CONFERENCE IN KARLSTAD

PEOPLE AND NETWORKS MATTER
ENABLING SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY TRANSITION

27–28 MARCH 2019
KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

KAU.SE/EN/CENTRE-REGIONAL-STUDIES
Transforming the current economy into a ‘new’ bioeconomy needs changed institutional frameworks at regional and national level, sensitive to and inclusive of place-based knowledge.

New innovative products and services continue to emerge, which will further increase the demand for biomass. This transition leads to both an increased demand for land-based biomass and its multiple use. Important questions emerge: How to use the land? How can different interests be combined?

At this conference, industry, academia and public organisations will discuss challenges and opportunities and the role of people and networks in the new bioeconomy era. This conference seeks to better understand the role of people and networks in this transition.

THE CONFERENCE IS A PLACE FOR:

- Interaction between practitioners, policy makers and academics
- Joint reflection and development of a roadmap, strategies and policy recommendations to enable smoother transition towards bio-based economies in the Nordic countries
- Practitioners to learn from good business cases and practices
- Networking: Meet businesses, academia and policy makers working for sustainable bioeconomy transition
- Co-creation of policy recommendations and contribution to policy briefs.

TUESDAY 26TH OF MARCH

18:00 INFORMAL GET TOGETHER

Location: The Bishops Arms (Elite Stadshotell Karlstad)

Please note: food and drinks on 26th of March are not included in the conference fee.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Gabriel Henrique Lui – Environmental Analyst and General-Coordinator of Forest Economy at the Secretariat of Climate Change and Forests in the Ministry of the Environment, Brazil.
Gabriel Lui has held coordination and direction positions in socio-environmental management, rural sustainable development and control of deforestation with the Ministry of the Environment. He is a research associate at the Center for the Analysis of Social-Ecological Landscapes at Indiana University, USA and has his PhD in Applied Ecology from University of São Paolo, Brazil.

Prof. Pekka Leskinen – Head of Bioeconomy Programme, European Forest Institute.
Pekka Leskinen has broad research experience in the fields of sustainable use of natural resources, life cycle assessment and multi-criteria decision analysis. Before EFI, he has worked as a Research Professor at the Finnish Environment Institute, and for joint professor position of Finnish Environment Institute and University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences.

Prof. Olav Wicken – Professor at the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at University of Oslo, Norway.
Olav Wicken’s main research interests are in innovation processes and in the analysis of long term industrial development; primarily focusing on firms as well as industrial, regional and national development. His expert knowledge of renewable energy, industrial development, sustainability transitions and natural resources management in innovation processes, is of particular interest.

Thea Lyng Thomsen – Development consultant at GreenLab, Denmark.
Thea Lyng Thomsen is one of the driving forces behind initiative and development of the business park, which is located in Skive Municipality, Central Region Denmark. GreenLab is a green business park built upon a full-scale, integrated, intelligent net. Thea Lyng Thomsen works as a business platform driver with a focus on culture, innovation and impact. She has previously worked with the development of circular economy in a data driven perspective within construction and recycling of building materials in full-scale from a public position.

The conference will also highlight some good examples from the region of Värmland: Forest based bioeconomy in Värmland – a diversity of actors working together.
Examples from Värmland showing the work by different actors; business, university and regional authorities in collaboration with civil society, supporting a transition to a sustainable forest based bioeconomy.
DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 27TH OF MARCH
Location: Innovation Park

08:30–09:00  REGISTRATION

09:00–09:15  WELCOME AND OPENING OF CONFERENCE
Thomas Blom, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Karlstad University, Sweden.
Stina Höök, Regional Councillor, Region Värmland, Sweden.
Fredrik Lindroos, CEO, Innovation Park, Sweden.

09:15–10:30  KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
Keynote 1: Regions, natural resources and social development
Olav Wicken, professor at the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at University of Oslo, Norway.

Keynote 2: Driving a green transition in big bio clusters: the culture that we seek, and how global investments meets local ownership, knowledge and resources with an impact
Thea Lyng Thomsen, Development Consultant at GreenLab Skive in Region Midtjylland, Denmark.

10:30  COFFEE AND TEA BREAK
Help yourself to coffee or tea and go to four parallel workshops.

10:30–12:00  PARALLEL WORKSHOPS
Workshop A: Land-use conflicts, and management solutions to unlock the transition to a bio-based economy
Land is a finite resource different interests and agendas compete over. The protection of land through regulations and law has always caused controversy and conflict. With varying interests and objectives come also different means and modes of power. With a shift to a more enhanced bio-based economy, the competition over the use of land will become even more intense. In this session we welcome participants that contribute to a broadening of the understanding of land use conflicts and solutions in the Nordic countries.
Chair: Elin Slätmo, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio.
Workshop B: Local innovation networks as drivers of the bioeconomy transition
The transition from a fossil fuel-based to a bio-based economy and the
development of innovations that can facilitate this transition, require a strong
collaboration among different stakeholders. This session focuses on local
innovation networks, as important transition drivers. In this session we will seek
to illustrate how local innovation networks work in practice. This will be combined
with a more scientific focus on the local dimension discussing how we can
study and analyze such networks including what are the new opportunities and
challenges.
Chair: Julia Szulecka, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Technology, Innovation
and Culture, University of Oslo, Norway.

Workshop C: Power pitfalls in the sustainable bioeconomy transition:
A governance perspective
The Bioeconomy Transition involves different, multi-level, conflicting but
interrelated interests. The questions of ‘how’ and ‘who’ can mobilize key
resources are crucial to understand how power dynamics shape the transition
pathway and its sustainable outcomes. In this parallel session, we would like to
address ‘Governance’ as a process to manage, steer and coordinate activities
of public and private bodies and their interaction. Therefore, in this session we
will discuss on how governance can help foster collaboration and partnerships
among different stakeholders, and social and environmental innovation in the
bioeconomy.
Chair: Bianca Cavicchi, PhD Fellow, Department of Economics and Society,
NIBIO Norway.

Workshop D: Bioeconomy in Nordic countries: Smart and innovative
development opportunities or empty promises for communities and regions?
The session will discuss socioeconomic impacts and processes related
to bioeconomy-framed developments in Nordic countries or elsewhere.
Presentations will include, for example, industrial developments and their
role for local and regional development, innovative business models and
different types of entrepreneurship associated with the bioeconomy.
Chair: Olli Lehtonen, PhD, Luke – Natural Resources Institute Finland.

12:00–13:00 LUNCH AT NOVA MAT & MÖTEN
CASE: VÄRMLAND – THE LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATOR OF FOREST BASED BIOECONOMY
Location: Innovation Park and Karlstad University

13:00–14:30  PLENARY PRESENTATIONS
Forest based bioeconomy - the highest prioritised specialisation of Värmland’s Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy
*Anders Olsson, Manager of Research and Innovation, Region Värmland, Sweden.*

We bring the forest into the future
*Maria Hollander, CEO of the cluster organisation Paper Province, Sweden.*

The Academy for Smart Specialisation - the research and innovation collaboration between Region Värmland and Karlstad University 2016–2020
*Håkan Spjuth, Head of External Relations at Karlstad University, Sweden.*

14:30–15:00  COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

15:00–17:00  PARALLEL SESSIONS
Workshop 1: New ways of engaging with civil society
The ERDF-funded project “Climate smart innovation”: examples of activities at municipal level of broad engagement in relation to a transition to sustainable development. How can bioeconomy transition be inspired by other types of broad civil-society collaboration and what tools to use in user-driver innovation involving citizens and customers?

Workshop 2: Testbeds in Värmland as meeting places for researchers and regional firms
Meet researchers at Karlstad University’s research group “Pro2B – Processes and Products for a Circular Bio economy” and representatives from firms and projects in the region e.g. LignoCity and Wood Region. Demonstrations of some of the test beds at Karlstad University.

Workshop 3: Supporting innovation in practice – regional innovation processes for the forest based bioeconomy
This session focuses on innovation support particularly in relation to start-ups - from idea to commercialisation. Meet Victor Isaksen CEO of STING Bioeconomy incubator, Patrik Bångerius innovation advisor at Karlstad University and one of the start-up firms.

19:00  DINNER AT KARLSTAD CCC
DAY 2 – THURSDAY 28TH OF MARCH
Location: "Pedagogisk verkstad” 21A 258 in building 21, Karlstad University

09:00–09:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Keynote 3: From deforestation to forest restoration: options for integrating legal and economic instruments for increasing the forest area in Brazil
Dr Gabriel Lui, Economy Department/Ministry of Environment, Brazil.

09:30–10:30 THE FOUR PARALLEL WORKSHOPS (A-D) FROM THE MORNING OF 27TH OF MARCH CONTINUES
Focus on producing policy recommendations and presentations for plenum. This block is a one hour workshop in the same groups as day 1.

10:30–10:45 COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

10:45–12:00 PLENARY SESSION
The Future of the bioeconomy in Norden and beyond
Results from the workshop discussions including policy recommendations. The session pulls together input from keynotes, the parallel sessions and the Värmland case.

12:00–13:00 LUNCH AT KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

13:00–13:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Keynote 4: Transition towards circular bioeconomy – the role of forests
Pekka Leskinen, Head of Bioeconomy Programme, European Forest Institute.

13:45–14:00 CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
Conference fee: 2 300 SEK exclusive VAT. Last date of registration: 27th of February 2019.

KAU.SE/EN/CRS/CONFERENCE/ENABLING-SUSTAINABLE-BIOECONOMY-TRANSITION/

CONTACT
Sigrid Josefsson, Centre coordinator, CRS
E-mail: sigrid.josefsson@kau.se