

A company managing publicly-owned forests purchased new machinery to turn forest residues and logging waste into valuable biomass fuel.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Restructuring and
developing physical
potential and
promoting innovation

Location
Kuřim

Programming period
2007 - 2013

Axis / Priority
Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector

Measure
M122 - Improvement of the economic value of forests

Funding (EUR)
Total budget 244 676
EAFRD 42 861
National/Regional 14 287
Private 187 528

Project duration
2010 – 2012

Project promoter
Lesy Města Brna a.s.

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Summary

The municipal council of the City of Brno - the largest municipal owner of forests in the Czech Republic - sought an opportunity to put the waste produced from logging to good use as a biomass fuel.

The public company (owned by the City of Brno) which manages the city's forests estimated there to be some 10 000 tn of logging waste produced annually.



The company used support from the Rural Development Programme (RDP) to purchase a powerful shredder that can process shrubbery and trunk wood up to approx. 560 mm diameter. The shredder was selected to be compatible with the tractor which the company had already bought - again with the use of RDP support.

Results

- The biomass processing capacity of the municipal heating station is 100% covered by the biomass from the City of Brno-owned forests
- the income from the sale of the biomass now constitutes about 10% of the company's total revenue; helping to stabilise its income.
- logging waste that was once just destroyed by burning now contributes to the sustainable production of energy
- Use of the shredder is offered out to other forest owners.

Lessons & Recommendations

- The investment paid off well because it is part of an overall long-term plan. The company's gradual expansion towards increased capacity was based on the principle that all purchased machines and equipment support existing practices.
- The support helped the beneficiary to invest in quality equipment with high safety standards.
- A major concern is how to maintain expansion independent of the support of the RDP.

Context

The municipal council of the City of Brno - the largest municipal owner of forests in the Czech Republic - sought an opportunity to put the waste produced from logging to good use as a biomass fuel.

The company 'The Forest of the City of Brno plc' (Lesy Mesta Brna a.s.) is 100 % owned by the City of Brno. It manages 8 000 hectares of forests, logs about 50 000 tonnes of timber annually and produces an estimated 10 000 tn of waste material: cuttings, branches, etc. that are usually left heaped in the logging area itself.

The forest is principally regarded as a place of recreation for the city's inhabitants. Heaped waste from the logging process is perceived as an eyesore, thus having a negative impact upon the recreational function of forests (and this generates complaints from visitors).

Objectives

The objective of this project was to buy a shredder which would enable the company to turn forest residues and logging waste into valuable biomass fuel.

Activities

Wood waste biomass production requires a powerful shredder with a large capacity. An additional requirement in this instance was that the machine in question would fit the PTO shaft of the powerful tractor that the beneficiary had previously invested in - again with support from the rural development programme. The shredder that was selected can process shrubbery and trunk wood up to approx. 560 mm in diameter.

Both the shredder and the tractor are part of a broader plan to increase 'The Forest of the City of Brno plc's' capacity to remove and process logging waste, produce biomass fuel for use at the national power station and gradually reduce the need to outsource services to external providers (as certain services are increasingly in decline). Over the last decade (2004 – 2015), with this strategy in mind, the beneficiary has invested in an additional forest trailer and a timber truck amongst other things, mostly with assistance from the RDP.



Main results

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- logging waste that was once just destroyed by burning now contributes to the sustainable production of energy
- Use of the shredder is offered out to other forest owners.

Key lessons

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The support helped the beneficiary to invest in quality equipment with high safety standards.

A major concern is how to maintain expansion independent of the support of the RDP.

Additional sources of information

n/a