



UNLOCKING CIRCULARITY AND MARKET POTENTIAL FROM WOOD WASTE

PROJECT RESULTS PRESENTATIONS



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October 14, 2026, 12:45-17:00 CET

SIDE Design Hotel, Drehbahn 49, 20354 Hamburg, Germany

Context and objectives

Europe is aiming to pioneer the Circular Economy fostering higher resilience, competitive growth while lowering emissions and environmental impacts, underpinned by the **Bioeconomy Strategy** (published November 2025) and the upcoming **Circular Economy Act**. **Wood recycling for material use is a working circular model** and a prime showcase for European industry. The EcoReFibre project improves on the existing situation by demonstrating that recycling post-consumer fibreboard into new fibreboard products is technologically and economically viable at the industrial level and that it is ready to boost the market.

Nearly 47 million tonnes of wood waste are generated in the European Union (2022). Yet only around 40% (15 million m³ solid wood equivalent) of EU wood waste is being recycled today, while about 60% is used for energy recovery. The focus must be on **upscaling high-quality waste supply at volume and on creating circular business models and markets** to enhance the wood panel industry's leading role in Europe.

- **Estimating available post-consumer volumes for fibreboard recycling:** limited resource availability and raw material costs challenge fibreboard production in Europe. How can we estimate future supply of post-consumer fibreboard and solid wood suitable to produce new fibreboard?
- **Enabling technologies for sorting, fibre extraction and recycling fibreboard production:** closing material loops involves several challenges. On the technological level several demonstrations are showcasing what is already possible and what the developments are expected in the near future.
- **Market and EU policy context:** besides technological and supply challenges, additional drivers and barriers condition the speed of the transition towards increased wood recycling. Deeper analysis and recommendations for various stakeholders foster the dialogue on the priority actions.

The EcoReFibre Results Presentations aim to showcase the project results and further contribute to the momentum towards wood and fibre recycling in the wood-based panel industry. The goal is to facilitate future adoption, integration and mainstreaming of innovative circular solutions, positioning Europe's forest-based sector right in the heart of the Circular Bioeconomy. Summaries of the EcoReFibre results can be found in the **EcoReFibre Zenodo community**.

The Results Presentations are a side-event previous to the 14th European Wood-based Panel Symposium. Participation is free of charge and **registration is mandatory**.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Time	Topic
12:45	Registration & Coffee
13:00 (0:05)	Opening Welcome by: Prof. Stergios Adamopoulos, Project coordinator, SLU & Kris Wijnendaele, EPF.
13:05 (0:15)	Are there enough fibres? Estimating post-consumer fibreboard waste generation in Europe (link to Results in Brief). Prof. Mark Irle, ESB.
13:20 (0:15)	Sorting wood waste for new wood-based panels A sorting line for separating wood waste into usable fractions for new wood-based panels (link to Results in Brief). Jonas Réssy, Dieffenbacher.
13:35 (0:30)	Fibres and fines recovery - The wet and dry process for extraction of wood fibres and fines from post-consumer fibreboard (link to Results in Brief). Jonas Réssy, Dieffenbacher. - The mTMP process for defibration of solid wood waste and post-consumer fibreboard (link to Results in Brief). Marco Mäbert, IHD.
14:05	Networking coffee break
14:30 (1:00)	New panels products with increased recycling fibre content - Recycling post-consumer fibres from wood waste into new fibreboards (link to Results in Brief). Matthias Schulte, Homanit. - Recycling post-consumer fibres from wood waste into new insulation products (link to Results in Brief). Charlie Hébert, Soprema. - Recycling post-consumer fibreboard waste into new particleboard (link to Results in Brief). Adelaide Alves, Sonae Arauco. - Bioblocks: construction material made from wood fibreboard dust (link to Results in Brief). Erik Larnøy, NIBIO, Peer Lewandowski, SMARTPANEL.
15:30 (0:30)	- Environmental and Economic performances of recycling. Gérard Deroubaix, FCBA. - EcoReFibre Guide Book and Strategic Roadmap (link). Duarte Carvalho, EPF.
16:00 (0:30)	Final Q&A and closing words. Stergios Adamopoulos SLU & Oliver Jancke , InnovaWood
16:30	Networking cocktail
17:00	End of event

ABOUT THE PROJECT



EcoReFibre – upscaling circular use of wood waste and fibre recycling in the European wood panel industry

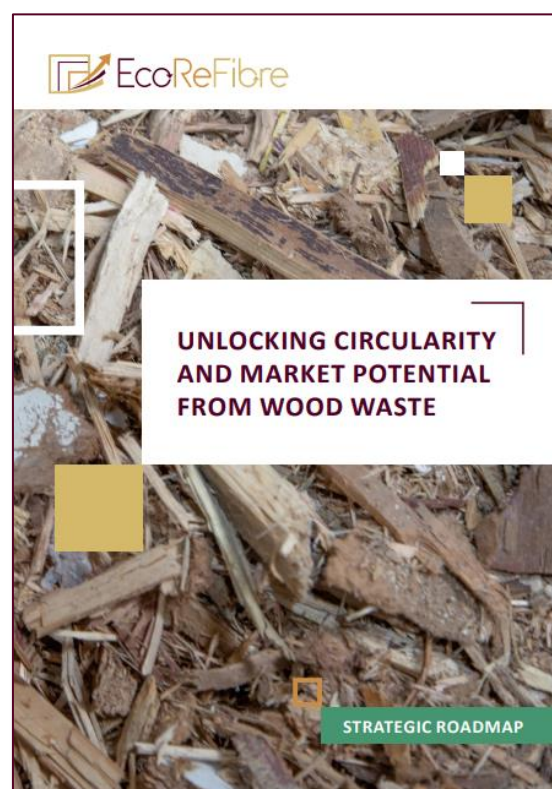
Funded with 12 million EUR through the Horizon Europe programme, the EcoReFibre project (grant no. 101057473, 2022 to 2026) brings together 20 partners from 7 countries and is coordinated by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Its core mission is to explore smart technologies that enable **recycling of post-consumer wood back into fibreboards and novel building products**. In Europe, fibreboard is mainly applied for furniture (53%), laminate flooring (18%), and construction, including doors and flooring (13%). Lesser volumes are incorporated in packaging (6%), used for moulding (3%) or other applications (7%). Within the EcoReFibre project, **five industry pilots demonstrate how circular economy approaches**, combined with innovative and digital-supported technologies, ensure the supply of secondary raw materials. These pilots include the sorting and extraction of wood fibres and fines, and their conversion to valuable products, i.e. fibreboard and insulation products, particleboard and biocomposites. Ultimately, EcoReFibre aims to increase available wood resources in Europe through recycling. The ambition is to **substitute up to 25% of the virgin fibres** currently used in the European fibreboard market. The project further demonstrates how the upscaling of circular technologies can be achieved.

EcoReFibre Strategic Roadmap

The EcoReFibre **Strategic Roadmap** on unlocking circularity and market potential from wood waste describes the current context in Europe with a focus on fibreboard recycling. Fibreboard recycling has been proven technologically and economically viable at the industrial level.

To establish fibreboard recycling - and wood recycling for material use in general - as a working circular model, the focus must be on high-quality supply at volume and the creation of corresponding markets.

The propositions of this Strategic Roadmap are well aligned with the goals of the **EU Bioeconomy Strategy** and the upcoming **EU Circular Economy Act** and enable the wood panel industry to enhance its leading role in building a more resilient and competitive Europe. The Strategic Roadmap pinpoints challenges, drivers and barriers and sets out research and policy recommendations to support the transition from a linear to a circular economy. Its objective is to contribute to the ongoing discussion on circular wood use and showcase current developments and upcoming solutions, informing all relevant stakeholders and enabling greater wood and fibre recycling and reuse.



EVENT HOSTS

EUROPEAN PANEL FEDERATION (EPF) represents the manufacturers of wood-based panels being particleboard, dry process fibreboard (MDF), oriented strand board (OSB), hardboard, softboard and plywood. EPF has members in 30 European countries. The EU wood panel industry has a turnover of about 25 billion euro every year and provides over 100,000 jobs in Europe. The production of wood-based panels in the EU-27 (+EFTA) in 2025 was an estimated 59.6 million m³. europanel.org



INNOVAWOOD mission is to foster innovation and bring business benefit to the entire value chain from forestry to wood, to furniture and construction. InnovaWood provides a European platform to share knowledge, latest information and follow developments as well as innovative trends. InnovaWood aims to provide a strategic orientation to the European research and innovation ecosystem which is evolving in response to the global challenges. innovawood.com



The Institut für Holztechnologie Dresden gemeinnützige GmbH (IHD) focuses on application-oriented research and development in all areas related to wood as a raw material, its processing into wood-based materials, finished products and their further refinement. Through its subsidiary, the IHD also provides testing, monitoring and certification services worldwide. With more than 130 employees, extensive expertise and technological know-how, IHD is a strong partner for small and medium-sized enterprises in the timber, furniture and related industries and maintains close links with scientific institutions and companies. ihd-dresden.de



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