



LUONTOA
KÄYDÄ
EDELLÄ
www.siikainen.fi

SIIKAINEN - FORERUNNERS BY NATURE

Siikainen is a municipal of appr. 495 km² with lakes and forests. There's 55 lakes in the area and 76 % of Siikainen is covered with forests. We have about 1500 inhabitants and nearly a thousand vacation cottages, so especially in the summertime our population more than doubles.

At the end of 1990's Siikainen decided to give up oil and start heating with woodchip. A power plant for district heating was built and in 1997 19 local forest owners founded a co-operative society which is the second oldest one in Finland. At the time no-one paid anything of spine and other waste-wood, so the co-operative's aim was to get this energy-wood to be used locally and get a better payment. As a result the forests are better taken care of and the members get some extra money. The co-operative itself operates non-profitably, everything goes back to members divided by how much they have produced woodchip during the year.

Compared to oil's price Siikainen has been able to cut costs and give work to local people. The co-operative has won competitive tendering; now-a-days we buy some 3500 MWh of heat yearly, which is appr. 2250 solid m³ of chip. As a result there's less CO₂ in the air, local forest owners take better care of their forests and the money stays in the area - it's a win-win situation

The municipal itself has appr. 3 km of pipe lines mainly heating own properties but also some private ones. Some local factories and many farms have their own woodchip power plants. The co-operative has now-a-days 48 members and there's two entrepreneurs who mainly take care of making woodchip. Product is also sold to other power plants nearby

As a result of having these woodchip power plants and windmills combined with the fact that we have low consumption and sparse settlement, Siikainen actually produces CO2-free energy more than what gets used.

We have made even more decisions of how to use space and energy more efficiently. In a star-shaped building called Metsätähti we have combined a nursing home, kindergarten, healthcare-station and centralized kitchen under the same roof. Students from the neighboring school go there to dine and also the sports hall is located close by. Everyone of these buildings is naturally warmed up with district heating.

Eteläpää, the place where we are having dinner, was originally built some 25 years ago. In the area owned by the municipal there's 20 cottages owned by private people serving the needs of tourists. Siikainen has developed the area, the main building was extended 10 years ago, there's also a full sized frisbeegolf track, a minigolf track, trails for running and skiing etc.

Siikainen is one of the members in Lauhanvuori-Hämeen kangas Geopark area.

In Katselma we have a tower for birdwatchers, a lean-on and the sight to the widest unified mire areas in southern Finland. We have geologically interesting cliffs, areas belonging to Natura 2000, areas that are defined as totally silent - like it's said in the beginning, we are forerunners by nature!

Sari Vuorela, member of the municipal government

sari.vuorela@siikainen.fi