

The circular economy of the fur industry and its benefits for society

SOLAR ENERGY

Solar panels installed on the roofs of the sheds can be used in production of remarkable amounts of emission-free electricity. The production potentials of the fur farms has been documented in a study in Lappeenranta University.

THOUSANDS OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES

The direct impact on employment from fur breeding amounts to over 3000 annual work units and the indirect effects on demand for services are remarkable especially in the region of Ostrobothnia.

BIODIESEL FROM FUR ANIMALS' FAT

Fur animals' fat can be used in production of biodiesel.

SEEDBED

Fur animals' manure is used in production of seedbeds rich on nutrients and can be used for balcony and roof top planting as well as greenhouses. The seedbeds can bind a lot of water and are well suitable also for urban planting.

ENERGY FROM BIOGAS

Fur animals' manure is used in production of biogas which in turn can be used in e.g. traffic and industry.

FERTILIZERS FOR FIELD-SCALE CROPS

Composted fur animals' manure is rich on nutrients and used as a fertilizer in field-scale crops.

ECOLOGICAL

The breeding of fur animals in Finland is strictly regulated, requirements are set by environmental permits and supervised by several authorities. The final product, a pelt certified and traceable to its farm of origin, does not contain plastics and molds completely.

FEED FISHING CLEANS THE BALTIC SEA

Domestic slaughter by-products and gutting waste from fishing are being used in the fur animal fodder. The carcasses of fur animals are used as a part of fodder production. Coarse fish used as fur animal fodder removes around 150 tons of phosphorus from the Baltic Sea, corresponding approximately six times the annual load of Viikinmäki wastewater treatment plant in Helsinki.

BALTIC SEA COMMITMENT 2017-2020

FIFUR and Baltic Sea Action Group are searching in collaboration for solutions to utilize nutrients originated in fur breeding. The commitment aimed to develop new methods to recover phosphorus from fur animals' manure and to market it to industries where phosphorus is needed.

TRANSFORMING OLD FURS

Genuine fur is a natural material which last for generations. In FIFUR's Vintage project, old fur garments have been modernized into new favorite pieces of clothing.

EXPORT

99% of pelts produced in Finland are exported. The most important markets are in Asia. Value of exports since 2010 has amounted to 302-810 million euros per year.

TOP RESEARCH

The fur animal industry is actively researching and improving the wellbeing of the fur animals and the possibilities within circular economy. FIFUR owns a laboratory company in Vaasa, which specializes in the wellbeing of the animals and provides information for the authorities. Partly owned Luova Oy in Kannus audits the farms and provides services such as research, product development and practical education for the fur industry. FIFUR database consists of more than 3500 researches.

BENEFITS FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES

95% of the fur farms in Finland are found in the provinces of Ostrobothnia. Taxes and contributions from the fur industry to state and municipalities amounted to €87M in 2021. Accumulated municipal taxes amounted to €22M.