

Press release September 22, 2016

Protect the climate with meaningful forest management

Healthy forests as a decisive factor for greenhouse gas balance

Ybbs an der Donau, September 22, 2016: **Forest owners who actively manage their forests make a positive contribution to climate protection. Forests are one of the largest stores of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and are thus an important factor in the fight against global warming. Stora Enso supports forest owners with a variety of services with a particular emphasis on sustainable forest management.**



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Focus on climate

Professional forest management plays a key role when it comes to climate protection. Increased greenhouse gas values threaten forest ecosystems and thus the habitat of countless plant and animal species. In order to preserve these, approximately 150,000 forest owners cultivate Austria's forests. With increasing global warming, forest owners face new challenges because drought stress and insect damage are increasing. As well as direct maintenance of the forest to minimise forest damage, forest management plays a major role in curtailing climate change in the long term. But the fact that the use of wood also brings environmental benefits is often not immediately comprehensible. The sustainable use of wood is beneficial for the environment in two respects.

On the one hand, the cascading or gradual harvesting of wood has a positive impact on the CO₂ balance in the long term. Because the young, fast-growing trees absorb CO₂ from the air and store carbon in the wood. On the other hand, this remains bound in the wood when it is used as a construction material and thus a large amount of emissions are avoided. Those who want to exploit the benefits of forests for climate change would be well advised to not simply leave the wood, but arrange for continuous, professional management.



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This particularly challenges "new forest owners". Around 80 per cent of Austria's forests are privately owned. Changing market conditions and the constant development of technology overburden many neo-forest owners. Stora Enso is here and, with the help of experience and expertise, provides the necessary resources to help these forest owners. From the first conversation to transportation of the harvest, Stora Enso supports its business partners. For the finished round timber, the customer receives a corresponding credit note for the proceeds.

Short transport routes

An important point in sustainable forest management is short transport routes, in order to avoid polluting the environment further. Stora Enso focuses on the regional purchasing of round timber and guarantees proper transportation in cooperation with selected transport companies. "The cooperation with regional subcontractors allows short journeys when harvesting the wood and short transport routes to the processing plant - this also contributes to the reduction of CO2 emissions", says Norbert Hüttler, Director Wood Procurement for Central Europe at Stora Enso. Another measure for ecological forest management is the full realisation of the value chain of wood. Resulting wood products such as biomass or sawdust and pulp are sold by Stora Enso to other buyers and, thus, get a second life. Stora Enso relies on a transparent process. Using the "Wood-Access" web data platform, you can track comprehensive measurement data protocols throughout the logging activities.

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About Stora Enso Wood Products

Wood Products division provides versatile wood-based solutions for building and housing. Our product range covers all areas of urban construction including massive wood elements and housing modules, wood components and pellets. We also offer a variety of sawn timber goods. Our customers are mainly construction and joinery companies, merchandisers and retailers. Wood Products operates globally and has more than 20 production units in Europe.

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Questions and Images

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