



Biomass

Reed briquettes instead of coal

Heating homes in the Danube Delta and adapting to climate change

The Danube Delta is known for having the widest compact area of reeds in Europe, a valuable asset when it comes to cope with climate change, though still not used to its full potential.



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1000 tones

BRIQUETTES FROM WASTE REED
WILL BE PRODUCED PER YEAR IN
VILKOVO, DANUBE DELTA

Building with reed

Exporting reed as a building material to the countries of Western Europe is an expanding business in Ukraine. About 10 enterprises in the Vilkoovo region do business by harvesting and exporting reed. In 2012 alone, about 13,460 tons of reed per year were collected from 3,500 hectares of flooded areas. The business is very important for the locals, the companies in Vilkoovo involving about 1,150 people, in other words almost one-sixth of the total population of the town. But these businesses also create, on the whole, an average of 1,000-2,000 tons of waste reed per year, a resource yet to be used. But what if we could heat up homes using this waste?

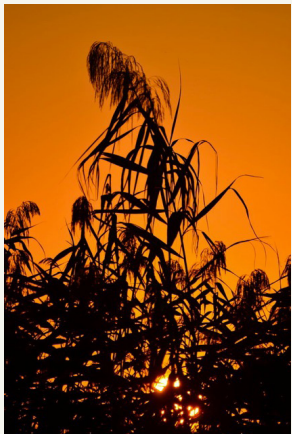
Heating homes with waste reed briquettes

Through the “Climate proofing the Danube Delta through integrated land and water management” we wanted to help communities benefit from this opportunity so far ignored. Given the lack of production of reed waste briquettes in Vilkovo a local green business scheme was set up, to use the available reed waste and transform it into raw material.

The briquettes, produced on the briquetting line owned by the **Municipal enterprise ‘Zmiinyi’**, will be used for heating the local public building instead of using coal in the new boiler installed also through the above mentioned project. The action reduced costs for heating arising from the use of fossil fuels, but has an impact on protecting the Delta and promoting the ecological restoration of wetlands. Green energy generated from reed briquettes contributes to reducing the carbon footprint in the selected pilot areas, since biomass can successfully replace coal.

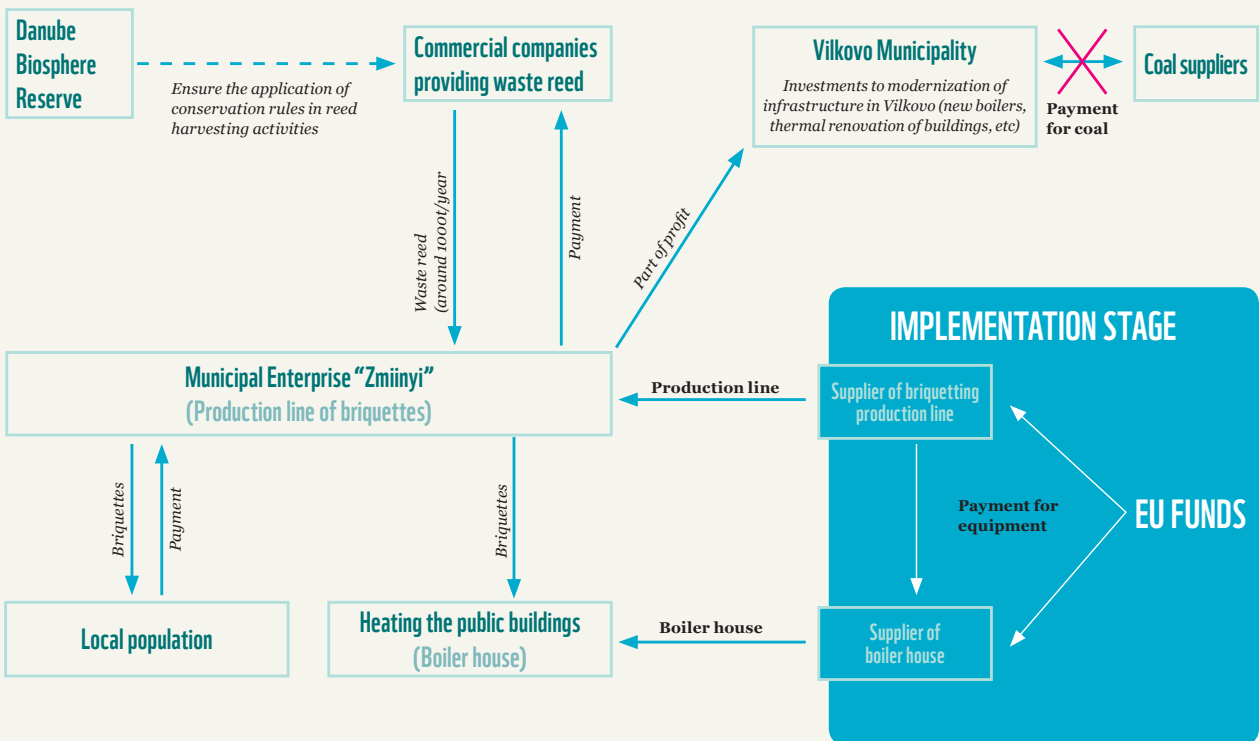
Furthermore it is planned that Danube Biosphere Reserve will provide verification that the entire amount of reed is harvested according to the established methodology and legislation regarding nature conservation.

The strategy implemented in the pilot area of Vilkovo shows how the community and the area can adapt in a natural way to climate change. Using reed as a biomass source and restoring wetlands in the Danube Delta to have more space for reed, the source of green energy, also creates new opportunities for local people and entrepreneurs interested in sustaining their livelihoods.



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The business scheme set up during the project implementation referring to the use of waste reed as a source for producing briquettes in Vilkovo (settlement in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta)



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.