Press Release

What if the millions of tonnes of wood discarded every year across Europe—much of it burnt or landfilled—could instead be recovered, reused, and recycled as a valuable resource?

In the European Union, construction and demolition activities contribute more than a third of all waste generated. In this waste composition, a significant volume of wood is embedded, including from the construction and demolition waste (C&DW) and furniture waste (10 million tonnes discarded yearly by businesses and consumers in EU). Very little gets recovered or recycled. Rest is either incinerated or landfilled, forfeiting billions in economic value.

The EU Circular Economy Action Plan has identified construction as a crucial area for intervention, highlighting the need for enhanced resource efficiency and a more sustainable management of materials and energy.

EU-funded Wood2Wood (W2W) project employs a cascade valorisation approach to improve resource efficiency and maximise value, targeting mainly the polluted wood from industrial and urban waste.

Using advanced sorting and separation technologies and digital tools, the EU-funded project will transform unused wood waste from C&DW and furniture into high-value products. This integrated approach combining technology, digital tools and supportive policy frameworks, will allow to demonstrate how wood can be recovered, recycled and upcycled into valuable resources to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy.

Our approach comprises of four key components:

1. Advanced separation and sorting technologies;
2. Upcycling processes and technologies;
3. Digital tools for improving circular flows of secondary materials; and
4. Supportive framework in policy, market, and skills.

Three distinct Use Cases will demonstrate the efficiency and sustainability of value chains, including producing wood without pollutants, bio-composite building materials, biopolymers, polyols, chemical detergents, and facilitating nutrient recovery. State-of-the-art technologies and digital tools will support the selection of optimal cascade paths for further use of wood products and their materials.

For more information, visit the Wood2Wood Project website.

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