

Restoring brown trout population in lake Näsijärvi catchment area



Project duration: 1 year

Lake Näsijärvi catchment area used to host one of the biggest trout populations in Finland. Human activity has caused its almost total disappearance. In 2018 EKOenergy's Environmental Fund donated 8,000 € to Virho (Virtavesien hoitoyhdistys) for a brown trout repopulation project.

Text: Valeria Pauletti

Photo: Virtavesien hoitoyhdistys

Salmo Trutta, commonly known as brown trout, is a salmonid fish indigenous to Europe, North Africa and West Asia. These fish spawn during autumn in fast-flowing rivers with gravel beds. Brown trout also acts as a predator in many river systems and so is very important for the balance of the overall ecosystem.

In the lake Näsijärvi catchment area the forest industry's alterations of small brooks in order to transport logs downstream have destroyed river beds making them unsuitable for spawning. Furthermore, the construction of new road has blocked the course of several small brooks and agricultural practices have significantly deteriorated water quality.

In 2018 the EKOenergy Environmental Fund has donated 8,000 € to Virtavesien hoitoyhdistys for a stream restoration project. The purpose of the project was to repopulate brown trout in the Näsijärvi catchment area around Tampere and Ruovesi. The project involved 8 brooks with a total area of 1800 m². The activities

included inventories of relevant sites, egg box planting and consultations with locals. EKOenergy's funding was invested in machine work, such as gravel transportation, and travel costs while all the fieldwork, except for electric fishing controls, was done by volunteers. Interestingly, many of the volunteers used to fish in these streams but once they became aware of the problem they quickly went from being fishermen to fish-activists.

This project is part of the general river restoration activities run by the same organisation that have been ongoing since 2016. In 2018 EKOenergy was the main financier of those activities: "EKOenergy's funding allowed our activities in

this area to go on a bigger scale. This led us to better results and, consequently, to receive further fundings both from municipalities and private businesses" said Tuomas Rinne, the project coordinator.

Projects like this one demonstrate the great results that even a small amount of money can bring when supported by the willpower of people that want to make a difference.



ENVIRONMENTAL FUND



EKOenergy funds river restoration projects annually



Projects implemented by trustworthy local organisations



Projects selected by independent jury of experts



In 2018, EKOenergy donated 130,000 € to 7 projects



Funding comes from sales of EKOenergy ecolabelled hydro-power

EKOenergy - the international ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel](#) for energy. We are a nonprofit ecolabel, supported by a growing international group of over 40 environmental organisations.

EKOenergy not only excludes fossil fuels and nuclear power, but demands strict [sustainability criteria for renewable energy](#) production. We also support new renewable energy production through our Climate Fund.

Ecolabelled electricity is [available for all types of organisations](#) and international corporations. It is a cost-efficient way to reduce your organisation's carbon footprint and communicate about your choice by using the well-known ecolabel.

EKOenergy users include large international businesses such as SAP, Tetra Pak, Groupe Rocher, 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 Climate Fund	✓	?	-
Only the most climate friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our Environmental Fund .	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by GOs, RECs, I-RECs	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

Endorsed by other standards

EKOenergy is mentioned by the most well-known international environmental standards, such as Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED certification for buildings.

"EKOenergy represents the [best available option](#) for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe."



"Ecolabels are a way for companies to do more with their purchases. EKOenergy, mentioned by the GHG protocol Scope 2 guidance, is such an option: it is [a mark of quality](#) which comes on top of tracking certificates."



"A growing number of hotels in Europe have already switched to EKOenergy and include the EKOenergy logo in their communication with their guests. Follow their lead and [go the extra mile](#)."



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