

Unit 2. Forest and climate crisis

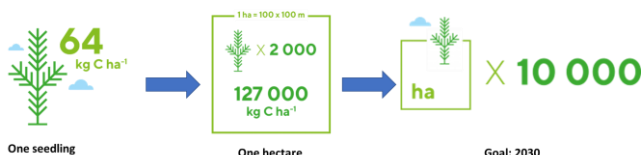
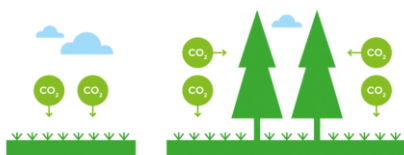
“Seedling Action” and “Youth in Climate Work” projects of Finnish 4H organization

Description

In “Seedling Action” (“Taimiteko”) activities, young people afforest areas by planting trees that function as new carbon sinks in Finland and at the same time gain work experience. Planting is an employment project, because through it especially young people under the age of 18 can get summer jobs.

Planting activity is a result of 4H's "Youth in Climate Work" pilot project, which aims to plant 10,000 hectares of new forest in Finland by 2030. The purpose of the seedling projects is to employ Finnish youth and increase the carbon sinks of Finland's forests by planting saplings. Usually, seedlings are planted in reforestation areas as part of normal forest management. However, in the planting process of Seedling Action, new forest is planted, and new carbon sinks are created in areas that are no longer in agricultural or forestry use which is estimated to be about 100,000 hectares. 4H's goal is to plant a total of around 20 million new trees by 2030

"We want to create opportunities for young people to work, and with Taimiteko we will be able to employ a significant number of young people. The content of work and the sense of meaning it brings is important to young people now and in the future. Taimiteko offers, in addition to work and salary, the opportunity to do real things to mitigate climate change," says Tomi Alakoski, CEO of 4H-Federation.



The concept and goal of Seedling Action

The idea of Seedling Action came originally from a private company, Best-Caravan Ltd., who contacted the Finnish 4H-Federation and wanted to compensate for the carbon dioxide emissions caused by the company. The company made accurate carbon dioxide calculations with the help of Natural Resources Institute Finland to estimate how many hectares of new forest should be planted each year in order to compensate for the emissions.



Young planters participating in Seedling Action

After the idea was formed, 4H contacted the Finnish Federation of Agricultural and Forestry Producers, which in 2019-2020 was involved in the pilot of the Youth in Climate Work project. Planting activity was based on this idea, and is now part of the strategy of the Finnish 4H organization

The President of the Republic, Sauli Niinistö, is the patron of the Youth in Climate Work project. and the Sapling Action is the project's permanent operating model. In November 2021, Seedling Action won the Responsibility Action of the Year award, given by the Finnish Chambers of Commerce.

Goals:

To create new carbon sinks and offer job opportunities for young people, especially in rural areas

Activities.

Planting of new trees, training, education,

Source:

Seedling Action project

<https://www.taimiteko.fi/taimiteko-in-english/>

4H Finland

<https://4h.fi/en/taimiteko-seedling-action/>