Forest owners position on wood energy
CEPF

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Forest owners position on wood energy

• About 60% of Europe’s forests are owned by approx. 16 Mill. forest owners with an average holding size of <10ha
• European forest owners (private and public) have a longstanding commitment to sustainable forest management.
• Taking care of the fertility, sustainability and health of the forests have been, is, and will be in the very key interest of European family forest owners.
• Forest owners highly welcome the use of woody biomass for energy production
  o There is no other energy carrier with a more positive balance and cost-efficient solution than woody biomass (especially environmental trade offs)
• Biomass is carbon neutral:
  o Woody biomass deriving from sustainably managed forests in the EU is carbon neutral in a long term.
  o Wood biomass substitutes the use of fossil fuels thus adding the climate benefits of biomass.
  o Only an active and sustainable forest management will keep Europe’s forests a carbon sink.

• Among environmental benefits wood energy contributes strongly to local employment, economy and energy security
The total consumption of energy in Finland in 2011 was 386 TWh (preliminary information: April 2012). Oil products include also fuels consumed in transportation.

Source: SVT Statistics Finland; SVT Finnish Forest Research Institute
Total CO2 emissions from different fuels

- Coal
- Gas
- Diesel oil
- Light heating oil

- Stump of a spruce tree (26cm)
- Branch of a spruce tree (2cm)

Source: Finland's environmental administration / Jari Liski & Anna Repo

Source: Biopolttoaineiden hiljeneutalius - aikatekijä / Margareta Wihersaari 2011
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• Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development.

• Mitigation options by the forestry sector include extending carbon retention in harvested wood products, product substitution, and producing biomass for bioenergy. This carbon is removed from the atmosphere and is available to meet society’s needs for timber, fibre, and energy.

• In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit.

Source: IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007

• “Wood is a valuable, renewable and recyclable material suitable for a wide range of optional uses. In the global economy, it represents a significant national source of added value, and its exploitation will contribute towards solving the problems related to the environment and energy.”

Source: End report of the working group of Esko Aho

• Local & domestic use of renewable wood is among the very best sustainable energy solutions

Source: Anssi Kainulainen, specialist, MTK