

The logo for 'fern' features a stylized green fern frond icon above the word 'fern' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, all set against a dark green rectangular background.

MAKING THE EU WORK
FOR PEOPLE & FORESTS



Sustainable use of forest biomass

The EU for forests & climate?

- EU commitments on climate change, to halt biodiversity loss, to use resources more efficiently.
- But with its current renewable energy policy it is doing the opposite > with wood being the single biggest source of res today.

Forest biomass is a limited resource

- Bioenergy incentives have led to increasing harvests
 - Intensification of forest management has trade-offs
 - Increasing emissions (EASAC, Commission IA, EU Scientific Advisory Board, et al.);
 - Biodiversity loss and pressure on forest ecosystems (EASAC, EEA, et al.)
 - Burning wood is a hugely inefficient use of limited resources and distorts the market
- ‘Bio’ does not equal ‘sustainable’ or ‘low carbon’

Especially not low-carbon

- Burning wood for energy releases more CO₂ than burning coal.
- Forests store less carbon when are harvested, while re-growth is uncertain and not likely in a time-frame relevant to avoid climate warming.
- Renewability forest biomass is relative and substitution potential limited.

Impact on carbon sinks

- Forest sinks projected to decline, also due to increased harvests for bioenergy

Geographical scope	2010	2030	Decrease
Finland	-33.5	-12.8	-62 %
Latvia	-17.5	-12.5	-29 %
Romania	-23.5	1	-104 %
EU	-303.3	-126.4	-58 %

Emissions from Forest Management in CO₂ emissions in Mt CO₂eq, European Commission EU Energy, Transport and GHG emissions - Trends to 2050 update

- EU Forest sink projected to decline **with 92 % by 2050**

Burning whole trees is bad for climate change



**Kuhmo,
Finland**

Energy Wood – Kuhmo, Eastern Finland © Harri Ho



**GARDANNE,
FRANCE**

Energy Wood at Timber Power Plant – Gardanne, South of France © Nicholas B&F



**Bardajov,
Slovakia**

SFM and LULUCF will not deliver

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Need for a scientific basis of EU climate policy on forests

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By Various authors Sep 25, 2017



Increased harvesting levels have a negative impact on the climate because the standing forest carbon stock is immediately reduced when the forest is harvested. [Doru/Flickr]

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A group of scientists has sent an open letter to EU decision-makers, warning that a planned increase in harvesting levels of forests for bioenergy use risk having a negative impact on the climate.

This letter is a shorter version of an open letter signed by 190 scientists from the EU and US. The full letter and list of signatories can be downloaded [here](#).

Supporters

- COMRES
- PURE
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- VELUX

Recommendations

- Lower MW threshold to capture most biomass
- Do not incentivise use of stumps & stemwood; limit to waste & residues only
- Do not burn in low efficient power-only installations, or co-fire with fossil fuels
- Do not incentivise the use of forest biomass for the production of advanced biofuels

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Thank you