": for them, it is the logical consequence of their corporate mission statement. And incidentally, with the EMAS validation, WALA also fulfills the requirements of the Energy Services Act (EDL-G), which has been in force since 2015.

**The cooperation with the certifier**

In April 2014, GUT-cert already successfully certified and validated WALA's environmental management system. Thanks to great trust and cooperation in a spirit of partnership, it meets their high expectations again every year. The auditing team in particular is called upon to adapt to the specific needs of the company and its corporate philosophy. This results in

Each audit provides valuable information and recommendations ~~on~~to further improve environmental protection. Mr. Weiland, WALA's representative, also learned about innovative approaches and best-practice examples during the annual GUTcert Customer Days and at the Energy Management Excellence Network in 2016. And he used the personal contact with GUTcert contacts and external experts to expand the professional network.

**Why GUTcert as ISO 14001 certifier?**

Since 1997, one of GUTcert's core businesses has been the independent certification of environmental management systems. Today, GUTcert is the largest environmental verifier organization in Germany and, among other things, an active member of the Environmental Committee, the Environmental Verifier Committee and the Expert Committee for Sustainability Management. In this way, the company plays a significant role in the design of standards and regulations. GUTcert audits therefore not only include the "done" stamp - they aim to enable the customer to learn many things about his company en passant and thus become better and more efficient on a daily basis. And thanks to the cooperation with the French AFNOR

"We draw the motivation for our management system from our company philosophy: "From nature for people". It is important to us that the auditors get involved with the special features of our company, our philosophy and our methods - in order to work out improvements for our company together.

We do not rest on our laurels. The audit findings of our audit team regularly show us new areas for action so that we can meet our own requirements ever better.

In GUTcert, we have found a partner that helps us reduce unavoidable negative environmental impacts, increase our credibility and leave the world a little better than we found it."

Stefan Weiland , Environmental Management Officer

**Did you know that ...**  
 ... an EMAS implementation of nationwide and country-specific agencies is promoted?  
 GUTcert informs all interested parties about this and other topics in its monthly newsletter.

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