

Subsidies for carbon sequestration; fertilization of forests and increased seedlings density

Location

Country: Norway

Scale: National

Region:

Compensated /improved ecosystem services

- climate regulation– carbon sequestration

Management

Forest owners may apply for financial grants and refunds for the added cost of increased density of seedlings to achieve an optimal density of the stands or for fertilization of forests. Both measures will increase the amount of biomass and thus increase the sequestration and carbon storage.

For tree planting, the grants are given for up to 80% of the costs for planting up to more than 500 seedlings more than the minimum number per hectare. The minimum number of plants varies from 1000-2200 trees per hectare depending on the productivity of the site. A forest owner has to apply the municipality for refund no later than August 1st for planting done during spring, or November 7th for planting done during autumn.

For fertilization, 40% of the costs may be covered. A forest owner has to apply the municipality for refund as soon as possible when the fertilization is done, and no later than September 1st. There are limits on the volume of fertilizer used and restrictions on when to fertilize and how close to lakes and rivers fertilization may be carried out.

In 2016, the government granted 33 million NOK for these two measures. Thus, these measures and grants may establish a norm on forest management as a climate friendly measure.

Stakeholders

Sellers or service providers:

Forest owners may, by small changes in their management of the forests, improve the forests' CCS. The forest owners are both private persons and public authority.

Buyers and beneficiaries of services:

As this is a measure to reduce climate changes, most people are likely to benefit from it. Nevertheless, most people are most likely not willing to pay for this service.

Donors – funding agencies or sponsors:

There is no known donors for this ecosystem service except the government.

Intermediaries:

Forestry associations, forest/agriculture advisers in the municipalities etc. may help the forest owners.

Timeline

Establishment year: 2016

Time horizon: Long term, but depending on the national policies on forest and climate.

Status of PES: Active scheme

Availability of economic data

For 2016 and 2017, the refunds given for closer planting was 12,1 mill NOK and 10,9 mill NOK for fertilizing.

References / Source of information

Information about the schemes (Norwegian language only) is given at <https://www.landbruksdirektoratet.no/no/eiendom-og-skog/skog-og-klima/tettere-planting#forvaltning-og-kontroll> (closer planting) and <https://www.landbruksdirektoratet.no/no/eiendom-og-skog/skog-og-klima/gjodsling-som-klimatiltak#rutinebeskrivelse-for-tilskudd-til-gjoedsling> (fertilizing).