

REKK Workshop

Forest biomass for decarbonisation -

The trade-off between forest wood for biomass energy and as an instrument for carbon sequestration

20 April 2023, 10:00 – 12:00

Online



Source: pexels.com

About the event

Biomass plays a prominent role in European decarbonisation policies as a long-established renewable energy source. However, harvesting wood immediately reduces the forest carbon sink, so the net effect may not deliver the required emissions reductions. Forest advocates have long called for an end to financial support for the energy use of woody biomass, and for it to no longer count towards renewable energy targets, in order to conserve forests for their broad and critical services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity, or health and recreation. In the autumn of 2022, the European Parliament held an unprecedented debate on declassifying woody biomass as renewable energy in the process of updating the Renewable Energy Directive, but ultimately voted against it. However, many see this as a first step towards removing woody biomass from the scope of the Renewable Energy Directive.

The aim of this workshop is to provide a balanced debate about the role forests should play in contemporary climate policy. REKK aims to present speakers who summarize the state of policy thinking with arguments for and against major changes to it. Also, REKK presents its recently developed policy analysis tool, which is designed to optimize forest carbon sinking in a cost-efficient and effective way.

Organiser



Co-organiser



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Agenda

- 9:50 – 10:00 Participant login
- 10:00 – 10:10 WELCOME by László Szabó, director, REKK
- 10:10 – 10:30 THE ROLE OF FORESTS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY
Biljana Kulišić, DG ENER, Unit C.2, European Commission
- 10:30 – 10:50 HOW TO DETERMINE THE OPTIMAL HARVEST OF FORESTS BASED ON CARBON PRICES – INTRODUCING THE FOX-MODEL
Viktor Rácz, Senior Research Associate, REKK
- 10:50 – 11:45 PANEL DISCUSSION
Chaired by Gabriella Szajkó, Senior Research Associate, REKK
Panellists
- Linde Zuidema, Senior Consultant at Trinomics
 - Daniel Reinemann, Policy Officer, Bioenergy Europe
 - Markku Ollikainen, Professor of Environmental and Resources Economics at the University of Helsinki, Chair of the Finnish Climate Change Panel (*tbc*)
 - *Slovakian plans to introduce policy incentives for carbon management of forests, speaker to be confirmed*
- 11:45 – 12:00 Q&A WITH THE AUDIENCE AND CLOSING REMARKS

Participation at the online event is free, please register [here](#).

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