METAL RECYCLING IS
ACTIVE CLIMATE PROTECTION

The Executive Board of the Association of German Metal Traders e.V. (VDM) has adopted a 6-point paper on climate protection and recycling (Annex). The association points out that large quantities of CO2 have always been saved through non-ferrous metal recycling.

“Our commitment to climate protection is hardly noticed by politicians. On the contrary: the legal framework conditions for the non-ferrous metal recycling industry are getting worse every year. We must move away from a culture of prohibition that hinders recycling and towards a culture of motivation that promotes recycling,” says President Petra Zieringer. Zieringer expects the future climate protection law to send clear signals to the recycling industry, she welcomes the statements by Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze that the income from CO2 pricing will be returned as a climate premium.

“As a recycling industry, we expressly welcome the proposal for a climate premium. The many small and medium-sized companies of our association are part of an important recycling chain for the production of metals from recycling. Our members can be described as best-practice examples of the economy and should be considered positively in CO2 pricing,” says Zieringer. Read more on p. 3

The VDM Business Climate Index fell again at the beginning of the third quarter of 2019, showing that the German economy as a whole continued to lose momentum. The Business Climate Index is made up of two sub-indices: the business situation and business expectations. The decisive factor for the renewed decline of the index is that a growing proportion of companies assess both their current business situation less favourably and their economic prospects more pessimistically (see chart above).

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The reasons for the moderate mood in the metal trading sector continue to be found in the overall economic environment and are not homemade: the German economy is in a downturn and the economic momentum has slowed further in recent months. In other sectors, too, companies are looking much more pessimistically into the future. The slowdown is particularly noticeable in industry, a key market for the demand for metals. If demand for metals falls in industry, the mood among metal trading companies will not brighten.
TECHNICAL BUSINESS ECONOMIST
METAL TRADE (B.A.) IS LAUNCHED

VDM metal academy expands its range of services

The preparations for the reform of our study program have taken longer than expected, but we are now ready to start. On 25 July 2019, the managing directors of the Wirtschaftsverband Großhandel Metallhalbbezug e.V. (Wholesale Metal Semi-Finished Products Economic Association - WGM) and the Association of German Metal Traders (Verband Deutscher Metallhändler e.V. - VDM) signed a cooperation agreement with Fresenius onlineplus University of Applied Sciences. The aim of the cooperation is to jointly contribute to the academic qualification of specialists and managers in the metal industry in Germany.

Professional qualification is more important than ever - demographic change, global competition, digitalization of the working and social world, growing complexity, dynamic change in social conditions. Employers can bind their employees and customers through qualified development opportunities and a high level of professional expertise and thus position your company successfully on the market. Employees have the opportunity for personal development.

VDM and WGM already offer the state-approved study programme "Business Economist Metal Trade (VDM)", which is highly regarded in the industry. On 1 November 2019, the "Technical Business Economist Metal Trade (B.A.)" study programme will also start, culminating in a Bachelor's degree. What both programmes have in common is that, in addition to standard business administration (BWL), technology/metal science is also taught. In the future, the difference between the two courses will be in the admission requirements and the acquired degree. Whereas the "Technical Business Economist Metal Trade (B.A.)" is open only to high school graduates (e.g. Abitur), the "Business Economist Metal Trade (VDM)", which is thematically leaner in the field of business administration, is also open to other interested students (e.g. with a secondary school certificate and completed vocational training) as a certificate course. Both courses are currently still in the state admissions process. The costs for a 36-month online programme amount to 295 euros per month.

The business management courses cover the areas of General Management (e.g. marketing, controlling, personnel management, international corporate management), Business Law, Professionalization (e.g. communication and presentation, project and quality management), Digital Transformation (e.g. digital transformation and business models as well as automation and digitization in industry) and Technical Management. These topics make up 29 modules of the program.

The technical contents are subdivided into the areas non-ferrous metals fundamentals (extraction and production), non-ferrous metals materials science, light metals, non-ferrous metals, iron, steel and plastics, recycling as well as processing and technical drawing and make up 7 modules of the distance learning course.

In addition, the VDM and WGM associations will offer a three-day classroom seminar at a cost of less than 500 euros. The purpose of the seminar is to supplement the content learned in the online course with practical experience or to address additional aspects of the industry that are not included in the curriculum (e.g. metal exchange). Participation in the seminar is not mandatory, but strongly recommended.

Our members will receive detailed information about our programmes in our VDM newsletter. If you are interested, you can contact Nadine Zocher from the VDM office at metallakademie@vdm.berlin.
VDM POSITION
6 POINTS ON CLIMATE PROTECTION AND RECYCLING

As a representative of the non-ferrous metal recycling industry, VDM is expressly committed to climate protection. VDM’s many small, medium-sized and large companies have been saving CO2 for many years and are therefore good role models for the economy. We expressly support political efforts to ensure rapid and effective climate protection with suitable measures. We reject purely populist measures that win votes or are “in” if they ultimately do not make a sustainable contribution to climate protection.

1. Protecting the climate - supporting recycling

Incentives for CO2-saving recycling companies

The recycling industry has been saving thousands of tons of CO2 for many years. In the ongoing discussion about climate protection, the many small and medium-sized companies should not fall by the wayside. We are in favour of a bonus-malus regulation within the discussion about the climate protection law. It must not only be about sanctions, but also about supporting companies that make an active contribution to environmental and climate protection.

2. Facts about CO2 savings through metal recycling

- Studies show that the production of one tonne of secondary aluminium saves between 7.52 and 11 tonnes of CO2 compared with primary production. In 2017 alone, the production of secondary aluminium in Germany saved between 5.73 and 8.4 million tonnes of CO2. Compared to primary production, the energy saving is approximately 95 percent, with a corresponding positive effect on the CO2 balance.

- The production of one ton of secondary copper produces about 2.0 tons of CO2, the production of primary copper about 5.5 tons of CO2. The savings in secondary production are between 3.42 and 3.52 tonnes of CO2 compared with primary production. The Federal Environment Agency in Vienna even expects savings of 4.46 tonnes of CO2. One thing is certain: Secondary production generates over 60 percent less CO2 than primary production.

- In Germany, 180,000 to 200,000 tons of cable waste are produced annually. Cable recycling recovers various raw materials such as copper, aluminium and various plastics. With approximately 190,000 tons of cable waste, approx. 11,400 tons of aluminium, 102,600 tons of copper and 76,000 tons of plastics are usually recovered. In addition to saving CO2 on metals, recycling plastics saves 1,195 tons of CO2 compared to the primary process. In terms of the average CO2 saved per raw material, cable recycling saves a total of approximately 560,842 tons of CO2 per year. This corresponds to the average annual CO2 emissions of 62,315 people in Germany (approximately 9 tons of CO2 per capita). For comparison: Rosenheim has 63,324 inhabitants.

3. Raw materials from recycling are first-class raw materials

Introducing a quota for recycling raw materials in products

Society must be made aware that recycling raw materials are first class products. The best example of this is copper, which can be recycled without loss of quality. With the increased use of recycling raw materials in products, we are saving our environment and resources to a considerable extent.

4. Product design and sustainability

Ensuring transparency for recycling

Manufacturing products that are difficult or impossible to recycle is ecologically irresponsible. Manufacturers, importers and suppliers must provide information on the ingredients and composition of their products. They are responsible for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of their products.

5. Promote dialogue on recycling

Round Table for the environment

Regular communication is important, it not only promotes mutual understanding but is also a pool of knowledge. We call for a round table at which politicians, ministries and practitioners from companies regularly exchange information.

Only together can we make recycling meaningful.

6 Enabling recycling

Recycling-compatible limit values required

Some of the products that are recycled today contain substances whose limits do not comply with current laws or regulations. These substances were legally placed on the market at the time because the limit values used to be higher or did not apply to products. The fact is that this material exists today and must be recycled in an environmentally friendly way. It is therefore counterproductive to require the same or even stricter limit values for waste that already exists than for newly placed products.

This prevents recycling - to the detriment of our environment.
Tobias Schäfer has headed the VDM’s European Office in Brussels since July 2019. He succeeds Dr. Michael Niese, who is returning to Berlin as Managing Director of WVMetalle. Schäfer represents VDM at the European institutions and international and German stakeholders in Brussels and Strasbourg. His lobbying work will concentrate above all on the European Parliament, newly elected in May 2019, with its committees for trade (INTA), industry (ITRE) and environment (ENVI), which are particularly important for the non-ferrous metals industry and metal trade, as well as on the European Commission, which will be newly formed in autumn 2019. Mr Schäfer will also represent VDM at EU level in EuRIC (The European Recycling Industries’ Confederation).

In addition, Schäfer will deal intensively with EU chemicals policy. Here, the industry faces special challenges: This is because non-ferrous metals and their compounds are often the focus of European chemicals regulation and the EU Chemicals Agency (ECHA). A current example is the inclusion of lead in the REACH SVHC candidate list and the associated threat of classification and restriction of heavy metals. Schäfer has completed his bachelor and master studies in European and economic policy and political communication in Passau, Düsseldorf and Brussels and has professional experience in politics and administration as well as in the private sector in Germany and Belgium. Schäfer most recently worked as a speaker for European environmental policy and sustainability at the German Chemical Industry Association (Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V. – VCI) in Brussels.

**Next VDM networking meetings:**
- 5th of December 2019: Munich
- 2nd of April 2020: Leipzig
- 23th of April 2020: Berlin General Assembly
- 4th—8th of May 2020: Munich Me(e)tt ALL@VDM - IFAT 2020
- 6th of June 2020: Cologne

For more information please ask the VDM office: vdm@vdm.berlin