

## Removal of fish migration barriers in Pirkanmaa, Finland



**Project Duration: 2 years**

In 2017, EKOenergy donated 50,000 € to a project of the Kokenmäkijoki Protection Organisation (KVVY). The organisation aims to restore aquatic habitats and to free migration routes for fish in the Finnish Pirkanmaa region.

Photo: Heikki Holsti

The river Kokenmäkijoki and its tributaries, located in central Finland, is the habitat of many unique trout populations.

Among the biggest disturbances to the trout's natural life cycle are the dams and other obstacles that limit upstream migration, thus preventing the fish from reaching their spawning grounds. These fish are in urgent need of protection.

In the two year "Free migration routes" project, KVVY will take restoration measures to improve habitats and to strengthen and revive fish populations.

The project includes practical activities as well as a study about the migratory behaviour of trout. For the study, the fish will be captured using electrofishing techniques, then tagged and released to allow researchers to follow their movements. This research data will help increase the effectiveness of trout protection measures. The practical

activities include the removal of three old dams that are currently blocking trout migration, as well as renovation works to improve habitats.

"In 2017, we started the study of trout populations and we will continue it in the years thereafter" says project coordinator **Heikki Holsti** from KVVY.

"For the work in the river Kovesjoki, we are contacting the landowners of the properties where we have noticed migration barriers. We have begun the process to get permits for the removal of these barriers. Our ambition is to remove the barriers in the river Taipaleenjoki too. We have already been given written approval to do that from the owner of the old dam."

The habitat restoration is also under progress. The most important measures are planned for 2018 and 2019 and will be combined with 'river restoration working days' with volunteers.



### ENVIRONMENTAL FUND



EKOenergy funds river restoration projects annually



Projects implemented by trustworthy local organisations



Projects selected by independent jury of experts



In 2017, EKOenergy donated 77,000 € to 4 projects



Funding comes from sales of EKOenergy ecolabeled hydro-power

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EKOenergy users include large international businesses such as Yves Rocher, SAP, VMware, Genelec and L'Oréal, as well as cities and other public organisations.



## Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

	EKOenergy	Other renewable	Mixed sources
New renewable energy production via our <a href="#">Climate Fund</a>	✓	?	-
Only the most climate friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our <a href="#">Environmental Fund</a> .	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by GOs, RECs, I-RECs	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

## Endorsed by other standards

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