

Opintoretket: Circular bioeconomy – valorisation of forest by-products



Osana Euroopan maaseutuverkoston (CAP Network) järjestämää työpajaa Kouvolan seudulla järjestetään kolme opintoretkeä keskiviikkona 26.3.2025 klo 13.30-18.00. Opintoretkien aikana esitellään suomalaisia esimerkkejä perinteisistä toimintamalleista, uusista innovaatioista ja arvoketjuista metsätalouden sivuvirtoihin liittyen.

Opintoretkien tarkemmat kuvaukset:

'Circular bioeconomy - valorisation of forest by-products'

As part of the workshop, three field trips will be organised in the Kouvola region on Wednesday 26.3.2025 from 13.30 to 18.00. During the field trips, Finnish examples of traditional operating models, new innovations and value chains related to forestry side streams will be presented.

Field trip 1: Forest innovations for more than 100 years

The roots of the forest industry in south-east Finland go back to the 1870s. The region's first groundwood mills were established at that time and since then there has been a significant forest industry in the region, including large mills. The forestry sector is still an important industry in the Kouvola region (Kymenlaakso) today, employing around 3 000 people.

During the field trip, we will learn what the forest industry is about today: how to use wood raw material as efficiently as possible in Finland, how to exploit the side streams of the forest industry and what kind of new innovations are being developed. We will visit both Stora Enso's large factory and a smaller company, EkoVilla, which produces environmentally friendly insulation from forestry by-products. EkoVilla products can also be used in building boards and asphalt.

We will also get acquainted with the Finnish campfire coffee tradition. The representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso will join us and reflects on the forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy.

at 13.30 Departure from Sokos Hotel Vaakuna

at 14.00 **Stora Enso Anjalankoski Mills**

Anjalankoski Mills consist of a paper mill producing book paper, magazine paper and improved newsprint grades, a board mill producing high-quality folding boxboard for consumer packaging, and mechanical pulp and energy production.

Address: Ensontie 1, 46900 Inkeroinen

Contact: Tuula Luoma, tuula.luoma@storaenso.com, tel. 040 5725784

Program

- Presentation of the Anjalankoski mills
- How well are forest industry side streams utilized in Finland?
- The importance of the forest sector for Finland.
- Soilfood Oy is a circular economy company that refines industrial side streams into high value products.
 - Contact: Sonja Ahvenainen, sonja.ahvenainen@soilfood.fi, tel. 040 709 1880

at 15.00 Departure from Stora Enso

at 15.15 Coffee break in the forest at the Youth Centre Ankkapurha

Conversation by the campfire: Forest owners and the forest based value chain, forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy, representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso.

Address: Ankkapurhantie 6A, Anjala

Contact: info@ankkapurha.fi, tel. 040 489 9239

at 16.15 Departure from Ankkapurha

at 16.45 Ekovilla Oy

Ekovilla produces paper and paperboard blown insulation and insulating boards, which are suitable for cold environments. In addition, the Ekovilla products are ecological and safe to use. Ekovilla also produces various fibres for asphalt and building boards, biochar as part of the product mix.

Address: Katajajarjuntie 10, 45720 Kouvola

Contact: Akseli Romppainen, akseli.romppainen@ecoup.fi, tel. 050 3311870,

at 17.45 Departure from Ekovilla

at 18.00 Return to Sokos Hotel

Field trip 2: New value chains and innovations

Forestry and industrial side streams and recycled fibres are valuable raw materials. The University of Applied Sciences of South-Eastern Finland offers research with a national impact for the benefit of companies and the creation of new innovations.

During the field trip, we will learn about its activities and hear about an European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project on wood gasification and biochar production. We will also visit Ecopulp Ltd, a company that produces a range of packaging materials from recycled paper.

We will also get acquainted with the Finnish campfire coffee tradition. The representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso will join us and reflects on the forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy.

at 13.30 Departure from Sokos Hotel Vaakuna

at 13.45 **Ecopulp Oy**

Ecopulp designs, develops and produces 3D shaped packing materials made of recycled paper. Produced from recycled and renewable wood fibre, the Ecopulp package is environmentally friendly since it's biodegradable and 100% recyclable.

Address: Suviojantie 9, Korja

Contact: Ari Henttonen, ari.henttonen@ecopulp.fi, tel. 050 4055595

at 14.45 Departure from Ecopulp

at 15.15 **BioSampo bio and circular economy research centre**

BioSampo is one of the laboratories of South-Eastern University of Applied Sciences. They carry out versatile testing and development work and offer their partners customized research, product development, piloting and analysis services. BioSampo has strong know-how and expertise in applied research and process development around circular economy and environmental themes.

Address: Ankkapurhantie 10, 46910 Anjala

Contact: Jaana Kokkonen, jaana.kokkonen@xamk.fi, tel. 050 400 0946

Program

- Biochar potential and different process products
- Biochar in acoustic panels and other products
- Presentation of [the Wood2Biogas](#) European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project (15 min)
 - Contact: Fredrik Ek, fredrik.ek@xylogas.net, tel. 040 7547182

- at 16.30 Coffee break in the forest at the [Youth Centre Ankkapurha](#)
- Conversation by the fire: Forest owners and the forest based value chain, forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy, representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso
- Address: Ankkapurhantie 6A, Anjala
Contact: info@ankkapurha.fi, tel. 040 489 9239
- at 17.30 Departure from Ankkapurha
- at 18.00 Return to Sokos Hotel

Field trip 3: Private forest owners role in the forest value chain

Private forest owners play an important role in the bioeconomy value chain. Private individuals own about 60% of Finland's forests and there are more than 600 000 private forest owners. Forest owners are served by private service providers and forest management associations.

During the field trip, we will learn about the services available to forest owners and the forest energy chain. Forest energy is an important source of forestry by-products. In total, 35% of heat in Finnish homes comes from forests. We will also hear about the multiple uses of willow. Did you know that willow can be used in biofilters, for example?

We will also get acquainted with the Finnish campfire coffee tradition. The representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso will join us and reflects on the forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy.

at 13.30 Departure from Sokos Hotel Vaakuna

at 13.45 **[KouMet Oy](#)**
KouMet produces services for forest owners. In addition to traditional forest management services, the range of services also includes special felling and nature management services. Willow plantation harvesting site with [the Risupeto energy wood harvester](#).

Address: Jyrääntie 401, 45100 Kouvola
Contact: Petri Liljander, petri.liljander@koumet.fi, tel. 040 065 7890

Carbons Oy

Demonstration of the willow plantation and the use of willow: heat, biochar and biofilters.

Contact: Markku Suutari, markku.suutari@carbons.fi, tel. 0500 551954,

Presentation of the [Fresh wood-chips for farm-level heat production](#) European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project (15 min)

Contact: Miira Jääskeläinen, Miira.Jaaskelainen@seamk.fi, tel. 040 7449 263

at 15.15 Departure from Koumet

at 15.30 Coffee break in the forest at Käyrälampi

Conversation by the fire: Forest owners and the forest based value chain, forest owner's perspective on the bioeconomy, representative of Forest Owners Association Kymenlaakso

Address: Käyrälammentie 20, 45200 Kouvola, red cross



Contact: Laura Kekkonen (Tykkimäen Sauna), saunatupa@tykkimaensauna.fi, tel. 0500 421 000

at 16.30 Departure from Käyrälampi

at 16.50 Keltakankaan lämpö Ltd.
The role of the municipalities is very important in circular bioenergy value chains. Finnish municipalities own the central heating plants, which provide heat for the communities and cities. Keltakankaan lämpö Ltd. is a recycled wood ecosystem, which is municipality owned as well.

Address: Ekokaari 78, Keltakangas

Contact: Aki Koivula, aki.koivula@ekokaari.fi, tel. 040 3540764

at 17.40 Departure from Keltakangas

at 18.00 Return to Sokos Hotel



maaseutuverkosto·fi



Euroopan unionin
osarahoittama

KOUVOLA

**Kouvola
Innovation**