



# Overview of the status in Denmark, Netherlands, Finland, UK, Switzerland and Canada

Workshop Nutrient Recovery from Waste

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RISE Research Institutes of Sweden

**Samhällsbyggnad**

**Energy and circular economy**



# Overview of presentation

- The following countries:
  - Denmark
  - Netherlands
  - Finland
  - UK
  - Switzerland
  - Canada

... will be commented  
regarding nutrient recycling with  
focus on phosphorus from sewage  
sludge

# Denmark

Aspect	Answer
Handling of sewage sludge today?	Appr. 75 % of sewage sludge goes to farmland. "No-problems" attitude to sewage sludge Some incineration around Copenhagen, interested in P extraction from ash
Any P recycling?	Yes, struvite production at some WWTP
Recycling via biogas/digestate?	Yes, biogas production from manure and food waste, appr 4 TWh (Sweden has 2 TWh)
Source separated systems	Limited experience

General comment: Denmark is a very intense agricultural land with an excess of P since the import of feed is large.

Danmark has 13 millions pigs, Sweden has 1,4 millions

# Netherlands

Aspect	Answer
Handling of sewage sludge today?	Spreading on land allowed but does not occur – no sewage sludge fulfil the criteria. Almost all sludge is burned
Any P recycling?	There is interest of P extraction from ash There are about 10 WWTP with P extraction
Recycling via biogas/digestate?	Yes, Netherlands has a lot of biogas plants
Source separated systems	Yes, Europes biggest system under construction!

General comment: Netherlands is also is a very intense agricultural like Denmark, with a surplus of phosphorus. Some companies refine organic (biological) fertilisers

# Finland

Aspect	Answer
Handling of sewage sludge today?	A majority is spread on farmland, no incineration
Any P recycling?	Finland want to be a frontrunner regarding nutrient recycling, started a program in 2017 A number of different projects regarding P recycling, e.g. RAVITA (reconstruction of WWTP)
Recycling via biogas/digestate?	Yes, Finland has some biogas plants
Source separated systems	Very limited

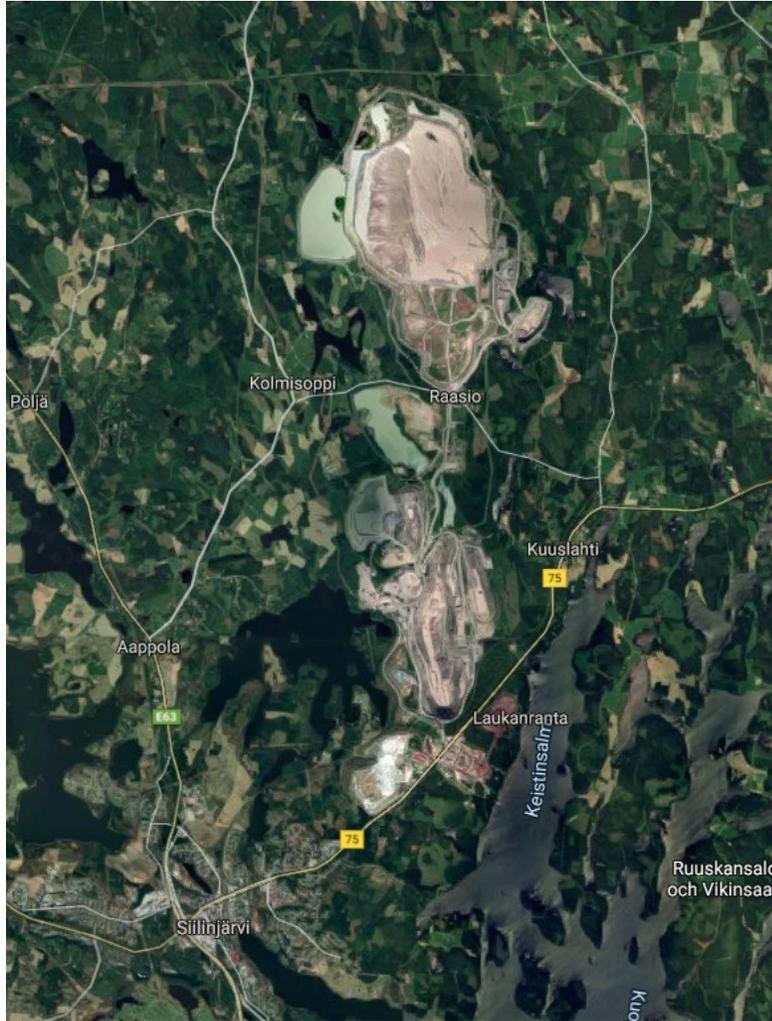


## Nutrient recycling – from vision to practice

Nutrient losses to water need to be reduced. This can be accomplished by sustainable use of nutrients and by recycling the nutrients contained in organic side streams. Researchers propose specific actions to speed up the changes needed for better nutrient recycling in Finland.

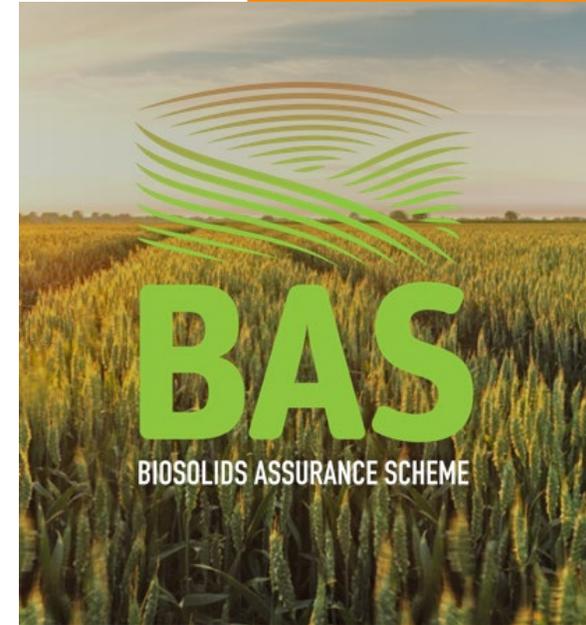
General comment: Finland has the only P-mine in EU, Siilinjärvi

# Finland – Siilinjärvi Phosphorus mine



# United Kingdom

Aspect	Answer
Handling of sewage sludge today?	Large share of the sewage sludge is spread on farmland. They have a system similar to swedish Revaq, called BAS Agricultural use is considered the <i>Best Practicable Environmental Option</i> (BPEO) by the UK Government
Any P recycling?	Not other than above
Recycling via biogas/digestate?	Yes a large number of plants, mainly in the agricultural sector
Source separated systems	Only at research level



# Switzerland

Aspect	Answer
Handling of sewage sludge today?	All sewage sludge is incinerated in mono-, waste- or cement incineration plants. Distribution on farmland prohibited.
Any P recycling?	No, but there is an interest to extract P from the ash
Recycling via biogas/digestate?	Yes, a large number of biogas plants
Source separated systems	No, only on a research level

# Canada

Aspect	Answer
Handling of sewage sludge today?	A large amount is spread on farmland, a quality control system is active, NASM (Non Agricultural Source material) which regulates the spreading Incineration is also common
Any P recycling?	Yes, mainly through struvite production (E.g. Ostara)
Recycling via biogas/digestate?	Yes, Canada has a large number of biogas plants
Source separated systems	Only on a research level

# Characterization regarding sludge use:

UK  
Finland

Large amount  
on farmland

Denmark  
Canada

Mix of sludge on  
on farmland, some  
incineration and struvite  
extraction

Netherlands  
Switzerland

Only incineration



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