



PANEL DISCUSSION 1

Nature conservation and landscape management as a sustainable source of biomass



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Sölktaier Nature Park, Austria

"The whole thing is very beautiful and I could not get enough. The peace in the great nature has the highest charm and I confess it, I want to spend every summer in loneliness fourteen days. "

Archduke John of Austria „The first Tourist“
200 years ago at Sölktäler Nature Park

Peace at Last[®]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION_T

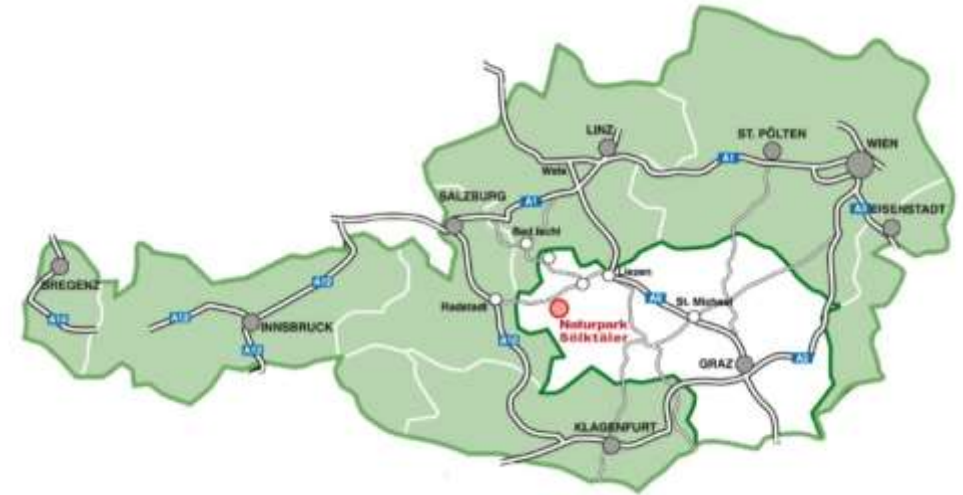


Sölktäler Nature Park, Province of Styria, Austria

U-shaped valleys in the mountains of the “Niedere Tauern”

Target area, where the main activities are carried out

- **50% of the Park is covered by forests**
- **Long tradition of using wood for producing heat**



CONTEXT

- *3 biomass heating plants are operated by 2 groups of farmers with 100% regional biomass*
- *The biomass heating plant in Stein/Enns used also non-regional biomass*
- *High social acceptance of using biomass in Sölktales Nature Park*

CHALLENGES

- *The heat production from biomass is on a very high level in Austria*



THE CHALLENGE

ROLE OF THE PARK

- *Involvement of inhabitants of the park*
- *Intensive public relations*
- *Public Relations Activities*
 - *Poster presentation Mid Europe Biomass Conference*
 - *Exhibition activity with Mr. Rupprechter, Austrian Minister for Agriculture*
- *Development , fine-tuning and monitoring of the supply chain*



KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- *Municipality from Sölktäler Nature Park*
- *Schladming-Dachstein tourism marketing*
- *Leader Region Ennstal-Ausseerland*
- *Energy Agency Styria North*
- *Association of Styrian Nature Parks*
- *Association of Austrian Nature Parks*
- *Province of Styria*
- *Ministry of Agriculture*

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Supply Chain

Forest



Harvesting



Transport



Storage



Processing



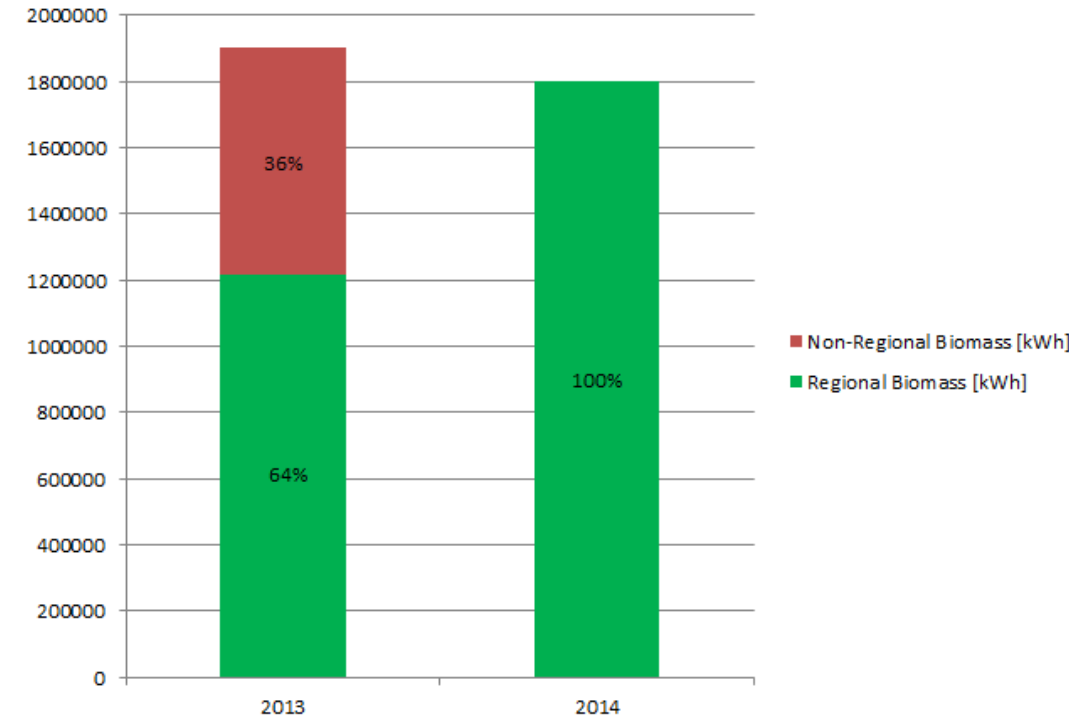
Energy production



FINDING SOLUTIONS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- *100% regional biomass for heating plants in Sölktäler Nature Park*
 - *Supply of the office of the Sölktäler Nature Park with heat from regional biomass*
- *Contracts for the use of regional biomass heating plant with the operators of the heating plants*
- *Austrian forest law*
 - *Guarantees the sustainable use of biomass*
 - *Fulfills the requirements of Sustainable Forest Management*



FINDING SOLUTIONS

Can the exploitation of wood biomass be compatible with biodiversity conservation priorities and the management of natural resources in European Protected Areas?

- 2/3 of Sölktäler Nature Park is part of Nature 2000 Area “Niedere Tauern”
 - The majority of the forests in the Nature Park therefore is in Natura 2000 area
 - Close cooperation with the Natura 2000 area manager
- District forester and district conservation officer monitor the compliance of the legal regulations in protected areas in the Nature Park
- Continuation of the cooperation with the operators of the heating plants
- With the National Conference together with the Energy Agency Styria North we started **an initiative to supply single houses with regional biomass**

LESSONS LEARNED



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