3.1 HOCHLAND AIMS TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1.1. „LESS WATER"

PURPOSE: LIMITATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

KPI: reduction in water consumption by 1.5% per year
(base year 2017)

Hochland Polska aims to limit the consumption of water per product tonne according to the objectives accepted in Sustainability strategy.

The Company has the following tools to identify impacts on water resources:

- utilities consumption monitoring system MNG
- MES (Manufacturing Execution System) program

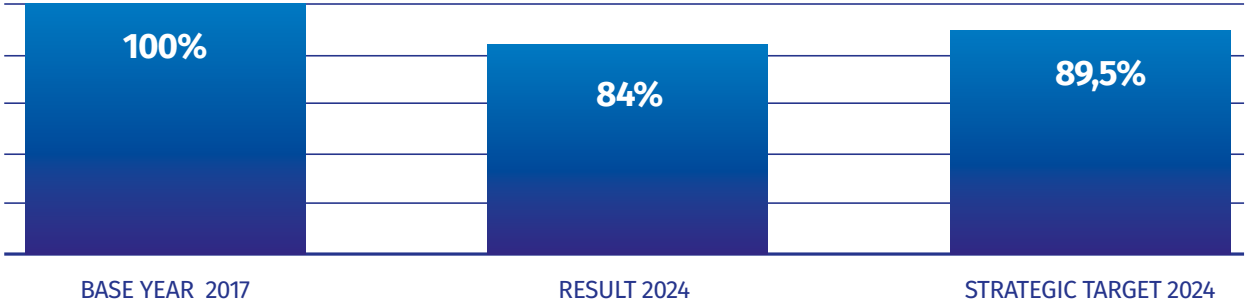
Hochland Polska production sites use water from its own deep intakes. Environmental permits have been issued for these intakes, ensuring that the use of water resources is respectful of the environment. Each is located on the plant premises and adequately protected. The quantity and quality of the used water are monitored.

Plant	Permitted groundwater abstraction in accordance with the permit [m³/year]	Water consumption in 2024 [m³]
Kaźmierz	**85 000**	**44 710**
Węgrów	**600 000**	**488 272**

Aiming to limit the water consumption to the required minimum, Hochland defines environmental objectives limiting the consumption by 1.5% per product tonne each year. A number of measures were carried out to reduce water consumption, including:

- **Implementing solutions intended to save water:**
  - water recycling and use of recovered water (CIP system/secondary water recycling after steps related to disinfection, washing station supply with recovered water)
  - water consumption optimisation (decreased flow rate at valves, use of guns at hoses, pressure washers, water flow reduction for process equipment cooling
- **Raising employee awareness** e.g. by organising water saving workshops in 2024 (taking into account the proposed actions related to equipment and production spaces cleaning reported by the employees).

Reduction of water consumption in Hochland Polska in year 2024 vs baseline year 2017 [%]



The implemented measures bring measurable results - in 2024, the quantity of water consumed at the Kaźmierz site was lower than in 2023 despite the increased production volume.

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3.1.1.1. WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

The plants generate wastewater as a result of their production processes, which is discharged after treatment into a drainage ditch or river. Hochland Polska **knows how important it is to maintain land improvement facilities**. During heavy rainfall, the lack of constant, systematic maintenance will cause local flooding of land, flooded basements and gardens.

In September 2024, the company ordered maintenance works at the drainage ditch and River Sama flowing near the production site in Kaźmierz. The scope of the work included: mowing and removal of water plants growing at the bottom of the river and its embankment, silt removal and bottom hooking at particularly overgrown locations and locations prone to silt accumulation. The work was carried out by a drainage company, the employees of which have cleaned this river for years. In addition, **Hochland Polska employees cleaned up the shoreline of River Sama flowing through Kaźmierz in September, as part of the Clean Up the World campaign.**

Photo: Hochland team during the cleanup of the Sama River

On the other hand, maintenance work was ordered at River Ada flowing close to the Węgrów production site in early October. A cleared section of 580 m leads to the mouth of River Liwiec. The scope of work included removal of blockades from the river bed, cutting bushes impeding water flow from the embankments, mechanical removal of rooted plants with silt from the riverbed bottom, cleaning two passage, removal of plants and silt and mowing at both encampments. As is the case every year, the work was carried out by the Regional Association of Water Companies in Węgrów.

Photo: River maintenance works on the Sama

Photo: River maintenance works on the Ada

3.1 HOCHLAND AIMS TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
3.1.1.2. TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS IN WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Hochland Polska focuses on continuous analysis of the processes in place in search of possible wastage and fields for improvement.

The wastewater treatment station at the Hochland production site in Węgrów, built in 2023, offers the improved quality of wastewater discharged to the municipal wastewater treatment station in Węgrów and it is a key element of company strategy intended to reduce emissions and decrease the use of fossil fuels. Thanks to the use of modern technologies, the water treatment station significantly contributes to environmental protection and promoting circular economy. This investment was recognised at the Polish Cheesemaking Congress, where Hochland was awarded the title of Eco-Investor of the Year 2023.

The Hochland production site **in Kaźmierz** is equipped with its own **mechanical-biological-chemical wastewater treatment plant**. This treatment plant combines mechanical, biological and chemical processes to provide effective wastewater treatment. The mechanical process involves pre-filtration of contaminants, the biological process uses micro-organisms which biodegrade organic matter and the chemical process involves neutralisation of the remaining contaminants. Thanks to this technology, the Kaźmierz site may effectively manage wastewater, minimising their environmental impact.

Thanks to the efficiency of the wastewater treatment plant, the contamination load in the discharged, treated wastewater were maintained at a low level. Most parameters did not exceed **40%** of the allowed values specified in the valid permit.

The efficiency of wastewater treatment at Hochland Kaźmierz: