Night Star Express

Sustainability Report – 2023

Sustainable, effective, credible

Night Star Express sets itself a high bar when it comes to realising its diverse sustainability projects. It is the successes that spur us on.

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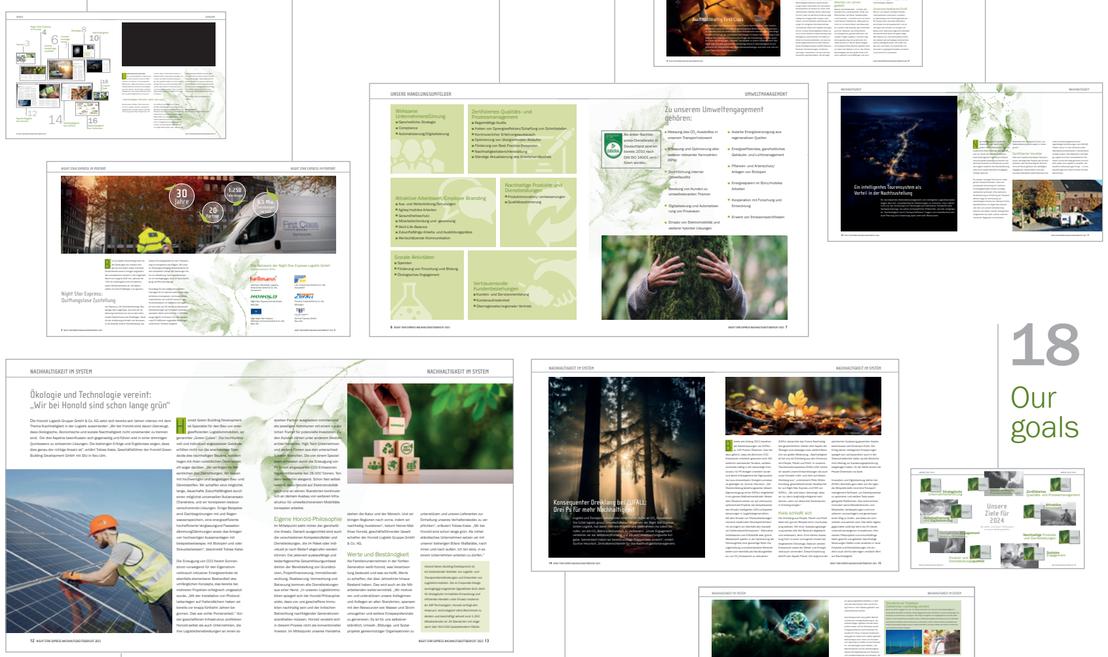

Dear readers,

We are all called upon to conserve resources and the environment. This requires a bundle of effective measures. Night Star Express and its partner companies are working very intensively on the question of what sustainability means for our partner network and what measures we can derive from the findings. We are clear about one thing: solutions that are isolated from one another will certainly not lead to the desired success. We must, therefore, take various factors into consideration, weigh them up carefully and bring them into a meaningful context. As a logistics company, it makes sense for us to implement and consistently realise this important topic across all areas and at all levels. This is because sustainable action pays off directly and indirectly for everyone.

„Sustainable action pays off."

The whole sustainability complex is certainly not an easy endeavour. There is no universal recipe for this. Reflection, development and experimentation in various directions are required. Among other things, our in-depth technical expertise and digital tools help us to record, measure and analyse results. Night Star Express, which celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, has deliberately set itself these demanding challenges. We see sustainable transformation as a fundamental part of our corporate culture and our strategic direction. We give you an insight into this in this Sustainability Report – 2023.

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading

Yours

Nikolaus Frantz

Managing Director Night Star Express

PORTRAIT OF NIGHT STAR EXPRESS

Night Star Express: Receiptless delivery

We collect the consignments from our customers by late afternoon. We deliver these within Germany and in some neighbouring European countries the following night by 8.00 a.m., optionally by 7.00 a.m., without receipt and with electronic proof of delivery. We deliver the goods to the recipient via depots. Whether a technician's vehicle, box, garage or warehouse, we also focus on the individual needs of the recipient when it comes to delivery. This type of delivery requires a great deal of trust in the quality of our service. For this reason, we make the transport route as transparent as possible.

With our consignment tracking system, we document the complete progress of consignments right through to delivery. In this way, we guarantee a continuous track & trace (tracking and tracing).

The basis for the customised solutions is an optimally coordinated line system. As a co-operation-based company with around 20 strong logistics service providers in our network, we have been providing professional services of the highest quality for more than 30 years. More than 1,250 vehicles are in use every day. Around 6.5 million consignments are delivered each year, and the trend is still rising.

The network behind Night Star Express Logistik GmbH

(as at December 2023)

Hellmann Worldwide Logistics Road & Rail GmbH & Co. KG, Osnabrück

L.W. Cretschmar GmbH & Co. KG, Düsseldorf

Night Star Express Honold GmbH, Neu-Ulm

Friedrich Zufall GmbH & Co. KG, Göttingen

Night Star Express Hellmann & Honold GmbH & Co. KG, Neu-Ulm

Gertner Express GmbH, Neu-Ulm

Effective corporate management

- Holistic strategy
- Compliance
- Automation/digitalisation

Certified quality and process management

- Regular audits
- Realisation of synergy effects/Creation of interfaces
- Continuous exchange of experience
- Optimisation of overarching processes
- Promotion of Best Practice examples
- Sustainability reporting
- Continuous updating of the management manual

Attractive working environment/Employer branding

- Vocational education and training/instruction
- Agile/Mobile working
- Health protection
- Employee retention and recruitment
- Work-life balance
- Sustainable jobs and apprenticeships
- Appreciative communication

Sustainable products and services

- Product innovation/Improvements
- Quality optimisation

Social activities

- Donations
- Promotion of research and education
- Ecological commitment

Trusting customer relationships

- Customer and service orientation
- Customer satisfaction
- Supra-regional/Regional distribution

Our environmental commitment includes:

We were the first nighttime express service provider in Germany to be certified to DIN ISO 14001 back in 2010.

- Measurement of CO_2 emissions in our transport network
- Recording and optimisation of all other relevant key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Carrying out internal environmental audits
- Purchase of emission certificates
- Digitalisation and automation of processes
- Use of electromobility and other hybrid solutions
- Self-sufficient energy supply from renewable sources
- Energy-efficient, holistic building and lighting management
- Plant and species protection/ Creation of biotopes
- Saving energy in the office/Mobile working
- Cooperation with research and development
- Advising customers on environmentally relevant topics

Also delivering a first-class performance in terms of sustainability

We, at Night Star Express, do not see the issue of sustainability in isolation. After all, we are all united by our common endeavours to conserve resources and actively participate in climate protection. This starts on a small scale, and every endeavour in this regard brings a benefit. Sustainability is also a question of attitude. And what is the best way to anchor a coherent mindset in a company? Night Star Express has a clear answer: sustainability is a key component of our corporate strategy and runs like a common thread through all areas.

A strong will to change

Sustainability is not a trendy topic or a "nice-to-have" at Night Star Express. We take a very serious look at what sustainability means, what effects it has and what consequences we draw from this for our corporate actions. This means that we regularly analyse all processes in detail and identify interfaces. We ensure stringent information flows and also incorporate digital solutions. Our areas of activity are, therefore, directly related. Interacting and networking data requires a basic understanding and a willingness to change at all levels. This approach affects processes, products, services, customer relationships, supply chains and corporate culture in equal measure. At Night Star Express, we, therefore, focus not only on individual measures, but on a whole range of activities relating to sustainability.

Setting the course for the future, many years ago

Almost all stakeholders – customers, employees, politicians and the public, the market, shareholders and investors – want transparency from a company. The focus is not only on hard facts or balance sheet figures, but also increasingly on how companies deal with ecological, societal and social issues. And as credibly and authentically as possible. We reacted to this years ago and set the right course, because we see the change in sustainability as a great opportunity to continue on a sustainable and necessary path. We firmly believe that profitability and sustainability are not mutually exclusive. This is another reason why we have integrated the topic of sustainability into our corporate strategy.

Distinctive profile

By undergoing this important transformation process, we are simultaneously expanding our potential for action: we make a valuable contribution to the environment and society, and we reduce the use of energy and resources. Which is also playing an increasingly important role these days: we give Night Star Express a distinctive profile and strengthen our employer brand as a sustainable company. We want to be a role model and feel obliged and encouraged to invest in suitable projects and thus in the future.

An intelligent route system as an advantage in overnight delivery

Sophisticated mobility management and intelligent logistics concepts are not just about converting vehicles to alternative fuels or fuel-saving training programmes. Above all, economic effectiveness and the guiding principle of “sustainability through transport efficiency” contribute to environmental protection: Good planning and implementation save valuable resources.

Night Star Express has a big advantage because it delivers at night. Traffic jams are eliminated and there are no restrictions on delivery time and location. The flexible delivery locations thanks to receipt-free delivery to depots save a great deal of time and thus reduce emissions as far as possible. The routing is constantly reviewed and optimised if necessary.

Another important point is an intelligent transport network. Unnecessary empty runs are avoided thanks to the Europe-wide network with several transshipment companies. Optimised route planning to increase transport efficiency helps to avoid unnecessary traffic. Nikolaus Frantz, Managing Director of Night Star Express: “We are aware of our responsibility and incorporate our guiding ecological principles into all our business activities. Intelligent route and network planning is at the forefront of this.”

Certified pioneer

But reusable transport boxes, which Night Star Express offers its customers, and driving training for drivers are also part of its wide-ranging commitment. This is documented and further developed, true to the latest standards in accordance with DIN ISO 14001, which we received in 2010 as the first nighttime express service provider in Germany. Genuinely sustainable logistics is enormously challenging. We have set out on a journey and are actively creating logistics that will bring significant improvements – in terms of their impact on our environment and the common good.

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE SYSTEM

Ecology and technology combined: "We at Honold have been green for a long time"

The Honold Group has been working intensively on the topic of sustainability in logistics for years: "At Honold, we are convinced that ecological, economic and social sustainability are inseparable. The three aspects influence each other and only lead to effective solutions in a coherent quintessence. The successes and results to date show that this is exactly the right approach," explains Tobias Katai, Managing Director of Honold Green Building Development GmbH, based in Neu-Ulm.

Honold Green Building Development specialises in the construction of energy-efficient logistics properties, known as "green cubes". The highly functional and customised buildings not only meet the recognised standards of sustainable construction, but often even exceed them with their exemplary life cycle assessments. "We are essentially pursuing three objectives. We build with high-quality and durable construction and insulation materials. We create the longest possible lasting level of sustainability through the most universal user approach possible, and we design resource-saving solutions. Some examples are green roofs and rainwater storage, highly-efficient insulation and the creation of high-quality outdoor facilities, for example, with a biotope or a meadow orchard," explains Tobias Katai.

The generation of CO_2-free solar power, primarily for the company's own electricity consumption including the energy centre, is also an elementary component of the comprehensive concept, which has already been successfully implemented in several projects. "We started installing photovoltaic systems on hall roofs almost fifteen years ago. That was real pioneering work." Honold itself benefits from the infrastructure created, as well as companies that want to outsource their logistics services to such a strong partner. Its customers include medical device manufacturers, high-tech companies and other firms from a wide range of sectors. The CO_2 emissions saved by generating PV electricity now amount to 28,000 tonnes, and the trend is still rising. It almost goes without saying that Honold is focussing on electromobility and is continuously working on expanding the infrastructure for environmentally friendly mobility concepts at its locations.

Honold's own philosophy

The holistic approach always takes centre stage. The various areas of expertise and services, which can be called up as a package or individually as required, are also geared towards this. From the provision of land, project financing and property management to realisation, marketing and support, all services come from a single source.

"Our logistics properties reflect the Honold philosophy that the buildings we create must be sustainable and withstand the critical scrutiny of future generations. Honold does not see itself as a conventional investor in this process. Nature and people are at the centre of everything we do. And we move regions forward by investing sustainably," emphasises Heiner-Matthias Honold, Managing Partner of Honold Logistik Gruppe GmbH & Co. KG.

Honold is a major provider of logistics and transport services and a developer of logistics properties. The signal colour green, which is used throughout the corporate design, stands for ecological property development and efficient action using the latest SAP technologies. Honold aims to remain the technological benchmark at all times and currently employs around 1,250 people at 24 locations with a total area of over 910,000 square metres.

Values and consistency

As a family business in its fifth generation, Honold knows what responsibility means and what it means to create values that last for decades. This is also passed on to the employees. "We motivate and support our colleagues at all locations to use resources such as water and electricity sparingly, and to generate further savings potential. It is a matter of course for us to support environmental, educational and social projects run by non-profit organisations and to oblige our suppliers to comply with our code of conduct," explains Tobias Katai. "We, at Honold, have been green for a long time. As a medium-sized company, we set standards in all our internal and external actions. I am proud to be able to work in a company like this."

Consistent triad at ZUFALL: Three Ps for more sustainability

Logistics and transport cause a high proportion of CO2 emissions. The Zufall logistics group, a partner company of Night Star Express GmbH Logistik, has, therefore, initiated several projects and measures to continuously improve its carbon footprint. "We see our commitment as a voluntary obligation and a very responsible task. Together, we have already achieved important milestones," explains Gunnar Heunisch, Head of Corporate Sustainability Management.

Since the beginning of 2021, ZUFALL has set the course to source 100 per cent green electricity for its branches in the coming years. This has led to a significant reduction in annual CO_2 emissions. The trend has continued to grow since further substantial investment was made in the necessary infrastructure for PV systems, which has led to a gradual increase in in-house production from renewable energies. Gunnar Heunisch: „At ZUFALL, the purchase of green electricity and its own generation is embedded in a whole range of measures. In addition to green electricity, we focus on consumption-optimising projects such as the use of intelligent LED lighting system controls in logistics facilities. With the use of photovoltaic systems including state-of-the-art electricity storage technology, we are gradually increasing our energy self-sufficiency."
Alternative drive types such as e-mobility or potentially also green hydrogen play an important role in optimising the vehicle fleet. Warehousing and administrative areas are also areas where action can be taken to reduce CO_2 emissions.
ZUFALL takes a holistic view of sustainability. In addition to the ecological aspect, two other areas are, therefore, of great importance. „For us, sustainability is a triad of the dimensions of people, planet and profit. In our ZUFALL100 transformation process, we are increasingly focussing both our decisions and our actions on this triad," emphasises Peter Müller-Kronberg, Managing Partner and CEO of ZUFALL. „We are convinced that we can only be successful in the long term if we harmonise these three dimensions."

Going full circle

The triad of people, planet and profit is well illustrated by the example of the capacity utilisation factor of a delivery truck. An increase in capacity utilisation covers and improves all three areas, because: higher capacity utilisation leads to a reduction in the number of vehicles used. This reduces emissions, as well as diesel and energy consumption. This development relates to the planet aspect. The reduced costs resulting from optimised capacity utilisation influence the profit dimension. The success of these intelligent savings is ultimately also reflected in team satisfaction, as all areas have contributed to optimising capacity utilisation. This is where the people dimension comes into play.

Innovation and digitalisation are also at the top of the agenda at ZUFALL. Examples include transport management software to optimise work processes and other tools and suitable platforms. The company encourages its employees to suggest improvements and innovations, and to work together to find the most sensible way of realising them. The zufall.lab, which was founded specifically for this purpose, serves as the location for these in-house innovations. This is where pilot projects and sustainable ideas are examined and tested. Sustainable innovations are being incorporated into new products and services, among other things, as customers are also increasingly focussing on sustainability.

Hellmann Worldwide Logistics – Sustainability is a key issue

The topic of sustainability has always been firmly anchored at Hellmann Worldwide Logistics and is increasingly of great strategic importance. The focus is on the three areas of environment, social affairs and governance. In addition to fulfilling legal requirements, the global full-service provider wants to make its contribution to overcoming the social and ecological challenges we all face worldwide.

Sustainability has been firmly anchored in Hellmann's corporate strategy for many years and will continue to be of central importance in the future. This is reflected in the corporate culture, the "Hellmann Promise", among other things. The global Hellmann FAMILY is united by a common vision: For the better. Together. This means that sustainability is an indispensable prerequisite for Hellmann's business activities, and is viewed from various perspectives.

In a "people business" such as logistics, focussing on people – including the approximately 14,000 employees – plays a central role: diversity, equal opportunities and occupational health and safety are important prerequisites for a good employment relationship in which no one is discriminated against and colleagues are encouraged and developed in their strengths.
At the same time, the large area of the environment is of great importance. As a globally active logistics provider, the company has a particular focus on reducing its energy consumption and emissions, for example. In this context, in addition to solid global data analysis, it is also always a question of innovations. The digitalisation of processes and environmentally friendly new approaches, such as the use of energy-efficient technologies, play a key role, particularly with regard to air and sea freight, road and rail transport and contract logistics.

In this context, sustainable investments are a key issue, such as Hellmann Germany's switch to green electricity in 2023. Within the framework of legal requirements, the company also actively combats corruption, prevents anti-competitive behaviour, protects human rights and ensures compliance along the entire supply chain.
But Hellmann also takes responsibility for people and the environment beyond the legal requirements out of its own motivation. This is particularly evident in the foundation of the Hellmann helps association, which was set up to help colleagues and their families in need and to support social and ecological sustainability projects.

Participation in projects – Cretschmar sustainably networked

L.W. Cretschmar GmbH & Co. KG has been committed to the topic of sustainability in Düsseldorf's industrial landscape since 2007. As part of this commitment, Cretschmar took part in a multi-year CO_2 project to reduce emissions. And with tremendous success: compared to the initial period, these have already been reduced by more than 80 per cent. Cretschmar is also involved in activities organised by various associations that aim to promote climate protection. These include, for example, the use of renewable energies and electromobility in vehicle fleets. Cretschmar has been certified to DIN EN ISO 14001 since 2001.

OUR GOALS 2024

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We strive for "first class" performance in all our areas of activity

Strategic corporate management

Trusting customer relationships

Certified quality and process management

Automation and *digitalisation*

Attractive working environment

Ecological *commitment*

(reduction of CO_2 emissions)

Product and service *quality*

Sustainable products and services

Social commitment

Night Star Express

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