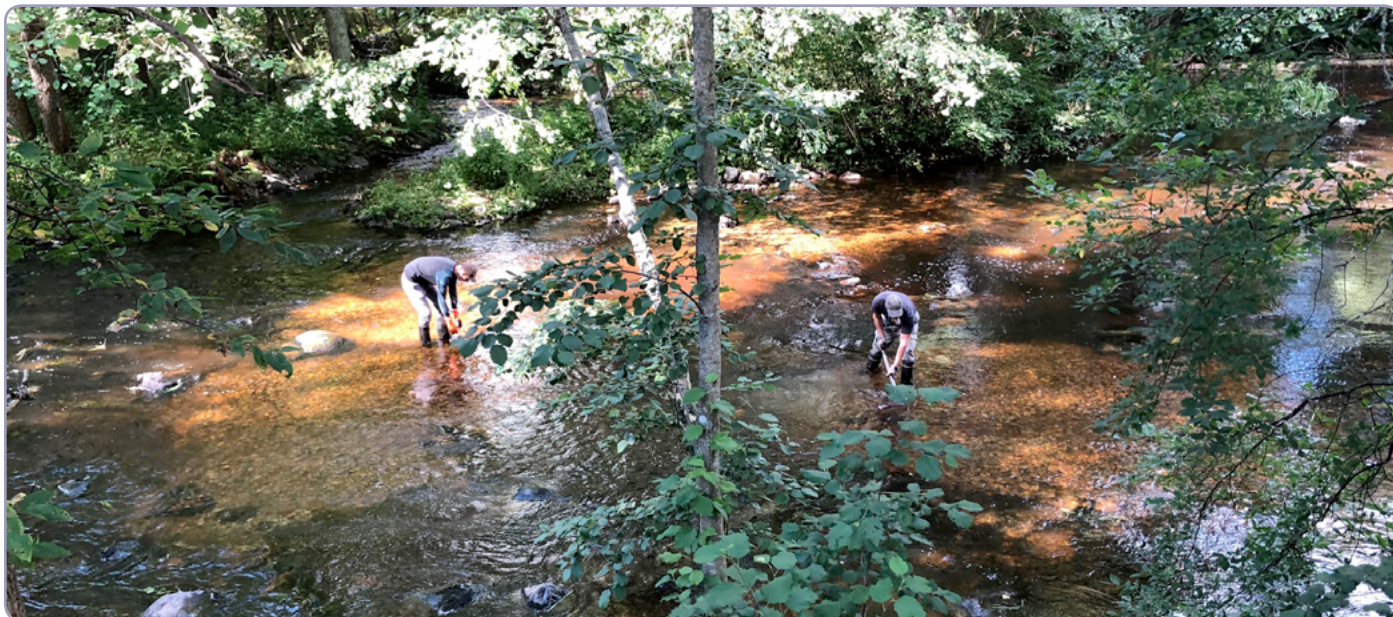


Restoring river rapids in Karkkila, Finland



Project Duration: 1 year

Photo: Virho

In 2019 EKOenergy paid 25,000 € to the Finnish Society for Stream Conservation, (Virho) to support the restoration of the natural structure of the Maijalankoski rapid in order to enable the future reintroduction of salmon and freshwater pearl mussels.

Maijalankoski is one of the largest rapids in the Karjaanjoki watershed (Finland) and along with other rapids in this river, it has been used for timber rafting since the 1700s. Due to this, the rapids have been cleared of all larger rocks and other obstacles, leading to the significant decline of trout and grayling populations that naturally inhabit the river. For example in 2018, Virho found no salmon spawn in Maijalankoski.

The first half of the Maijalankoski rapid was restored in 1995 by Uusimaa Environment Center. They added gravel in the bottom of the rapid. However, the rest of the rapid still needed more work.

During the 2000s, more extensive studies were conducted regarding all stages of the life cycles of fish and it was discovered that the rapids need more spawning grounds as well as protected areas for juvenile fish, in order to allow migratory fish to return and thrive in the river. It is for this reason that Virho decided to take action and applied for funding from the EKOenergy ecolabel to implement this restoration project.

Creating protected areas for juvenile fish and restoring their habitats is critical, since Europe has experienced an alarming 93% decline in migratory freshwater fish

populations in the past 50 years.

In just over a week of restoration work, Virho hauled and spread an estimated 800.000 kg of different sized gravel over 0.5 km in the Maijalankoski rapid. This was used to build spawning dams, shelters for juvenile fish and erosion shelters for river banks. In addition, deep ditches were dug at the bottom of the river for the larger fish.

"With some good luck, trout will spawn in Maijalankoski within a few years", says Virho's project coordinator Markus Penttinen.

In addition to Maijalankoski, Virho also restored a rapid in Karkkila called Pitkälänkoski in 2020 autumn in which they added gravel by truckload and watered the side grooves (best growth areas for juvenile fish) in the bottom of the rapid, which normally remain dry.

EKOenergy advocates for practical solutions and thus finances river restoration projects to mitigate the impact hydropower has on nature. By choosing electricity from EKOenergy approved installations, consumers of EKOenergy-labelled hydropower contribute to dam removals and restoration projects like these.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND



EKOenergy funds river restoration projects annually



Projects implemented by trustworthy local organisations



Projects selected by independent jury of experts



Between 2015 and 2020 we collected 435000 € for river restoration projects



Funding comes from sales of EKOenergy ecolabeled hydropower

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3

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4

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EKOenergy's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals exceeded 1 million € between 2015-2020. For each MWh of EKOenergy sold, 0.10€ (0.20 € for hydropower) is used to fight energy poverty and protect biodiversity.

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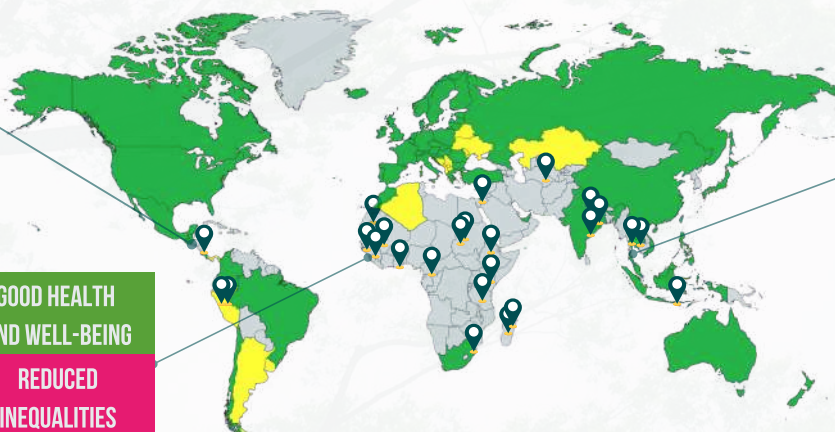
■ Some specific conditions apply, contact us for more information



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