



GREENVIEW windows - the crowning achievement of our ECO activities

Interview with **Sebastian Talarczyk**,
Board Member for Product
Development and Management



the natural environment is a gift for us and future generations.

So how can we be even more eco-friendly?

We are constantly improving our technology and production parameters. This is feasible by innovative machines that need less energy and come with intelligent system to balance its consumption. They plan to keep production waste as small as possible and recyclable. We cooperate with companies that buy back waste such as glass, aluminium or PVC and give it a second life. We find circularity, namely extending the life of products, very important.

What is sustainable production at FAKRO?

It goes hand in hand with optimisation. We constantly strive to ensure that our products are manufactured at optimum cost and following the principles of sustainable development. This involves innovative technologies. We take measures to keep the production waste at the lowest level possible. We use advanced neural networks to identify potential imperfections in the composition of products, so that we already know exactly at the initial selection stage which element will be used and which one will not. This cuts down waste to a minimum. We are the originators and constructors of many machines. Their ergonomics is one of the basic criteria. We reduce the execution time, for example, from three operations to two or even one. Operation time is shortened with energy consumption being lowered. What's more, technological factors are also taken into account in the design. Individual components are selected in such a way that the processing result is the most advantageous, the outcome of which is waste kept to a minimum. An example

of the process is the preparation of angle brackets. Previously, it was performed on multiple machines, and now only on a single automatic machine.

Our product range is very wide. How it can be classified?



Products can be broken down from the general to the specific. One categorisation is into windows, loft ladders, accessories and automatic control. Different classification can be made according to thermal performance, meaning insulated, highly-insulated or fire-resistant products. Goods can also be divided in line with their intended use, that is windows with increased resistance to humidity or windows intended for passive construction. These categories are numerous. For the past two years we have been developing special software called PIM (Product Information Management) that allows us to search and classify products at will. These solutions

ensure that our employees don't waste time and energy searching for requested items. In categorising, we must not simplify the concept of green products as some identify them with recyclability, other users refer to planning and designing in compliance with ECO guidelines, and yet others link ecology with waste management.

GREENVIEW

The new GREENVIEW window has been presented for the first time during the Budma 2022 Trade Fair. What makes this eco-friendly window unique?

I want to make it clear that every single product from FAKRO is eco-friendly. It is not that now, for the needs of EU directives, we change the parameters to more ECO. Nevertheless, GREENVIEW is the crowning achievement of our activities in this area. This window fits perfectly into the GO GREEN philosophy. It was developed for new, low-energy construction and features very good heat transfer coefficient. We achieved 12% better performance for the air inlet compared to previous generation windows. This allows proper air exchange, influencing user comfort. The acoustic insulation value was also improved by 12%, which is an advantage particularly important for customers living near highways, airports or industrial zones. The GREENVIEW are windows designed by FAKRO engineers in cooperation with students from the Krakow University of Technology. Young constructors are thus representatives of their generation. They pay special attention to environmental issues and reflect on the fate of future generations. Sales of the GREENVIEW line windows started in February 2023.

GREENVIEW is the crowning achievement of FAKRO green activities, but the Company can also be proud of other outstanding solutions in this area.

Indeed. It's a must to mention FAKRO smartHome. This project allows for intelligent home management with energy savings in mind. Thanks to these solutions, we can control the temperature in our home, properly ventilate the room and configure the lighting to turn on when we return from work. As far as energy balance is concerned, it is worth mentioning awning blinds. They are designed in such a way that, thanks to intelligent solar panels acting as a sun sensor, they automatically cover our windows, protecting the room from overheating. The GREENVIEW window received Carbon Footprint Approved certificate. As pointed out by the certifying committee, the certificate gives credibility to the organisation's efforts to limit the carbon footprint of manufactured products

and services, confirms its commitment to sustainable development goals and certifies the implementation of the circular economy assumptions.

What are the environmental aspects of our products that the market and our customers pay attention to?

First and foremost they focus on thermal insulation as this is associated with savings. It is now very common that customers turn to us with a request for thermal modernisation of their windows. We replace the so-called "cold" glazing units installed in the 1990s with highly-insulated double chamber ones. At the same time, we demonstrate the long life cycle of our products. Windows produced over 30 years ago undergo thermal modernisation and meet today's requirements. Customers interested in purchasing products also ask us about the type of raw materials used, whether they contain natural materials, whether they are suitable for recycling and what warranty they have.

What certificates in the ECO dimension and beyond it can FAKRO be proud of?

We currently hold more than 20 certificates and quality marks. All FAKRO products covered by the requirements of European harmonised standards are CE marked. Declared parameters are confirmed by independent laboratories. The certificates require regular external control audits. The quality of our products is confirmed by independent institutes. We can boast both mandatory certificates such as American QAI, NFRC, IGCC/IGMA certificates as well as CE marking for smoke-proof and fire-resistant products, eg. Slovak FIRES certificate. We also have prestigious voluntary certificates confirming the quality of our products and the fact that they meet the requirements of the market in question. These include French CSTB/QB certificate for the production of wooden roof windows, certificates for the manufacture

of glazing units: German IFT Rosenheim, French CEKAL and British BBA for the production of wooden roof windows. We source wood from FSC-compliant certified forests. We keep abreast of the direction of standards development as we belong to many technical committees responsible for their creation. In this way, we share our knowledge and experience with others as well as anticipate requirements, preparing solutions not only for the present but also for the future.



www.fakro.com

