



Exploiting the potentialities of solid biomasses in EU Parks

D5.6.6 PROPOSITION OF LEGAL MEASURES AT NATIONAL LEVEL Recommendations for Decision Makers

Sölktales Nature Park

Volkhard Maier

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Preface

The 5.6.6 Deliverable document is proposing legal measures at national level.

Main problems in Austria and recommendations

1. Policies on local level

Policies on local level are aligned with national and EU policies. All those policies support use of renewable energy sources. Nevertheless, local level policies do not predict biomass as a primary renewable energy source.

Recommendation:

Revise and update local and national policies (if needed), and specify that the biomass should be from local sources.

2. Subsidies for fossil energy

Direct and indirect subsidies for fossil energy use exist. For example the economic chamber offers information for subsidies when buying a new oil boiler.

Recommendation:

Avoiding of any subsidies for the use of fossil energy.

3. Natura 2000 and forests

2/3 of Sölktäler Nature Park is Natura 2000 area. For the management of forests in Natura 2000 sites, there are many uncertainties. With the guideline "Natura 2000 and forests", the European Commission has treated the subject very comprehensive.

Recommendation:

Implementation of the guideline "Natura 2000 and forests"

4. Untapped potential in private forests <200ha

In Austria 21,1 Mio. m³ of woods are harvested annually. The potential for sustainable harvested woods are 29 Mio. m³ annually. The biggest untapped potential have private forests <200ha. These forests are often owned by farmers.

Recommendation:

Awareness raising for harvesting woods in private forests <200ha. Building efficient local supply chains. Standardization of energy wood assortments.

Maintaining and expanding of the forest logging roads in private forests <200ha.

5. Fossil heaters and outdated biomass heating

Fossil heaters and outdated biomass heaters are used in private and commercial heating systems.

Recommendation:

Research programs to improve the efficiency of biomass heaters.

For the private households subsidies are necessary to increase the use of sufficient biomass heaters.

Training for installers, chimney sweeps, architects and builders.