

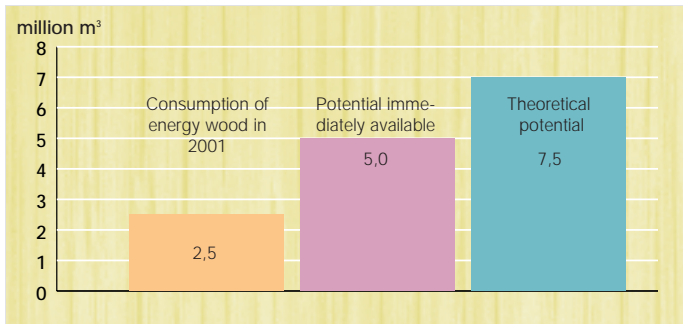
HEAT THAT GROWS ON TREES⁶

Short description of timber energy

- Along with hydro-electric power, wood is Switzerland's most important energy source.
- Wood is CO₂-neutral: in sustainably managed forests, the CO₂ (carbon dioxide) released when wood is burned is re-absorbed by the growing trees (thus, a balance is maintained between growth and combustion).
- Wood energy represents a welcome potential use for low-quality varieties.
- Wood energy creates and maintains jobs in Switzerland. The added value created remains in the region.

The status and potential of wood energy

Wood currently provides for 2.3 % of total energy consumption in Switzerland or around 5 % of the country's heating requirements. The sustainably available potential will accommodate at least the doubling of current use levels. Thus, around 10% of Switzerland's heating requirement could be covered without overharvesting the forest and without competing with higher quality wood use.



Energy wood data for 2001

Consumption of energy wood in 2001	2500000 m ³ wood
Substitution of energy wood for heating oil	500000 t oil
Reduction in burden on the atmosphere	1500000 t CO ₂

Economic advantages of energy wood

Financial flow	Wood	Heating oil	Natural gas
Region	52 %	16 %	14 %
Switzerland	48 %	25 %	12 %
Abroad	0 %	59 %	74 %
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %

100% of the capital invested in wood-burning systems is used within the region and in Switzerland. As opposed to this, 60% to 70% of the capital invested in conventional oil- and gas-fired systems goes abroad. Thus, wood energy makes an important contribution to the preservation and creation of employment, in particular in peripheral regions. Thus, compared with other energy sources, energy wood has important economic advantages to offer.