

FAKRO – a manufacturer with ECO-logical DNA

GO GREEN

With the approaching climate change and increasing environmental degradation, the decisions we make today need to be carefully considered. We must remember that our actions have a real impact on our planet. The Earth calls for help and our task is to support it as the most important test is yet to come. Awareness and willingness to act are essential. FAKRO puts these ambitions on its development path, following the principles of its GO GREEN philosophy, but also educating and promoting discussion.

FAKRO has been operating with respect for ecology since its inception. The logo itself contains the values followed by the manufacturer – the green parallelogram-shaped signet ring is not there by accident. This feature underlines the strong connection of corporate values with proximity to nature and interest in environmental issues. FAKRO places emphasis on sustainable development, selection of eco-friendly materials and investments in green technologies. The Company takes responsibility for its operations and constantly improves the products offered so that they are not only innovative and comfortable for customers, but also safe and have no negative impact on the environment. The **GO GREEN** philosophy followed by FAKRO perfectly illustrates the direction of the activities: „We design, plan and produce with care for the natural environment. Offering eco-friendly and energy-efficient products is in the DNA of

FAKRO. We ensure that every process, every action and every decision we make is always accompanied by concern for the comfort and healthy life of future generations. ”.

Achieving sustainable development is influenced by a number of areas of the Company's operations. Let's start with the materials used in the production process. Wood as one of the most environmentally friendly materials is the basis for the production of roof windows at FAKRO. It is harvested from forests with planned forestry economy, all in harmony with nature and care for future generations. The Company has the FSC® certificate which proves its compliance with the principles of ecology in forest production processes. This certificate confirms that wood comes from forests managed with nature in mind. Windows, however, are not everything. All kinds of window accessories and installation elements also contribute to energy efficiency

performance. FAKRO recommends the use of flashings for the installation of roof windows to ensure their proper and tight connection with the roof slope. Thermal insulation recommended by the manufacturer is an insulation material made of natural sheep wool which reduces the presence of thermal bridging. To complete everything, it is suggested to equip windows with internal and external accessories such as awning blinds, which not only reduce the effects of intense sunlight, but also limit the amount of excessive heat gain entering the room. Energy efficiency performance is increased by applying products that protect the room against extreme heat in the summer and cold in the winter. It is a natural greening of the energy system. All these benefits have one common denominator, namely energy efficiency and comfort of use.

The road to sustainability is also about constant improvement of the products and offering energy-efficient solutions that are ahead of the requirements of currently effective directives. FAKRO develops its offer in compliance with the principle that the product should be better than required by the regulations and meet one of the closest tasks established by the Green Deal, namely large-scale renovation of buildings and the construction of new, passive functional spaces so that it responds to the challenges of thermal insulation and has a suitable ventilation system. It is estimated that 35 million buildings will need to be renovated across the European Union by 2030. This involves major investments, including the area of window replacement and vertical joinery. The renovation of existing houses, residential and public utility buildings has a real impact on energy saving and protection of the Earth's natural resources. This is the field where FAKRO also adapts its range of windows made of PVC profiles which

are perfect as replacement windows. Moreover, they are eco-friendly products that can be recycled as the sash profiles are made of as much as 63% recycled material. In addition to profiles, other materials used in PVC windows such as glass, aluminium and steel components can be reused virtually in 100%. Using recycled components in the production process of aluminium clad-plastic windows has a huge impact on the environmental protection.

New buildings, their construction processes and further processes related to their operation must also be as minimally invasive as possible and even be planned so that they work in favour of nature. These include CO₂ reduction, air purification system, use of solar energy and photovoltaics. This should be wise space shaping already at the stage of cooperation with architects. The construction industry must learn to design, build and renovate in such a way to make optimal use of renewable energy. That is why FAKRO is not only one step ahead in designing its products, but also invests in the operation of the entire Company. The office buildings are equipped with solar awning blinds, new halls are built using environmentally friendly technologies, while investments are directed to state-of-the-art machinery. Currently, FAKRO installs a photovoltaic system that will soon cover the roofs of all production plants in Nowy Sącz, while conventional lighting is replaced by LED solutions.

Gaining knowledge about ecology should start at a young age. This is why FAKRO runs various initiatives and competitions on environmental protection and develops educational materials for this purpose that are mainly aimed at children. Educating younger generations with the basics of environmental awareness

is an investment in their future behaviour. Employees can also feel the company's commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle as FAKRO encourages physical activity and adjusts infrastructure for those who choose their bicycles as a means of transport. Employees are inspired to be environmentally conscious and to promote and choose Polish products – this issue is taken care of by the Think about the Future Foundation established by FAKRO's owner – Ryszard Florek.

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