CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN CENTRAL FINLAND

Outi Pakarinen
Regional Council of Central Finland
outi.pakarinen@keskisuomi.fi
@Outi_Pakarinen

FEDARENE Webinar: Introduction to Circular Economy, 6.10.2020
Strategic development in Central Finland

• Regional Council of Central Finland is a joint municipal authority in charge of regional development. In our work, regional development goes hand in hand with regional land use planning. Our goal is to create wellbeing of the citizens, business and environment in Central Finland.

• Strategic development goals in Central Finland

• Bioeconomy in Central Finland video
CIRCWASTE – towards circular economy in Finland

- LIFE IP funded project, 2016-2023
- Implementing national waste management plan and catalyzing actions towards circular economy
- 20 partners from four regions, Central Finland is one of the regions
- Total budget almost 19 million euros
Regional data and cooperation is needed

• Global economy uses almost 93 billion tons of minerals, fossil fuels, metals and biomass, and the global economy is only 9 % circular ([The circularity gap report 2019](#))

• Data and cooperation on regional level is important
  • Central Finland: 275 104 inhabitants (2019), 19 950 km²
  • Almost 2 million tons of waste is produced annually, biggest proportion is construction and demolition waste
  • → roadmap for the region, four main themes: 1) construction and demolition waste, 2) biowaste, biogas and nutrient circulation, 3) waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) and 4) plastics
  • Strong cooperation with the regional stakeholders
  • Several events, seminars and workshops
Promotion of biogas production and consumption

• Biogas potential in Central Finland is approximately 0.5 TWh annually, currently less than 10% is in use
• New biogas plants and fuelling stations in recent years
• Rapid increase in the amount of gas fuelled cars, less than 100 in 2017, now more than 700
• Public procurements can be used to promote biogas consumption, e.g. waste trucks and city buses
Circular economy companies from Central Finland

- Ecovin: Fertilisers for tree farming and earthwork products from power plant ash
- Valta: Remanufactured tractor gearboxes
- Metener: Total solution for nutrient and energy self-sufficiency in rural areas
- Betolar: Turning industrial surplus materials into low carbon construction materials
- Fluid Intelligence: Worry-free lubrication for machines
- NAAVA: Smart green wall and healthy indoor air as a service

Innovative growth companies are needed in circular economy

- **Kasvu Open** is a business coaching programme developed in Central Finland
  - Offers coaching to companies interested in growth, free of charge
- Growth track for Bio- and Circular Economy companies
  - 49 applications, **15** were selected for coaching, two of them from Central Finland
    - Aisti Corporation, developing wood fibre based acoustic panels
    - **Jyväš-Hamppu**, creating local food products from organically grown hemp and new innovations around hemp
    - Two companies were selected to final, **Clewat Ltd**, saving seas from plastic waste and **Soletair Power**, making fuel from indoor air CO$_2$
Circular economy strategy in Finland

- The world's first national roadmap to circular economy was published in 2016 by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra.
  - "Make Central Finland a model province for transport biogas" was one of the pilots in "Transport and logistics" theme.

- Right now the strategic programme to promote a circular economy in Finland is under preparation.
  - The aim of the programme is to transform the economy into one that is based on the principles of circular economy by 2035.
  - With this programme, the Finnish Government wants to strengthen Finland's role as a leader in the circular economy.
  - The transition into a circular economy is also a step towards achieving the Government's carbon neutrality target by 2035.
When promoting circular economy..

- Regional data is needed
- Involve all the stakeholders, politicians, r&d&i organisations, public sector, companies etc.
- Work both, on strategic and on practical level
- Communicate
- Cooperate