

Axfood to build Sweden's largest rooftop solar power facility

Axfood continues to invest heavily in renewable energy. In addition to the Group's entire fleet of approximately 270 trucks now running on fossil-free fuel, the process of building Sweden's largest solar park was initiated last year. Now, an agreement has also been signed to build the country's largest rooftop solar power facility by equipping Dagab's new, highly automated logistics centre in Bålsta with solar panels covering a surface of approximately 80,000 square metres.

"Our major investments in solar energy are part of our larger green transition aimed at creating a more sustainable food system. Access to more renewable energy in society is vital for slowing climate change in time," says **Klas Balkow**, President and CEO of Axfood.

The rooftop solar power facility is being built on Dagab's new, highly automated logistics centre in Bålsta to the north of Stockholm and will comprise more than 16,000 panels on a surface of approximately 80,000 square metres. The facility is expected to generate approximately 8.9 MW when fully operational, corresponding to an annual capacity of 7.8 GWh. Installation of the facility is scheduled for completion in the autumn.

"The investment in solar cells will add an important new source of green energy and support the energy requirements of our highly automated logistics centre in Bålsta, a unique facility covering over 100,000 square metres that, when fully operational in 2023, will be one of the largest and most modern facilities in Europe for the distribution of food for stores and online sales to millions of customers," says **Nicholas Pettersson**, Managing Director of Dagab, Axfood's purchasing and logistics company.

The investment in the new solar power facility is a collaboration between Dagab, the landlord Logicens and the supplier Solkompaniet. The arrangement is a power purchase agreement (PPA) under which Axfood undertakes to purchase all electricity produced for the next 25 years, while installation, operation and maintenance will be handled by Logicens and Solkompaniet. Axfood also has the opportunity to sell any surplus production.

Net zero emissions target

Axfood has worked with solar power since 2013, when its first large-scale solar power facility was built at Dagab's warehouse in Backa outside Gothenburg. Since then, several stores and warehouses have installed their own solar power facilities and more plan to do so in 2022. Last year, a collaboration was also initiated with the supplier Alight to build Sweden's largest ground-mounted solar park. The facility is expected to be operational in 2024 and to produce energy corresponding to approximately 15% of the Axfood Group's total consumption. The solar park is part of an initiative by Axel Johnson's Group companies that will double Sweden's production capacity from solar parks through the addition of three large-scale facilities.

Reducing the fossil emissions from its own operations has been a priority for Axfood for many years. The results achieved are attributable to renewable electricity from solar, wind and hydro power, a higher share of fossil-free goods transportation, fewer non-environmentally friendly refrigerators and freezers, and less business travel by air. Last year, a milestone was achieved when all of Dagab's approximately 270 own trucks can now run on fossil-free fuel. The overall goal is to achieve net zero emissions from the company's own operations by 2030. Several activities are also being carried out to influence the climate impact of other areas of the value chain both among suppliers and among consumers.

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Axfood Axfood aspires to be the leader in affordable, good and sustainable food. Our family of companies includes the store chains Willys and Hemköp as well as Tempo and Handlar'n. B2B sales are handled through Snabbgross, and our support company Dagab is responsible for the Group's product development, purchasing and logistics. The Axfood family also includes Mat.se, Middagsfrid and Urban Deli as well as the partly owned companies Apohem, Eurocash, City Gross and Mathem. Together the Group has more than 12,000 employees and sales of approximately SEK 58 bn. Axfood has been listed on Nasdaq Stockholm since 1997, and the principal owner is Axel Johnson AB. Read more at www.axfood.com.