





Press Kit

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**We take
responsibility**
and promote the
circular economy!

Thomas Kyriakis, CEO PreZero

Our Key Messages



As part of the Schwarz Group, we **take responsibility** for the packaging we put into circulation. By closing recycling loops we are also **promoting the circular economy** overall and making a sustainable contribution to climate protection.

We want to live up to our **responsibility towards future generations** and use the Schwarz Group's potential for PreZero to **scale environmental innovations and sustainability**.

The Schwarz Group is the **first group of companies in the world to have formed a complete recycling loop**. We prove it possible to **link ecology and economy**.

Our daily efforts, from waste disposal to recycling, **ensure that our environment remains clean** and we can provide for **our children** and their children a future worth living in.

Waste is valuable materials in the wrong place. Every day, we help **keep recyclable materials in the cycle** and **give them a new life**.

Company Presentation

PreZero – New Thinking for a Cleaner Tomorrow

PreZero is an international environmental service provider engaged in recovery and recycling management. Founded in 2009 under the name GreenCycle, the company now functions as the environmental division of the Schwarz Group based in Neckarsulm, which also includes the retail companies Kaufland and Lidl as well as the Schwarz Produktion.

With over 550,000 employees, the Schwarz Group is represented worldwide.

In Europe and North America in particular, the company operates around 12,900 stores and markets. In the fiscal year 2020, **sales amounted to 133,6 billion euros**. PreZero also operates internationally and currently employs around 30,000 people at over 475 locations in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden, Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the USA.

Together with its customers PreZero connects economy with ecology and supports their successful and sustainable development with the key goal to close loops. With the division into its **three business units Dual, Recovery and Recycling**, PreZero itself already covers key stages along the value chain. With its licensing activities PreZero Dual is the strategic link between the manufacturers and the waste disposal companies. In the business unit Recovery PreZero ensures the separate collection, sorting and professional processing of recyclables from various fractions, which are processed into new products in our business unit Recycling. In total, around 25 million tons of recoverable materials were collected by PreZero and further processed by recycling. In addition, 230,000 tons of recycled materials were put into recycling in Europe and the USA. PreZero does not only seek to be a classic waste disposal company but rather a modern recyclable materials manager for the future.

Operationally, PreZero serves **around 40 million citizens** in Europe **as a municipal waste disposal company** and is a waste disposal partner for a wide range of commercial customers. Moreover, the company handles recoverable materials management within the Schwarz Group with its subsidiary GreenCycle.

The portfolio is supplemented by various departments and brands. The environmental innovation unit within **GreenCycle** thus designs practical ideas for the carefully handling of our resources. With the **PreTum** brand, intelligent multi-use load carriers and pooling services are also being developed. These are reshaping the entire supply chain efficiently and transparently and are thus optimizing it quite decisively. Last but not least, **OutNature** is also part of PreZero. OutNature is developing new and sustainable fiber and paper products for packaging solutions in retail and industry. It is doing so by using a new material: with the fibers of the **cup plant**, OutNature is focusing on a raw material that can offer an economically and ecologically viable alternative to virgin wood fibers used in paper production.



Company Presentation

What Drives PreZero Forward

PreZero is committed to a clean future where an efficient and fully closed recycling loop protects our environment and creates sustainable value. The aspiration is to preserve resources and reduce the amount of non-reusable waste to zero – PreZero. As the environmental division of the Schwarz Group, PreZero pursues the idea of closed loops: from fully recyclable products through trade and disposal to sustainable recycling and reprocessing into new products.

With a clear vision and mission, PreZero has placed its focus on the fundamental challenges of the future and positioned itself as an innovative solution provider.



THE VISION:

New Thinking for a
Cleaner Tomorrow.



THE MISSION:

With our innovative
environmental services we
close loops and thereby
preserve resources.



Because the future belongs to those who build it – PreZero thinks and acts **innovatively, efficiently, and responsibly**. Simultaneously, PreZero is always open to new ideas and utilizes the potential and diversity of all employees. PreZero also engages in fertile cooperation with universities, promotes research and encourages a thirst for knowledge in students through collaborations. By thinking ahead, the company considers which concepts can solve the problems of tomorrow's customers. Therefore, PreZero also consistently invests in **modern technologies** and is constantly striving to innovate.

This innovative spirit has led to the development of numerous sustainable solutions. Recycled products such as **paper from old cardboard** within the Schwarz Group, **household goods sold at Lidl made from recycled plastic** by PreZero or **biogas from food waste** are sustainable outcomes resulting from increased efficiency. PreZero doesn't let anything go to waste: instead, where others see trash, PreZero sees valuable material.

To achieve its goals, PreZero is breaking new ground, guided by the company's values: connected, self-determined, structured, pragmatic and respectful. These are the core values that are lived out every day. They describe what sets PreZero apart and what the company stands for.

Company Presentation

The History of PreZero



2009

Foundation under the name GreenCycle

PreZero is young but combines various experiences. As a digital sales organization of GreenCycle, PreZero.com was created in 2018 as an **online platform** on which customers could request a real-time quote for the disposal of recyclables and waste of various fractions. What couldn't be foreseen back then was, that just one year later, the PreZero brand would bundle together all of the GreenCycle services (founded in 2009) in the field of waste and recycling management ranging from consulting to disposal and further recycling.

Today, PreZero can already look back on more than ten years of experience in recyclables management. The company was initially founded to take care of managing recyclables from **Lidl, Kaufland and the Schwarz Produktion** within the Schwarz Group. Owing to increasing know-how and the success of waste management within the Schwarz Group, the company set out to make its range of services available to third parties.

Entry into the Operational Waste Management Business

Parallel to developing the PreZero brand, initial talks on the **acquisition of the Tönsmeier Group** took place. The waste disposal and recycling company from Porta Westfalica, a family-owned business at that time being run by its third generation, was founded in 1927 as a so-called "Bahnamtliche Spedition", meaning a forwarding agent entitled by railway authorities. In 1958 it was commissioned for the first time to carry out dust-free waste collection. At the beginning of the 1990s, the first locations were opened in the new federal states of Germany and the company pioneered the **newly created system for the Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) in Germany**, the dual system. The company's success was raised to the European level when Tönsmeier opened its first branch in



2010/11

New business units

2012

Expansion in the group



2016

External consulting business

Poland in 1996. In the 2000s, the company entered the plastics and wood recycling business. This was followed by participation in GRN Glasrecycling in 2005, before the two-flexible packaging (LVP) sorting plants in Porta Westfalica and Oppin were put into operation in 2006 and 2007. Following extensive renovations, the annual sorting capacity of the two plants now amounts to around 240,000 metric tons. 2010 saw the opening of the combined heat and power plant "Energie Anlage Bernburg" (today known as PreZero Energy).

Following its successful acquisition, Tönsmeier became an official part of PreZero by name too in the spring of 2019. Simultaneously, the strategic partnership between PreZero and TSG Hoffenheim in Sinsheim was started and since then creates a symbol of sustainability and resource efficiency that is visible from afar: the **PreZero Arena** with the ambition to establish a resource-saving stadium operation.

PreZero is much more than just a waste management company, as it also covers the entire recycling loop and invests in a clean future. That's why 2019 was characterized by several technical additions, such as the **integration of the biogas plant operator Noll Biogas and the Lewedag company.**

The international business in the field of waste and recycling management was also expanded under the PreZero brand. As such, **RMG Recycling, the acquired California-based company was also renamed PreZero US in 2019.** Shortly afterwards, Sky Plastic, another leading recycling company, was integrated. With two operational sites in Haimburg (Austria) and Fonte (Italy), today's **PreZero Polymers AG** processes plastic waste and produces PP, PE and PS recycled material from it.

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Start of expansion

2018

Emerge of the brand PreZero



Purchase of Tönsmeier



Initiative geTon

The international expansion of the waste management business continued in 2019 with the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new sorting plant in Zwolle, Netherlands, which, after being commissioned in 2020, was destroyed by fire in June 2021. From January 2020, PreZero Netherlands processed around 80,000 tons of light packaging per year in the eastern part of the Dutch provincial capital. With PreZero's participation in **Kunststoff Recycling Grünstadt**, PreZero took another important step towards a closed recycling loop in 2020, not long afterward, PreZero US opened the first **LDPE recycling plant** in California. In that same year, PreZero was pleased to announce growth in Poland through the purchase of Komart, a locally based disposal company there.

PreZero bundles all waste and recycling activities

2019

Recyclate of PreZero

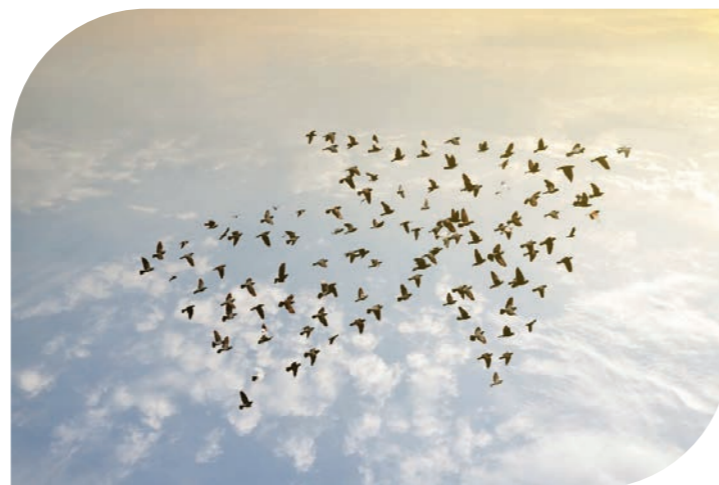


2020

Modern sorting systems



New brand world



Further expansion

2021

Dual system active in Germany

Continued Internationalization under the PreZero Stiftung Umbrella

The expansion of the company also ushered in a unified brand identity in 2020, and the GreenCycle Stiftung was officially renamed the **PreZero Stiftung**. Alongside PreZero, **PreTurn** and **OutNature** were also established as two new brands. In 2020 PreZero also launched its own dual system, **PreZero Dual**, which has been active in all federal states in Germany since the beginning of 2021. In September 2020 PreZero announced its intention to purchase the waste business division of the French Suez Group in the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Poland and Sweden. December saw the successful acquisition of Suez Sweden, with 1,100 employees and 50 locations.



Expansion in the USA, integration of SUEZ, etc.

With the acquisition of SUEZ in Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, PreZero gains in June 2021 in total 7,200 new employees and 140 sites. With the acquisition of Cespa/Ferrovial in December 2021, PreZero gains 16,000 additional employees and 140 locations and is now also represented in Spain and Portugal for the first time.

In Evergem, Belgium, PreZero commissioned a new sorting plant for flexible packaging in 2021. Around 80,000 tons of flexible packaging from the capital Brussels and the Flanders region are processed in the fully automated plant. At the same time, **Sortierkontor Nord GmbH & Co. KG (SKN)**, a joint venture between Nehlsen AG and PreZero Recycling Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG, commissioned a new sorting facility for flexible packaging waste in Bremen. The plant has a capacity of 150,000 tons per year.

At the beginning of 2022, PreZero has started a new sorting plant for light packaging in Eitting, Bavaria, with a planned capacity of up to of up to 120,000 tonnes, which is equipped with the latest technology as well as sorting robots. In the same year, PreZero renews a plastics recycling plant in Grünstadt. Up to 33,000 tons of CO₂ can be saved per year through 35,000 tons of processed plastic waste.

Company Presentation

Business Units, Brands and Projects

Dual – Europe-wide, product manufacturers are held responsible not only for their products but also for their packaging in terms of avoidance, reusability and recycling. With PreZero Dual, PreZero has successfully established its own dual system on the German market and is a reliable partner for customers for the licensing of sales packaging. By making effective use of existing waste management structures and expanding them with innovative approaches, PreZero wants to actively help shape and advance the EU's requirements for the further development of the circular economy.



Recovery – With PreZero Recovery PreZero aims to get the maximum potential value out of waste. From separate collection to sorting and processing, the management of recyclable materials forms the basis for the subsequent recycling of waste. A modern fleet of vehicles with the latest safety technology and a wide range of different types of containers are used for collection. Therefore, the employees are supported by the latest digital technologies. Once the collected waste has arrived at one of PreZero's modern sorting facilities, PreZero aims to separate the material streams as effectively as possible for further recycling.

Flexible packaging is currently processed by PreZero at various locations in Europe. Here, innovative, highly efficient separation processes are used to sort plastics, tinplate, Tetra Paks, paper, cardboard, carton and aluminum. However, PreZero is also an expert in sorting and processing recyclables from industry and trade, including paper, wood, glass, scrap and metal, as well as mixed commercial waste, and recycling these waste streams as



high-quality raw materials for the market. Waste that can no longer be recycled is used by PreZero as an alternative fuel. From this, PreZero Energy generates climate-friendly energy and thus contributes to a reliable energy supply.

Recycling – PreZero Recycling ensures that the processed recyclables are turned into new raw materials for industry. In this way, PreZero helps to close loops. In Europe, PreZero is a leader in the recycling of post-consumer plastics with PreZero Polymers. PreZero's recyclable materials are the source materials for new applications in industrial production and are used in the gardening sector, furniture manufacture, household appliances, construction, home and office furniture, and the automotive industry, among others. At PreZero organic waste is processed into biogas and compost in its own composting and fermentation plants. For all other material streams, PreZero works with a partner network of metal and glass works and paper factories in Europe. In the U.S., PreZero has state-of-the-art recycling facilities in California and South Carolina. Plastic waste is converted there into high-quality recycling materials and organic waste into protein-rich animal feed products. These technologies make PreZero a pioneer in loop economy solutions in the US.

GreenCycle – Versatile Solution Provider. PreZero, with its subsidiary GreenCycle, handles recyclables management for the Kaufland and Lidl retail divisions and the Schwarz Produktion. Through its waste and recycling management unit, GreenCycle ensures, for example, that the paper and plastic waste in the stores is turned into copier paper and film bags, which are returned to the stores as consumables. Furthermore, GreenCycle includes other services provided for the Schwarz Group.

More information: www.greencycle.de



PreTurn – Clean and Future-oriented Logistics with Load Carriers.

PreTurn is the expert on the topics of intelligent load carriers and pooling services. As a forward thinker and pioneer for clean and future-oriented logistics, the brand's mission is to efficiently and transparently restructure entire supply chains with innovative multi-use load carriers and thus optimize them quite decisively - both in analog handling and digital controlling via RFID technology. PreTurn's product portfolio includes the Heilbronn Half Pallet (HHP) and the Neckarsulm Europallet (NEP), two innovative logistics solutions for trade and industry. Compared to the wooden pallet, the Heilbronn Half Pallet is more resilient to breakage. This increased stability results in significantly more turnarounds per pallet, making it much more efficient and resource-saving. Thanks to its stable construction made of 100% recyclable HDPE material, the Neckarsulm Europallet enjoys a long service life, thus protecting our environment.

More information: www.preturn-pooling.com

OutNature – Sustainable Packaging Solutions

OutNature develops and markets innovative and sustainable fiber and paper products based on the cup plant for packaging solutions in trade and industry. OutNature offers an economically and ecologically viable alternative to conventional virgin wood fiber. The aim is to avoid wasting any resources along the entire value chain. Fibers that have so far been left over from biogas production are being processed into a new raw material, as part of a cascading use of the plant. By establishing this smart loop, OutNature makes an important contribution to a sustainable future: from raw materials to transport, further processing and use, to subsequent disposal and reintroduction into the material cycle - all "made in Germany."

More information: www.out-nature.de



PreTurn



**out
nature**
by PreZero

Company Presentation

Sustainable Improvement Through Value-Added Collaborations

Strong partnerships are part of PreZero's commitment to a cleaner tomorrow.

Together with partners, PreZero actively supports strategies for waste prevention and the appreciation of recyclable materials.

For this reason, PreZero is also a founding member of the **PREVENT Waste Alliance**, launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in May 2019, which aims to promote the establishment of a functioning and resource-preserving circular economy everywhere in the world through the targeted promotion of infrastructural framework conditions. PreZero will contribute its own know-how to the alliance in the areas of collection, sorting and recycling of packaging waste.



PreZero und PREVENT
Waste Alliance – a strong
partnership





A long-term partnership to protect the seas

Together with Futury, a spin-off of the Werte-Stiftung, other partners and the Handelsblatt media group, PreZero also launched the **initiative “The Mission”** with the goal to bring together young minds and connect dedicated companies with talented persons, students and graduates. To this end, the initiators have defined twelve future topics that address the challenges of a sustainable future, on which the participants work within 3-month innovation projects. “Waste Be Circular!” e.g. was one of the future-oriented topics with solutions for the prevention and recycling of plastic waste.

PreZero has been working with the WWF ever since 2015 and supports the projects for protecting the oceans. The partnership was extended until 2025 and expanded internationally. As part of the joint cooperation, PreZero is promoting the initiation of another model project to combat the causes of plastic waste on the island of Koh Libong in Thailand, in addition to the previous WWF projects “Ghost Nets” in the Baltic Sea and a model project to prevent plastic waste on the island of Phu Quoc (Vietnam).

PreZero hasn't just given its name to the **PreZero Arena in Sinsheim**, but also provides intensive support in the field of resource-saving waste management within the stadium. The common goal: To establish the PreZero Arena as a symbol of sustainability, to raise awareness for a resource-preserving stadium operation and

attendance as well as for sustainability within the fan culture. In order to achieve this goal, PreZero advises TSG Hoffenheim with its expertise in all environmentally relevant topics. Success is visible because some projects, such as the development and introduction of a returnable cup system or the production of autograph cards on grass paper, have already been put into practice.

Another partner in the sports sector is the **Allianz Arena in Munich**. PreZero is the official waste removal and recycling partner of the Arena and handles all waste disposal activities for the Bundesliga stadium. Together with PreZero, the stadium also wants to work on a sustainable future for the Allianz Arena.

In addition, as a sponsor of the **Klima Arena in Sinsheim**, PreZero is making a commitment to shedding light on the subject of climate and environmental protection. Here PreZero is helping to ensure that visitors of the exhibition learn interactively about the important role recycling plays in preserving resources and thus protecting our planet.

Taking responsibility and protecting what is valuable: that is how strong partnerships are formed as well as effective synergies to foster projects that mean a lot to PreZero, creating sustainable values, and completely closing the recycling loop. This is what drives PreZero and promotes the further development of the company - for a cleaner tomorrow.



PreZero Arena in Sinsheim

Company Presentation

PreZero

Facts and Figures

active in **11 countries**

round **475 locations** worldwide

employing about **30,000 employees** worldwide

disposing of the waste generated by **40 million** people in Europe

one of the **Top 10 plastics recyclers** in Europe and a leader in the

PreZero's waste disposal fleet has more than **12,200 vehicles**

More than **25 million tons of recyclable materials** enter PreZero's sorting, recovery, and recycling facilities annually.

Around **230,000 tons of plastic** can be recycled by PreZero Polymers each year in Europe and the U.S.

PreZero products made from **100% recycled plastic** have been available since 2021 at all European Lidl and Kaufland stores.

More than **60% of all aluminum packaging** in Germany is recycled annually by PreZero Pyral. PreZero has been pioneering the recycling of aluminum in Germany.

More than **400 kg of plastic** are saved at each TSG Hoffenheim home game. Working with PreZero, TSG has switched to a returnable cup system at the PreZero Arena.

9.58 tons of net material were recovered over three days in 2020 at a Ghost Nets outing, with the WWF & PreZero 2020 committed to protecting the oceans.

3 packaging awards have been won by PreZero's OutNature brand for its sustainable cup plant packaging solutions.

Corporate communication

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