RIVER STORIES 2018-2019

Restoring migration routes in Southwest Finland

Project duration: 2 years

Most migratory fish populations in Finland are endangered or close to extinction, due to the construction of dams, dredging of streams or due to reduced water quality. In 2018 EKOenergy paid 25,000 € to Valonia for the removal of migration barriers and the improvement of river habitats in Southwest Finland.

Text: Glòria Monterrubio Coll
Photo: Valonia

In the rivers of Southwest Finland, there are more than 100 migration barriers, mainly old unused mill dams. Together with the dredging of rivers, low water quality and fishing activities, these man-made barriers are leading to a decrease of native migratory fish, such as the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*).

In 2018 EKOenergy paid 25,000 € to Valonia, the Service Centre for Sustainable Development and Energy in Southwest Finland.

Together with local stakeholders, landowners and volunteers, they carried out 11 river restoration projects in 16 sites in the Turku and Salo areas. The projects aimed to restore the habitat of the brown trout and other endangered species by removing man-made barriers from their migration routes. Also, the projects raised public awareness about migratory fish and stream restorations.

In the stream of Juottimenoja (Perniö), where erosion has diminished thanks to the previously completed restorations of flood plains, Valonia and their partners successfully restored spawning areas for trout. A further goal of ensuring cooperation with farmers was achieved through coordination with the Finnish Environment Institute's KURVI project.

In the catchment area of the Purilanjoki watercourse (West Salo) the focus was on developing restoration measures in close cooperation with the adjacent landowners.

In the Kiskonjoki and Perniönjoki area, the activities focused on the elimination of barriers in the river, such as culverts (tubes that guide the river underneath a road). For example, in close cooperation with WWF's Patokato barrier removal project, an old concrete culvert was rebuilt taking into account the presence of migratory fish.

EKOenergy wants to thank all those involved in these projects. The work, however, is not done. To ensure the full return of healthy river ecosystems, agricultural and forestry management measures need to improve.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

- EKOenergy funds river restoration projects annually
- Projects implemented by trustworthy local organisations
- Projects selected by an independent jury of experts
- In 2018, EKOenergy granted 130,000 € to 7 projects
- Funding comes from sales of EKOenergy ecolabelled hydropower

EKOenergy - the international ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is the international ecolabel for energy. We are a non-profit organisation working to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

Energy sold with the EKOenergy-ecolabel fulfils strict sustainability criteria. Through our ecolabel we also raise money for our Climate Fund, which is used to finance new renewable energy projects in developing countries.

EKOenergy-labelled energy is sold by licensed energy companies and is available in over 40 countries worldwide. Many of the consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy choose to use our ecolabel on their website or products to demonstrate their commitment to a 100% renewable and sustainable world.

EKOenergy users include large international businesses such as SAP, Tetra Pak, VMware, Workday and Genelec, as well as cities, public organisations and individual households.

Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

	EKOenergy	Other renewable	Grid mix
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 EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs. (in line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

Endorsed by other standards

EKOenergy is recommended by many international environmental standards such as CDP, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED-certification for buildings.

"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."

"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."

"EKOenergy represents the best available option for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe."

Green Key

CDP

U.S. Green Building Council LEED USGBC

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info@ekoenergy.org | www.ekoenergy.org