

Result of the SWOT analyses, internal and external issues characterising biomass supply chain for wood pellets in Slovenia

Internal strengths

- S1. Automatic / autonomous operation
- S2. Higher energy content per volume
- S3. Use of wood residues (from industry)
- S4. Developed supply side
- S5. Useful also for larger Systems (micro and district heating systems)
- S6. Smaller storage place
- S7. Easy to use also in urban areas
- S8. Systems with large range of capacity (from 8 kWh to more MWh)
- S9. Easy way of transporting – also on larger distances

External opportunities

- O1. System of subsidies for modern boilers
- O2. Rural development program – support for buying machinery (wood chippers)
- O3. Strong foreign market (Austria, Italy)
- O4. Large potential in use of wood chips in public buildings

Internal weaknesses

- W1. Expensive technologies for production and use
- W2. Price of wood pellets
- W3. Problems with dust
- W4. Standards for quality are not used in practice – low quality pellets are used
- W5. Changing quality of slammer pellet producers
- W6. Storage of pellets for whole heating System?
- W7. Use of boilers which are “homemade or rebuilt from old oil boilers”

External threats

- T1. High number of small producers
- T2. No system for QA/QC for this smaller producers
- T3. More stringent legislation about emissions
- T4. More strict legislation about ash disposal
- T5. High competition with natural gas