

Interdisciplinary Approach in Extension for Efficient Use of Fuel-wood

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Forests in Slovenia represent a very rich renewable energy potential and are of great interest to many stakeholders from different sectors, including forestry, energy, and rural development. However, in spite of its importance in the context of sustainable biomass production, forestry has so far played a marginal role in the renewable energy sector, dealing mainly with the efficient use of wood for energy.

A change has occurred in the past few years and the cooperation among forestry and other stakeholders has improved by working on various projects to address the greater needs for wood fuel. One of the most important results of such cooperation is extension programs for efficient use of fuel-wood. Targeted to different groups (forest owners, potential investors, and decision-makers, for example), this work was carried out by all of the significant and important actors in the renewable energy sector. Different extension approaches were used, including demonstrations, thematic itineraries, lectures, presentations and published training and extension materials. The interdisciplinary approach is accomplished by using an “energy advisers network” with the main goal to connect different services and projects, and to ensure knowledge transfer from different sectors. This approach is therefore a strong guarantee that the information provided is complete and accurate.