

Water recycling at Audi Brussels: A milestone for sustainable water use

- Treated wastewater now being used in production in a ‘closed loop’ model
- Cooperation with Hydria will save approximately 100,000 cubic meters of drinking water per year
- Sustainable water use is a key area of activity under the cross-site environmental program Mission:Zero

Brussels, March 11, 2024 – As of this date, Audi Brussels is using treated water in manufacturing and testing processes, under its pioneering “Re-Use” program. This joint project with the Belgian company Hydria, which specializes in the collection and treatment of wastewater, marks a significant step forward for water conservation in automotive manufacturing.

Audi Brussels continues to expand its sustainability initiatives, and the launch of its “Re-Use” project is a major milestone in an important aspect of sustainability: reducing water consumption. In automotive manufacturing, water is used primarily in paint shops and for vehicle leak testing. Thanks to a cooperation with the Belgian company Hydria, the company is now able to reuse water in a cyclical model with virtually no loss. Industrial wastewater from the Brussels site is treated, not to drinking water quality but for repeated use in plant processes.

Recycling water in a closed loop

In partnership with the Brussels region, Hydria manages the Brussels South wastewater treatment plant located near the Audi facility. This is where the industrial wastewater from production is treated and then returned to the Audi plant. The approach allows Audi Brussels to integrate the treated wastewater in its industrial processes. By implementing this closed loop, the site is able to save approximately 100,000 cubic meters of drinking water per year, the equivalent of about 40 Olympic swimming pools.

This makes Audi Brussels the first company to permanently implement this solution in cooperation with Hydria.

Making a contribution to Mission:Zero

The CEO of Audi Brussels, Volker Germann, emphasizes the significance of the project: “Clean water is one of the most valuable global resources and is the basis for all ecosystems.

The equipment, data and prices specified in this document refer to the model range offered in Germany. Subject to change without notice; errors and omissions excepted.

**The collective fuel/electric power consumption and emissions values of all models named and available on the German market can be found in the list provided at the end of this text.*

Therefore, conserving our drinking water resources is a key element of our cross-site environmental program Mission:Zero. Integrating ‘Re-Use’ water into our industrial processes highlights our commitment to sustainable business practices.”

Damien de Keyser, CEO of Hydria, is also proud of the partnership, and emphasizes: “Having successfully tested the use of our ‘Re-Use’ water at the Brussels South wastewater treatment plant, we are now looking forward to providing our first customer, Audi Brussels, with this high-quality water, helping to conserve this valuable resource.”

The Brussels plant has been using renewable energy since 2018, making it the world’s first certified carbon-neutral high-volume production¹ plant in the premium segment. Since 2018, the plant has been producing fully electric models – currently, the Audi Q8 e-tron* and Audi Q8 e-tron Sportback* roll off the line here. As a pioneering example of a sustainable production site, Audi Brussels strives to continuously optimize its use of resources by deploying efficient technologies in its processes.

The initiative takes place in the context of Audi’s cross-site environmental program Mission:Zero, of which one key component is the efficient use of water. Audi plans to halve its ecologically weighted water consumption value by 2035. Other areas of activity in Mission:Zero include resource efficiency, decarbonization, and the protection and preservation of biodiversity. The company’s vision is to create a circular economy where resources such as plastics, water, and other raw materials are used in closed cycles. Pilot projects are intended to pave the way for a long-term circular system.

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¹ Audi understands net-zero CO₂ emissions to mean a situation in which, after other possible reduction measures have been exhausted, the company offsets the carbon emitted by Audi’s products or activities and/or the carbon emissions that currently cannot be avoided in the supply chain, manufacturing, and recycling of Audi vehicles through voluntary offsetting projects carried out worldwide. In this context, carbon emissions generated during a vehicle’s utilization stage, i.e. from the moment it is delivered to the customer, are not taken into account.

The Audi Group is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium and luxury segment. The brands Audi, Bentley, Lamborghini, and Ducati produce at 21 locations in 12 countries. Audi and its partners are present in more than 100 markets worldwide.

In 2023, the Audi Group delivered 1.9 million Audi vehicles, 13,560 Bentley vehicles, 10,112 Lamborghini vehicles, and 58,224 Ducati motorcycles to customers. In the 2023 fiscal year, Audi Group achieved a total revenue of €69.9 billion and an operating profit of €6.3 billion. Worldwide, an annual average of more than 87,000 people worked for the Audi Group in 2023, more than 53,000 of them at AUDI AG in Germany. With its attractive brands and numerous new models, the group is systematically pursuing its path toward becoming a provider of sustainable, fully networked premium mobility.

***Fuel consumption and emission values of the models mentioned**

Audi Q8 e-tron

Combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 24.4 -20.1 (WLTP);
CO₂ emissions combined in g/km: 0; CO₂-class: A

Audi Q8 Sportback e-tron

Combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 24.1 -19.5 (WLTP);
CO₂ emissions combined in g/km: 0; CO₂-class: A