

Press release

## Solvay completes coal phase-out at its US Green River soda ash plant

Plant's coal exit affirms Solvay's commitment to pursue sustainable operational practices.

Brussels, February 12, 2024

From the entrances of its Green River, Wyoming soda ash plant and Brussels headquarters, Solvay leaders announced the successful completion of the North American-based facility's coal phase-out initiative.

The Green River facility produces soda ash and sodium bicarbonate from trona, a naturally occurring mineral. These products are used in numerous applications including flat glass for building insulation, container glass, detergents, animal feed, food and flue gas treatment, as well as fast growing markets for solar panels and lithium carbonate for electric battery vehicles.

"Solvay is determined to undertake its energy transition and reduce its carbon footprint through a number of initiatives, including coal phase-out. From today, we will no longer use coal at Green River. The decision to power this strategic, natural soda ash facility with natural gas enhances Solvay's long-term competitiveness and sustainability," said [Philippe Kehren](#), Solvay CEO.

The Green River plant historically used coal as a primary energy source. Solvay's [global sustainability goals](#) include a commitment to phase out coal for energy production before 2030. By 2025, overall emissions from Green River will have decreased by 20% compared to 2021, despite a 25% increase in production.

Following acquisition of the plant's [full ownership](#), Solvay announced plans in November 2022 to resume the construction of a 600 kiloton soda ash [capacity expansion](#). The completion of the new terminal at the [port of Vancouver US](#) will support this expanded capacity and meet customers' growing demand for a secure, competitive and decarbonized supply of soda ash.

"The capacity expansion remains on track, with production set to begin early next year," said Philippe Kehren. "On top of the coal phase-out, Green River will soon deploy innovative technology to further reduce its emissions. Solvay is the first company to implement regenerative thermal oxidation to abate greenhouse gas emissions in a trona mine."

Solvay operates seven soda ash plants worldwide. Beyond Green River, coal is being phased out at two plants, located in France and Germany. By the end of 2024, Solvay's Rheinberg, Germany site will become the first soda ash plant in the world to be powered primarily with renewable energy. The last two Solvay plants using coal for energy production, located in Spain and Bulgaria, have also begun their journey with partial introduction of biomass and gas.

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## About Solvay

Solvay, a pioneering chemical company with a legacy rooted in founder Ernest Solvay's pivotal innovations in the soda ash process, is dedicated to delivering essential solutions globally through its workforce of over 9,000 employees. Since 1863, Solvay harnesses the power of chemistry to create innovative, sustainable solutions that answer the world's most essential needs such as purifying the air we breathe and the water we drink, preserving our food supplies, protecting our health and well-being, creating eco-friendly clothing, making the tires of our cars more sustainable and cleaning and protecting our homes. As a world-leading company with €5.6 billion in net sales in 2022 and listings on Euronext Brussels and Paris (SOLB), its unwavering commitment drives the transition to a carbon-neutral future by 2050, underscoring its dedication to sustainability and a fair and just transition. For more information about Solvay, please visit [solvay.com](https://solvay.com) or follow [Solvay](#) on LinkedIn.

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