

## Ursus Breweries invests €2 million in a sustainable energy recovery installation in Buzău brewery

- The investment in the flue gas heat recovery station is part of Ursus Breweries' sustainability strategy of reducing the amount of natural gas needed in the production of beer by an estimated 18%, and thus reducing carbon emissions.
- Ursus Breweries has achieved a 50% reduction in carbon emissions in 2022 compared to the reference year 2019
- In 2022, Ursus Breweries' contributions to the national and local budget amounted over 567 million lei

**Bucharest, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2023:** Ursus Breweries has made a €2 million investment in an installation using energy efficiency technologies to recover thermal energy from flue gas at its brewery in Buzău. The installation is a special project in the Asahi group and is part of the series of sustainability investments in the Ursus Breweries strategy.

The technology involves recovering energy from the resulting flue gas in the brewery's thermal boiler. To identify the innovative technical solution, Ursus Breweries collaborated with sustainability experts from Asahi Europe & International and suppliers with relevant international expertise. By implementing the heat energy recovery system, it is estimated that natural gas consumption will decrease by approximately 18% and thus lower the associated carbon dioxide emissions.

*" Following the investments made so far, Ursus Breweries' carbon emissions have decreased by 50% in 2022 compared to the reference year 2019. We're just getting started: the investment in Buzău has successfully completed in the summer of this year and represents a step forward in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in our factories to zero. Thanks to this investment, we will be able to reduce natural gas consumption by 18% as well as our carbon footprint", said Robert Uzună, Vice President of Corporate Affairs of Ursus Breweries.*

Ursus Breweries constantly runs sustainability projects with six major objectives and directions of intervention: reducing carbon dioxide emissions, reducing water consumption, using raw materials from sustainable sources, using reusable and recyclable packaging, supporting inclusion and well-being, as well as and promoting responsible alcohol consumption.

The investment at the Buzău brewery is just one of the energy consumption reduction projects undertaken by Ursus Breweries. All of the company's sustainability projects are described in the seventh and most recent Sustainable Development Report for the period 2021-2022.

As an important economic actor and leader of the Romanian beer market, Ursus Breweries made contributions of 567 million RON to the state budget in 2022, positioning us as a reliable partner of the authorities.

### Reducing carbon dioxide emissions

Carbon emissions of Ursus Breweries decreased in 2022 to 50% compared to the reference year 2019. To decrease emissions, Ursus Breweries installed consumption reduction equipment such as LED lighting, automated processes, replaced natural gas in certain processes with biogas produced in industrial wastewater treatment plants, recovered thermal energy from various processes with the help of a new plant, replaced condensate recovery plants with performance-enhanced variants.

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Ursus Breweries completed the purchase of electric forklifts instead of LPG-powered ones and started the purchase of vehicles with lower carbon emissions. It also has in progress a plan to gradually replace refrigerators aiming to increase energy efficiency, during 2021 and 2022, 4,800 refrigerators with low energy performance will be replaced.

In addition, in 2022 Ursus Breweries purchased 100% electricity produced from renewable sources for factories.

### **Reducing water consumption**

More than half of the water used in the breweries in Buzău, Braşov and Timișoara comes from their own wells and each brewery has its own consumption targets. We already have a high performance in terms of water consumption in the brewing industry, and Ursus Breweries' goal is to reduce the average consumption from 2.77 liters in 2022 to 2.75 liters of water per liter of beer bottled by in 2025. In addition, own water treatment plants are used before it enters the internal circuit, and waste water is treated in own treatment plants.

### **Use of reusable and recyclable packaging**

Ursus Breweries has reduced the amount of materials used in packaging, with 24% less plastic being used compared to the reference year 2019. Also, 100% recycled material is used for the boxes and cardboard trays of the cans. The objective is for the company to use primary and secondary packaging that can be reused or recycled and that contains at least 50% recycled material by 2030.

### **Inclusion and well-being**

Thanks to the attention it pays to its employees, Ursus Breweries managed to obtain during the three years (2021, 2022, 2023), the Top Employer Romania certification, from a reputable European institute. Ursus Breweries is also the first beer producer in Romania to sign the commitment of the LEAD Network (Leading Executives Advancing Diversity) organization, to build an inclusive organizational culture, based on diversity and gender equality. Hereby, we join the mission to facilitate the attraction, retention and promotion of women in the retail and consumer goods industry. In this regard, approximately 46% of management positions in the company are held by women.

Also, in 2022, the company signed the Romanian Diversity Charter and formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. As active advocates of gender balance, Ursus Breweries' target is that by 2030, women and men occupy an equal share at management level.

### **Responsible consumption of alcohol**

Ursus Breweries continued to innovate and develop the non-alcohol or low-alcohol product portfolio. Ursus Breweries' target is that by 2030, 20% of the portfolio will consist of alcohol-free products. Currently, all Ursus Breweries product labels as well as all commercial communication materials include messages promoting responsible consumption.

Also, Ursus Breweries runs campaigns dedicated to reducing irresponsible alcohol consumption among adults and preventing alcohol consumption among underages. Thus, continuing the long-standing partnership with the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children (FONPC),

more than 2,800 parents and education professionals have directly benefited from the program to prevent alcohol consumption among underages.

At the same time, Ursus Breweries continued its partnership with the Romanian Police and carried out the sociological research "Social attitudes towards traffic risk 2022", with the objective of increasing drivers' awareness of the risks associated with alcohol consumption and driving. In conjunction, Ursus Breweries has updated the Zero la Mie mobile app, through which users can find out the estimated time it takes for their blood alcohol level to return to zero.

The achievements and progress of Ursus Breweries in the sphere of sustainable development have been published in the latest Sustainability Report, which can be accessed [here](#).

### **About Ursus Breweries**

Ursus Breweries is the largest beer producer in Romania, being the market leader for 8 years. The brands in the Ursus Breweries portfolio are URSUS, Timișoreana, Ciucaș, Peroni Nastro Azzurro, Kozel, Azuga, Pilsner Urquell, Asahi Super Dry. Currently, Ursus Breweries owns three breweries: in Brașov, Buzău and Timișoara and a mini-production facility in Cluj-Napoca. Ursus Breweries is part of Asahi Europe & International. For more information about the company and its programs, please visit: [www.ursus-breweries.ro](http://www.ursus-breweries.ro) and [www.desprealcool.ro](http://www.desprealcool.ro).