

ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS

An eco-industrial park is an industrial area, where different actors use materials and energy efficiently in cooperation. The concept of an eco-industrial park is a sector of industrial ecology, which draws analogies from natural ecosystems to human industrial systems. It concentrates on energy cascading and closing the loop of materials. In the world, many eco-industrial parks have been implemented from the 1990's, especially in the US.

Eco-industrial parks aim at achieving environmental, economic and social benefits at the regional level. Sometimes this can require one company to develop its waste management towards improving the usability of wastes instead of decreasing the actual waste amounts.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development in the Mid Nordic Region, ProMidNord, is a project aiming at sustainable development in Finland, Norway and Sweden. South Savo is responsible for accomplishing the Eco-competitiveness section. One concrete action is to implement an eco-industrial park in South Savo, in the commune of Rantasalmi.



THE COMPANIES

Real Estate Rantasalmen Silva Oy manages and maintains the land and premises.

Rantasalmi Oy is a company with hundred employees, founded in 1946. It is the fourth biggest log-house manufacturer in Finland. Around 60% of its turnover comes from export.

Sil-Kas Oy is a wood-processing company, founded in 1993. It manufactures e.g. window frames from pine. Around 60% of its turnover comes from export.

Korpihonka is a wood product company founded in 1998. The company manufactures windows, doors and sauna components.

Carpentry company **Raitaranta** has made fine carpentry work for local residents since year 1995.

Transportation company **Myllys Ky** is a family firm founded in 1959. Besides transport and forklift truck services, it maintains the wood drier of the area.

JK-Terämet Ky founded in 2003 is a company that provides blade maintenance in the region.

Kanttini Seija Partinen is a local restaurant.

The co-operation partners of the park are e.g. a fine carpenter company Parlatuote Oy, and Suur-Savon Sähkö Oy, which owns the district heating plant in the region. Ascus Tech Oy manufactures pre-cut houses. Continuous cooperation also takes place with LK-puu Oy, Rantawood, Wood carpenter H. Rautiainen and A. Nissinen ja Pojat.

The carpentry companies supply windows, doors, staircases etc. to Rantasalmi Oy. Some wood materials are exchanged, e.g. Korpihonka uses solely by-products of Sil-Kas Oy. Wood wastes are combusted in the heating plant of Suur-Savon Sähkö Oy. The heat is use by the companies and neighbouring residences. The companies share also labour services.



AIMS

The starting point in the Rantasalmi eco-industrial park project was to develop the functional cooperation in the area. The goals are to increase competitiveness, attractiveness and environmental image of the firms in the region. Increasing material and energy efficiency, decreasing the amount of waste to landfills and decreasing environmental emissions are more specific objectives.

ACTIONS

Environmental reporting and energy surveys are conducted for each individual firm during the course of the project. An environmental policy and environmental goals are determined for the whole industrial area. Environmental policies and goals will also be established individually for each company.

Proposals considering measures for cost efficiency and environmental improvements are conducted for the whole park as well as for each company individually. To implement these measures, eco-industrial park committee will prepare an implementation and financial plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

"The companies in the eco-industrial park commit themselves to the continuous improvement of their own and collective environmental goals. The activities are based on partnership and mutual trust."

Collective decision in cooperation will commit the companies in the park to:

- developing cooperation to increase material and energy efficiency,
- preventing environmental degradation,
- minimising the environmental load,
- enhancing training and involvement of the personnel, and
- following environmental legislation.

Economic responsibility

"We promote the cost-effectiveness and competitiveness of the companies in the park and participate in producing welfare for the region of Rantasalmi."

Ecological responsibility

"We take care of our environment, use natural resources economically and develop material efficiency inside our company network. We aim at using renewable, ecologically produced raw materials and energy."

Social responsibility

"We cherish good relationships with our interest groups, take care of the well-being of our personnel and safety of our products. We enhance the social cohesion in our neighbourhoods with open information and by contributing to the development of the area."

TIME TABLES

14–15 March 2006, Seminar at Rantasalmi
January 2007, Opening ceremonies
April 2007, Final seminar of the project

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.rantasalmi.fi/palvelut/yritysinfo/ekoteollisuuspuisto/

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The first eco-industrial park in Finland will be implemented at Rantasalmi, South Savo. In the area, there is a concentration of companies of mechanical wood processing, altogether seven companies.

