



vgbe energy | Health & Safety

General Presentation



February 2026

Agenda

1 The Association

2 Health & Safety @ vgbe

3 Committees and Expert Groups

4 Services and Products

1 The Association

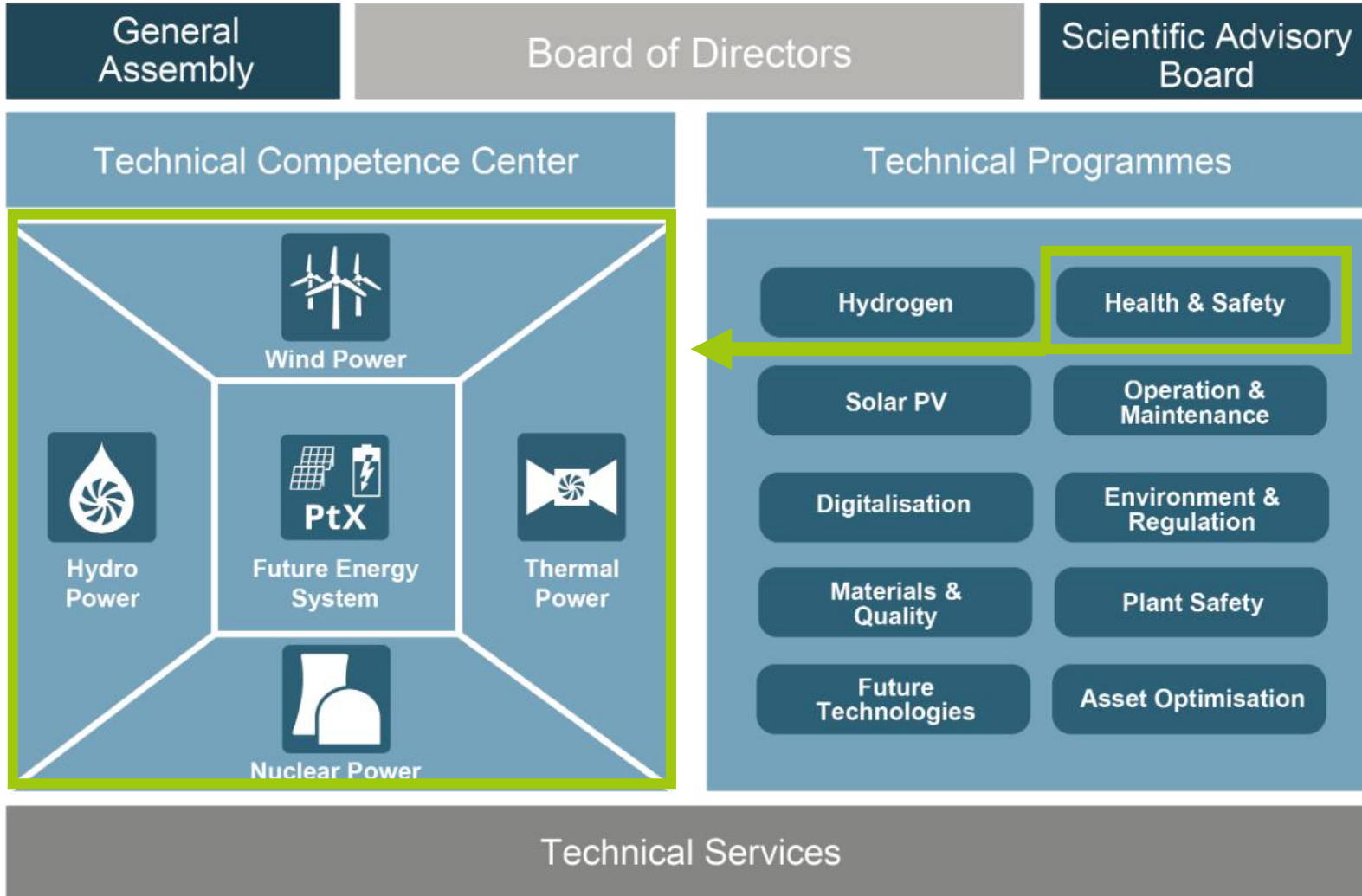




- In 1920, a **boiler exploded** at the Reisholz power plant near Düsseldorf.
- **27 workers** were killed; thus, it was one of the deadliest industrial accidents in early German power plant history.
- The accident was likely caused by **excessive steam pressure** and lack of unified safety standards.

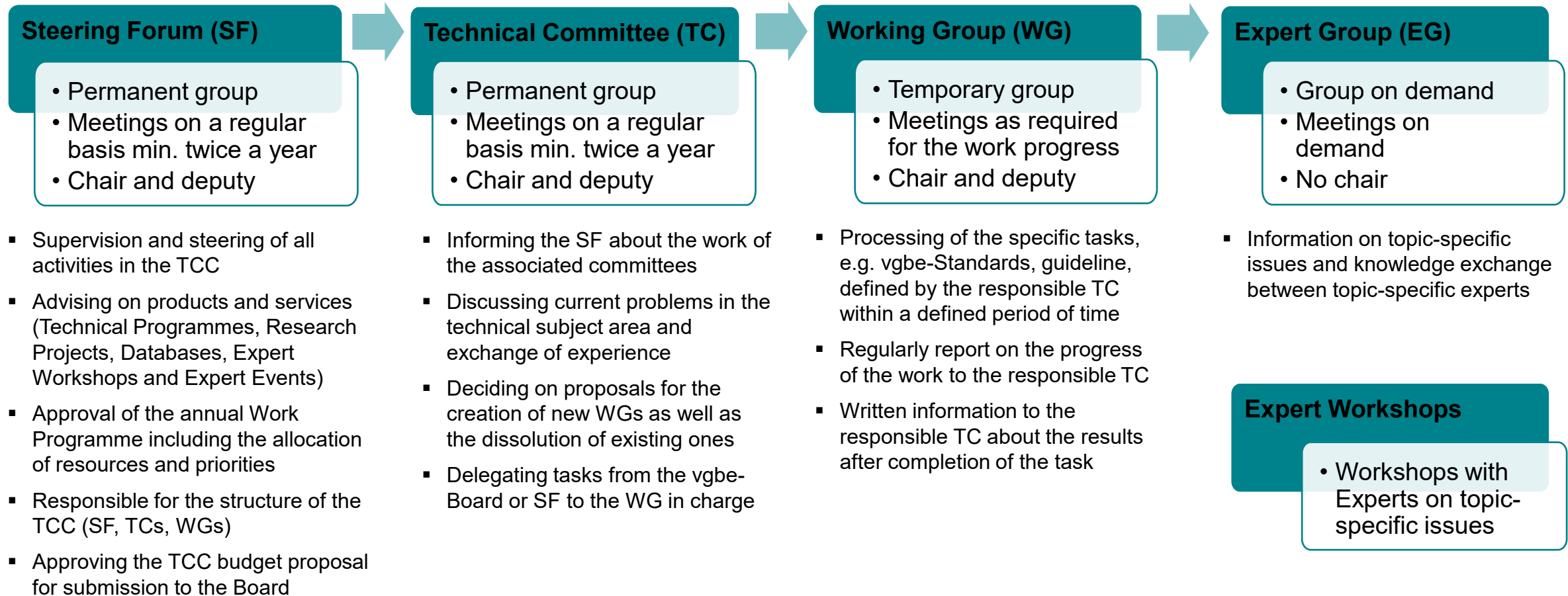


Formation of the DÜV for supervision of steam boilers, a precursor to TÜV and the **VGB**, a precursor to today's **vgbe**.



vgbe energy e.V. is the technical association of energy plant operators. Our members are companies that operate power, heat and cooling, energy storage and sector coupling plants worldwide. Since its foundation in 1920, vgbe energy has become the technical center of competence for the operators of power and heat plants.

Currently, vgbe energy has 411 members, comprising operators, manufacturers, and institutions connected with energy engineering. The members come from 29 countries and represent an installed power generation capacity of 342 GW.



All meetings are in English!

2 Health & Safety @ vgbe



Health & Safety

The energy sector in Europe is undergoing profound transformation, bringing new challenges for occupational health, process safety and operational resilience – while at the same time reinforcing the importance of strong Health & Safety standards as a foundation for a secure and reliable energy supply.

Health & Safety at vgbe energy serves as a central platform for operators, manufacturers and suppliers to address current and emerging safety challenges across the entire energy value chain. It focuses on occupational health and safety, safety culture, process safety and the practical implementation of regulatory and organizational requirements, always with a strong emphasis on experience-based learning and applicability in daily operations.

In this context, vgbe's Health & Safety community has been sharing knowledge, operational experience and best practices for many years. Today, around **160 experts from more than 50 operators as well as 15 suppliers and consultants** are actively engaged in vgbe's Health & Safety activities. Together, they contribute to a trusted European network that supports continuous improvement, fosters a strong safety culture and strengthens Health & Safety performance across the energy sector.



Our slogan for our common work is:

Connecting Europe's energy sector for a safer tomorrow

be energised
be inspired
be connected
be informed

Focus on operation and maintenance from a techno-economic and ecological perspective as well as on application-oriented research





- ***Exchange on knowledge and experience***
 - Sharing knowledge in various formats and committees
 - Connecting subject-specific experts from industry
 - Developing and managing technical programmes
- ***Initiating and co-coordinating national and international research projects***
 - Promotion of innovations in the health & safety sector and exchange of expertise
 - Saving expenses by joint research projects
- ***Drafting of technical and operational standards***
 - Creation of practice-oriented industry guidelines from the operator's perspective
 - Initiating and coordinating the elaboration of international technical standards
- ***Organizing conferences and workshops***
 - Presenting the state of technology and future developments
 - Networking and directly exchanging experiences with experts

Health & Safety

Engagement in Committees

Internal Committees

 TCC Thermal Power
TC Health & Safety
TC Fire Protection
WG Occupational Health Management
WG Leading KPIs
WG Occupational Health & Safety
WG Cr(VI): Cutting, Welding
WG Working Materials

 TCC Hydro Power
WG Hydro Health & Safety
 TCC Wind Power
WG Wind Health & Safety
 TCC Future Energy System
TC BESS (participation)
TC Hydrogen (participation)
 TCC Nuclear Power
WG Hazardous Materials

External Committees

Energy Institute, G+: Wind Industry Collaboration Committee

DGMM: Offshore Medicine

DGUV: Occupational Medicine – Working Group 1.11 “Offshore Wind Turbines”

STIFTUNG Offshore: Maritime Safety Partnership Round Table

Subjects

External Services

- SeSaM
- Health & Safety officer
- Fire Safety officer
- MHFA

Events

- Workshop: Offshore Wind Turbines - Occupational Medicine (Emden)
- Conference: H&S in the Energy Transition (Düsseldorf)

Public Relation

- vgbe S&H Award

Activities

- Exchange of experiences and information
- Publications
- Collaboration with associations
- Subject-specific expert workshops

- Research projects
- Technical programmes
- Databases
- Standards and best-practice guidelines
- Conferences

TC ... Technical Committee WG ... Working Group

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52 Operators



15 Manufacturers, Suppliers, Consultants and Others



Our Health & Safety community has been sharing experience and knowledge at a high level of expertise for many years. Currently, around **160 experts from more than 50 operating companies as well as 15 suppliers and consultants** are actively participating in vgbe's Health & Safety activities and benefit from a strong European network dedicated to occupational safety, health protection and process safety across the energy sector.



3 Committees and Expert Groups



Objectives

vgbe energy with its leading role in techno-economic and environmental understanding about good and best practices in wind energy operation and maintenance offers an exchange between operators on expert level.

vgbe energy provides a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and professional development among its members to address specific challenges in health & safety.



Networking



Knowledge sharing

Technical Committees Working Groups

- Regular exchange of operating experience and development of best practice approaches for wind power operators

Expert Group

- Exchange on an as-needed basis on topic-specific issues in the form of consulting experts in this field

Benefits

- **Improve your business**
Benefit from mutual exchange and support each other through best practices in their professional endeavours.
- **Expand your network**
Through a topic-specific assignment, you gain access to a valuable and targeted network in your field of expertise.

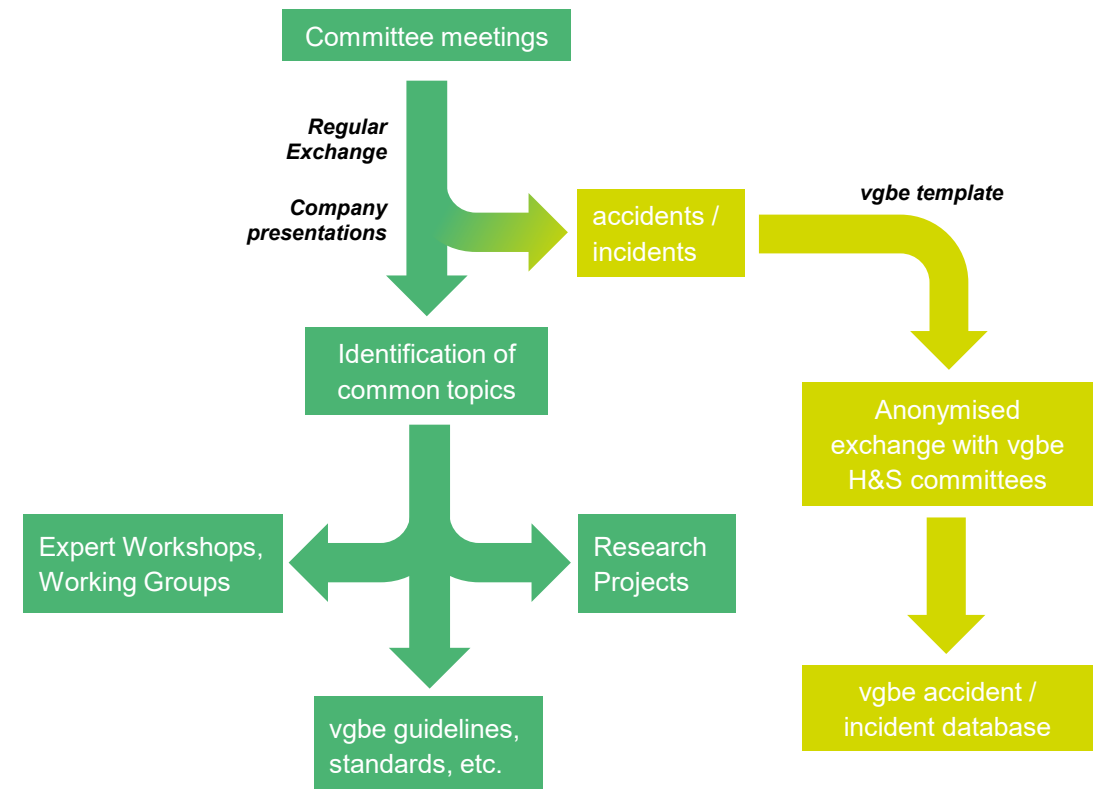
vgbe's contribution

- Organizing, managing and supporting the work in the committees, working groups and expert groups

Health & Safety committee's work

Activities / Topics / Work Programme

- **Main purpose**
Exchange of information and experiences regarding occupational health & safety issues of operators on a national and international level
- **Key Topics**
 - H&S management systems
 - H&S culture
 - Leadership programmes
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
 - Contractor management
 - Mental health
 - Digitalisation
- Sharing information about **accidents/incidents**:
 - vgbe template to anonymise cases
 - Exchange with other H&S committees



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Operators



vgbe energy | Health & Safety

An essential common goal of vgbe is to identify and eliminate quality defects in the plants in order to increase process safety, occupational health and safety and availability. Over 100 years of activity and experience form the competence for the topics of the present and the future.

Operators, developers and manufacturers are strongly committed to OSH culture, and commonly concerned to understand and attend to control and prevent safety risks.

Building on a long tradition of vgbe activities in the field of occupational health and safety, vgbe has established a platform for “Health and Safety” for all interested parties. Thus, vgbe strengthens the network for occupational safety culture and process safety.

TC Health & Safety

- **Meetings**
 - Two face-to-face meetings per year
 - Up to four additional online meetings per year
- **Sub-groups**
 - EG Leading KPIs
- **Key Topics**
 - H&S management systems
 - H&S culture
 - Leadership programmes
 - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- **Activities / Deliverables**
 - Lagging KPI database
 - Database on accidents / incidents
 - Leading KPI definitions & database (in development)

Members



Advisor

Gregor Lipinski

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Operators



vgbe energy | TC Fire Protection

Fire protection is essential for safety, asset integrity, and operational continuity in the energy sector. Effective prevention and suppression reduce risks to equipment, personnel, and operations.

Key factors include early detection, reliable suppression, system integration, and maintenance, influencing effectiveness and cost-efficiency across diverse facilities. Recent advances in detection, suppression, and digital monitoring, driven by regulations and insurance standards, support optimized fire protection strategies.

The platform provides operators with opportunities for **practice-oriented exchange**, sharing of **best practice measures and experiences**, and **knowledge transfer** to enhance and optimize fire protection strategies.

TC Fire Protection

- **Meetings**
 - Regular face-to-face and online meetings each year
- **Sub-groups**
 - (WGs and EGs) will be constituted at a later time
- **Key Topics**
 - Fire Protection management systems
 - Technical and regulatory advances in fire protection culture
 - Explosion protection
 - Addressing the whole energy industry, renewables and conventional power generation alike (biomass, gas, waste-to-energy, hydrogen, hydropower, nuclear, photovoltaics, battery storage, thermal, wind energy...)
- **Activities / Deliverables**
 - Database on accidents / incidents (envisioned)
 - Facilitate exchange on incidents
 - Elevating standards and guidelines, updating existing and creating new ones

Members

Advisor

Lukas Biesen

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WG Occupational Health & Safety

- **Meetings**
 - Two face-to-face meetings per year
- **Sub-groups**
 - WG Working Materials
 - WG Cr(VI): Cutting, Welding, Grinding
- **Key Topics**
 - H&S culture
 - Developments in German legislation
 - Activities of other German associations (e.g., VDSI - Association for Safety, Health and Environmental Protection at Work)
- **Activities / Deliverables**
 - Database on accidents / incidents

Members

RWE

LEAG

Preussen
Elektra

uni
per

EnBW

RheinEnergie

GKM
Grosskraftwerk Mannheim
Aktiengesellschaft

>Enervie
Südwestfalen Energie und Wasser AG

STADTWERKE
DUISBURG

VATTENFALL



eins

ONYX
POWER

steag



mainova



BEW
Berliner
Energie und
Wärme

Advisor

Gregor Lipinski

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WG Hydro “Health and Safety”

- **Meetings**
 - Up to four online meetings per year
- **Key Topics**
 - H&S management systems
 - Current challenges in occupational safety at hydro power plants
 - Company projects
 - Approaches to solving existing issues at hydro power plants
- **Activities / Deliverables**
 - Database on accidents / incidents
 - Occupational H&S in Hydro Power Guideline (in development)

Members



Advisor

Lukas Biesen

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WG Working Materials

- **Meetings**
 - Two face-to-face meetings per year
- **Topics**
 - Developments in German and European legislation
 - Activities of other German associations and authorities
 - Dealing with contamination during demolition
 - Dealing with employees' contact with hazardous substances
- **Activities / Deliverables**
 - Best practices in handling hazardous substances
 - Practical guides:
 - Storage of hazardous substances in accordance with TRGS 510
 - Handling of lithium batteries

Members

RWE

>Enervie
Südwestfalen Energie und Wasser AG

 **RheinEnergie**

 **EnBW** **steag** **avacon**

 **evl**

 **SWB**
Energie und Wasser
Starke Partner. Bonn/Rhein-Sieg.

LEW

ESWE 
Versorgung

 **BEW**
Berliner
Energie und
Wärme

Advisor

Gregor Lipinski

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WG Occupational Health Management

- **Meetings**
 - Twice a year, in person/online
- **Topics / First Questions**
 - Occupational Health Management
 - How do companies structure their internal communication regarding occupational health management programmes?
 - Which formats and measures have proven successful?
 - How can a lasting impact be achieved instead of isolated measures ('one-off events')?
 - Which service providers have proven to be effective?
 - Which concepts are specifically designed for shift workers?
 - Which key figures and evaluation concepts are used?

Members



Advisor

Lukas Biesen

lukas.biesen@vgbe.energy

WG Wind “Health and Safety”

- **Meetings**
 - Two face-to-face meetings per year
- **Topics**
 - Optimising the emergency response chain
 - Occupational safety in photovoltaic systems
 - Occupational safety in battery storage systems
 - Repowering: Wind turbines
 - Ice throw from wind turbines
 - Exchange with German occupational safety and health authorities
- **Activities / Deliverables**
 - Database on accidents / incidents
 - Development of vgbe standards and practical guides

Members





4 Services and Products



Objectives

vgbe energy with its leading role in understanding about good and best practices in operation and development launches different Technical Programmes in cooperation with its members.

These programmes are part of the comprehensive activities of vgbe energy for the energy sector to support the daily work in operation, maintenance and plant optimisation as well as in techno-economic, environmental and strategic challenges. Therefore, the programmes are open for vgbe members as well as vgbe non-members.



Database



Industry
funded project

Some Technical Programmes

- Wind Database: Wind Power Performance Data Exchange (WiPPeX)
- Technical benchmark for run-of-river power plants
- WG Wind “Health & Safety
-

Benefits

- **Management of industry funded projects**
vgbe energy initiates, coordinates and/or conducts industry funded projects together with scientific partners.
- **Development and management of databases**
vgbe energy develops databases or IT-based tools to support the optimisation of operation and maintenance.

vgbe's contribution

- Initiating and coordinating industry-funded projects (e.g. description of the programme, contracts and organizing the meetings)
- Developing databases (e.g. description, implementation, recruiting of participants, hosting and operation)

Share your knowledge with other H&S professionals and shape future guidelines and standards in the industry. Users have direct access to the vgbe H&S network and infrastructure (eNet).



Objective

- Actively contribute to vgbe Health & Safety Working Groups.
- Develop technical guidelines, best practices, and standards.
- Foster cross-sector learning across wind, hydro, PV, and thermal power operations.
- Strengthening cooperation with external partners (e.g. BG ETEM, Energy Institute, G+ Global Offshore Wind).

Some benefits

- Access to a strong, international professional network.
- Up-to-date technical and legislative knowledge.
- Opportunity to shape future safety standards in energy production.
- Involvement in all health and safety activities of the vgbe.

Start: Jan. 2026

Objectives

vgbe energy organises Experts Events for vgbe members and non-members to foster exchange and networking between experts.

The Expert Events are planned by vgbe energy in cooperation with its members and cover a broad variety of applications that include established and emerging technologies for energy generation and storage.



Networking
opportunity



Knowledge
transfer

Some Events

- Workshop: Offshore Wind Turbines – Occupational Medicine (Emden, 11./12.09.2026)
- Conference: H&S in Energy Transition (Düsseldorf, 13./14.10.2026)
- ...

Benefits

- **Onsite Expert Events**
Challenges, problems and questions can sometimes be better addressed in a relaxed onsite atmosphere. Deeper exchange and increased learning effects improve the benefits for all participants.
- **Online Expert Events**
Online events enable a location-independent exchange of information with the flexible option of participating in sessions. The costs and time required are significantly lower (no travel).
- **Documentation**
Presentations available to all participants

vgbe's contribution

- Organising the expert events including moderation

vgbe energy | Health & Safety | Health & Safety in the Energy Transition 2026

- New international vgbe Conference offers participants a comprehensive overview of key topics in the field of health and safety in the energy sector.
- This is the first time vgbe is organizing this international event as an exciting opportunity to showcase and discuss the state of the art of all things Health & Safety in an everchanging energy landscape.
- It provides a unique platform for sharing innovative approaches, discussing practical experiences, and connecting with leading operators, manufacturers, suppliers, dedicated experts and research institutions.
- The event facilitates knowledge transfer and fosters collaboration on current and future challenges in occupational and operational safety.

- Topics include:
 - H&S in Conventional Energy Systems
 - Mental Health
 - Fire and Explosion Protection
 - H&S in Renewable and Future Energy Systems
 - AI in Health & Safety

Enquiries to:
vgbe-HSET@vgbe.energy



vgbe energy | Health & Safety | Workshop: Offshore Wind Turbines – Occupational Medicine

**Save the date: 11 & 12 September 2026,
Hotel am Delft, Emden, Germany**

Annual workshop in which medical examinations for employees working on offshore wind turbines and other offshore installations are discussed.

It is primarily aimed at German-speaking occupational physicians who want to learn about the contents of the AWMF's (Association of the Scientific Medical Societies in Germany) consensus-based guideline.

- Topics include:
 - Contents of the AWMF's guideline
 - AWMF's guideline in an international context
 - Changes in German legislation and the perspective of German authorities
 - Practical examples from medical fitness examinations
 - Experience reports (training, work on offshore platforms)

Enquiries to:

vgbe-arbeitsmed@vgbe.energy

Collaborators



Objectives

vgbe energy organises topic-specific expert workshops for vgbe members only to foster exchange and problem-solving between experts with extensive practical experience.

The Expert Workshops are targeted at operators that are vgbe members and require an active participation according to the policy “**Give and Take**”.

Therefore, it is mandatory to give a presentation in order to join the active discussion and benefit from the experience of the other participants.



Networking opportunity



Topic-specific workshops

Some Expert Workshops

- Explosion Protection in Water Electrolysis Systems
- Wind Farm: End-of-Life Management
- Examples of applications and use of artificial intelligence
- Practical experiences in the operation of battery systems
- ...

Benefits

- **Proactive approach**
Overcome emerging challenges before they become an issue at your company.
- **Expert talks**
Discuss with experienced and specialized experts.
- **Train young professionals**
Take the opportunity to train your young professionals on specific topics through exchanges with experienced industry experts.
- **Documentation**
Presentations available to all members.

vgbe's contribution

- Organising the expert workshops

Objectives

vgbe-Standards are guidelines, specifications or best practices that serve as a common framework in the energy sector. These standards are developed and agreed upon by experts, organisations, and stakeholders within the industry to ensure uniformity, quality, safety, and interoperability.

This may involve terminology, structural measures, plant-specific features, fire protection measures or even operational aspects.



vgbe-Standards

Some vgbe-Standards

- Fire Protection in Power Plants
- Fire Protection in Offshore Wind Turbines
- Corrosion Protection for Offshore Wind Structures (Part 1-4)
- ...

Benefits

- **Quality Assurance:** Standards help ensure that services, and processes meet established quality and performance criteria.
- **Safety:** Safety regulations and guidelines help to reduce risks and prevent accidents.
- **Interoperability:** Standards enable different products or systems to work together smoothly. This is particularly important in fields like technology and communication, where compatibility is crucial.
- **Cost Reduction:** Standardized processes can lead to cost savings through economies of scale and reduced complexity.

vgbe's contribution

- Initiating and coordinating (Initiation of a working group, engagement of external experts, contract formulation, session organisation, publication)

Safety & Health Award

The vgbe Safety & Health Award has been established to honour projects for outstanding achievements in fostering and improving occupational safety and health.

All ordinary and supporting vgbe members are invited to nominate eligible candidates. The following criteria will be considered in the award decision:

- Outstanding commitment to safety & health compliance and prevention,
- Demonstration of excellence,
- Innovative character,
- Connectivity for other projects, scalability, transferability,
- Effectiveness of the measures at site.

Online nominations must be submitted by **Friday, 26 June 2026**.

- Safety and Health Award – [Nomination Form](#)

An international jury, consisting of members of related vgbe working committees, will assess the nominations and decide on the winner according to determined criteria.



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vgbe Health & Safety

Connecting Europe's energy sector for a safer tomorrow.

The go-to platform for all things Health & Safety in energy from operators to manufacturers and suppliers.

The first address for anyone tackling H&S challenges in the energy industry.

The European hub for insight, exchange and strong representation in the H&S community.

A horizontal bar composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of blue, teal, and green, creating a modern, abstract background.

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