

Community Engagement Sika Technology AG, Sarnen

September 1, 2022

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A second secondary school class from Sarnen, Switzerland, together with their teacher visited the Sika site on September 1, 2022.

The aim of the capacity building initiative was to familiarize the students with the topic of sustainability in relation to plastics, to give them insights into the site, technologies, as well as to make them aware of the apprenticeships Sika offers, in particular those of plastics technologist and chemical laboratory technician.

The students, all with a high affinity for technology, went through a tight program structured by modules organized by the Sika Thermoplastic Systems team.

The students received a general overview of sustainable construction technologies, core competencies and global locations. The group then received a more detailed insight into the applications of the target markets Roofing and Waterproofing, with demonstrations on the mock-up models and reference objects and marveled at the corresponding samples.

The tour continued in the adhesive laboratory, where the guests carried out simple bonding duties using various membranes and associated tapes. Different types of adhesives were explained, possible substrates were shown, and climatic conditions were discussed. With the samples the students produced by themselves, the guests proceeded to the material testing laboratory. Here the Sika laboratory staff gave a



peel test demonstration on the samples the students had made themselves. They were particularly impressed by how difficult it was to separate our membranes from the tapes.

After a short break, the group received an introduction to thermoplastic systems and how to recognize and separate them in everyday life.

This was followed by a presentation on the recycling of membranes and the reintroduction of the regenerates into our products and their areas of application.

The students also enjoyed the information about 3D-printing technologies.

The ambition to engage in capacity building towards young students will lead to further activities and to a module carried out with the "Tüftelpark Pilatus", a sort of experience and tinkering center for technology enthusiasts, in which they will take part in the dismantling and recycling of PET bottles and then in the creation of a new product.

Part of the program is a guided plant tour and a detailed presentation of the apprenticeships offered by Sika at the Sarnen site by the local HR manager.

As a conclusion, we may mention that this was an exciting event which will be repeated as it delivered learning effects for all participants.

