

Conference & Tradeshow

European Pellet Conference

25 February 2026
Wels, Austria

**2026:
PELLETS –
ENERGY AND
MORE!**

**Largest
annual pellet event**

**Leading energy
tradeshow**

**10+ networking
hours**

www.wsed.at



European Pellet Conference 2026



Largest annual pellet event worldwide



Leading energy tradeshow
100 pellet-related exhibitors



10+ networking hours



450+ participants



50 countries



40 speakers

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Pellet Update Session: New EU policies and their impacts on pellet markets • Market updates and future trends • Supply chain developments • Funding and finance • End consumer trends

Pellets – energy and more! New opportunities (e.g. BECCUS, biochar, biomaterials) and how they will affect heating and electricity markets • Investment opportunities

Pellet Innovation Session: Trends across the pellet value chain: Heating and electricity solutions • Standardisation and certification • Pellet production and storage • Best practice examples

Pellet Planet Session: Market insights and outlooks on European and global markets by international experts

Pellet tradeshow: Leading tradeshow on renewable energy and energy efficiency • 73,000 visitors (2025) and over 100 pellet-related exhibitors

Young Biomass Researchers Conference: Presenting the work of young researchers • Best Young Biomass Researcher Award

Poster Presentation: Displaying bioenergy projects, innovations and EU project results to an international expert audience

	Tuesday 24 February	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
European Pellet Conference				
European Energy Efficiency Conference				
Energy Efficiency Policy Conference				
Industrial Energy Transition Conference				
Energy Communities Workshop				
Young Energy Efficiency Researchers Conference				
Young Biomass Researchers Conference				
Smart E-Mobility Conference				
Tradeshow				
Poster Presentation				

The largest annual pellet event worldwide!

With more than 450 participants each year, it is the meeting place for the global pellet community. Leading international speakers present the latest trends in markets, policies, technologies and innovations – helping you stay on top of developments in the pellet and bioenergy world.

Europe must urgently reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports. Pellets can play an expanding role in this transformation! While facing challenges such as increasing electrification, reluctance to invest or policy uncertainties, opportunities are emerging from new applications such as BECCUS, biochar and biomaterials.

Join us at the 2026 European Pellet Conference to explore how bioenergy is driving decarbonisation, energy security and the circular economy for a climate-neutral Europe. The event is part of the World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED), a leading conference on the energy transition and climate neutrality.

**The
entire
bioenergy
world!**



WHEN does it take place?

25 February 2026

WHERE does it happen?

In Wels/Austria. The region of Upper Austria is an ideal location for this conference: More than 25 % of all automatic biomass boilers sold in the EU are manufactured by Upper Austrian companies. Pellet heating systems have become a standard solution in the region.

HOW to join?

Mark your calendar and register today!
(www.wsed.at)

WHO attends the event?

The entire pellet community – over 450 experts from more than 50 countries each year!

- All business actors across the bioenergy value chain: forestry, fuels, logistics, equipment, energy companies, commercial and industrial pellet users, service providers, banks etc.
- The bioenergy research community
- Representatives of public bodies (e.g. EU institutions, national, regional and local governments)

*With the
World Sustainable Energy Days,
Upper Austria – a leader in the energy
transition – is the meeting place for
sustainable energy.*

*Europe has set itself the ambitious target of
becoming the first climate-neutral continent.
We present and discuss solutions to practically
implement the energy transition quickly. With
energy efficiency and renewable energy, we
will ensure competitiveness and
decrease energy costs!*

Markus Achleitner, Regional Minister
for Economy and Energy,
Upper Austria



European Pellet Conference 2026

25 February | 09.00

Pellet Update Session: What is new in policies and markets?

Europe must urgently reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports. Pellets can play an expanding role in this transformation! The session presents new EU policies, provides insights into the latest market developments and offers a strategic outlook for pellets in Europe and globally.

25 February 2026

- **Opening and welcome**
Gerhard Dell, ÖÖ Energiesparverband, Austria
- **Update on EU bioenergy policies**
Biljana Kulišić, European Commission, DG Energy
- **Bioenergy's role in the energy transition**
Andrew Klain, IEA Bioenergy
- **Best Young Biomass Researcher Award**
- **Pellet markets in Europe: current developments and outlook**
Gilles Gauthier, Hawkins Wright, Belgium
- **Bioenergy trends worldwide - opportunities and challenges**
Bharadwaj Kumamuru, World Bioenergy Association
- **Pellet heating: the heart of an intelligent home energy system**
Stefan Ortner, ÖkoFEN, Austria
- **Biomass supply chains between markets and geopolitics**
Magnus Schou Sørensen, CM Biomass, Denmark



Discovery Session: Pellets – energy and more!

The session explores how pellets are evolving beyond heat and power into a resource for the wider bioeconomy. It presents emerging opportunities from new applications such as biochar, BECCUS or biomaterials. It also highlights why energetic use of biomass continues to make sense also in the future.

- **Biomass beyond heat and electricity**
Franziska Klauser, BEST, Austria
- **Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage or utilisation (BECCUS): From innovation to deployment**
Niels Christian Bang, IEA Bioenergy/Ea Energy Analyses, Denmark
- **Energy or materials? Why biomass for energy will also make sense in the future**
Hubert Röder, HSWT - University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- **The European Biochar Market Report**
Hansjörg Lerchenmüller, Biochar Europe, Germany
- **More than heating – pellets as a carbon sink**
Christoph Ebetshuber, Guntamatic Heiztechnik, Austria

Chairperson:

Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband, Austria

Lunch and networking

Pellet Innovation Session

Innovation to scale up bioenergy for the energy transition! This session shows new technologies and implemented real-life projects across the pellet and bioenergy value chains, covering heating and electricity solutions, standardisation and certification as well as new business models.

- **Innovative pellet solutions from Upper Austria**
– Herbert Schwarz, Hargassner, Austria
– Werner Emhofer, Fröling, Austria
- **Wood pellets in arctic communities – climate, economic and social benefits**
Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Wood Pellet Association of Canada
- **Pellet certification - trace it, trust it!**
Carsten Huljus, Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP), UK
- **Insights from 15 years ENplus for wood pellets**
Hans Martin Behr, Deutsches Pelletinstitut, Germany
- **Pellet quality requirements for residential pellet stoves**
Robert Mack, Technologie- und Förderzentrum (TFZ), Germany
- **Safe storage of wood pellets – how to detect and prevent self-heating**
John Swaan, FutureMetrics, Canada
- **Small-scale carbon capture at a woodchip-fired power plant**
Ivan Derkink, Bright Renewables, The Netherlands
- **Helen Power Plant Salmisaari: Goodbye to coal, hello to pellets**
Jouni Koskinen, Valmet Technologies, Finland
- **Low-temperature dryers for pellet production**
Maxwell Yernaux/Georg Reis, Technic One Engineering, Belgium



25 February | afternoon

Pellet Planet Session

How can pellets contribute to the energy transition? This session brings together international experts to explore pellet market trends, emerging challenges, and future opportunities. A session focus is on rapidly evolving pellet markets in Asia.

- **Chairperson and opening**
Fahimeh Yazdan Panah, Wood Pellet Association of Canada on behalf of the European Pellet Council
- **Germany**
Martin Bentele, Deutscher Energieholz- und Pellet-Verband (DEPV)
- **Czech Republic**
Jan Habart, Czech Association for Biomass
- **Norway**
Steven Morris, Nobio / Solør Bioenergi
- **Brazil**
Jose Carlos Haas Junior, Haas Madeiras
- **India**
Ketaki Kokil, Ecosense Appliances
- **Indonesia**
Unggung Widhiantoro, IREEM
- **Vietnam**
Kim Anh Luong, Forest Trends Association

Conference dinner

25 February – 1 March

Tradeshow – pellet innovation in real life!

Visit a major tradeshow on sustainable energy with a strong focus on pellet-related exhibitors ("Energiesparmesse")! The tradeshow is held in parallel to the conference. Seize the opportunity to network in-person, on the tradeshow floor!

- strong focus on innovative solutions for sustainable heating
- Austrian and international companies present their latest product innovations

Practical information

- Wednesday, 25 February to Sunday, 1 March
opening hours: 9.00 - 17.00
- located next to the conference venue
- free entry for conference participants

- 100 pellet-related exhibitors
- 73,000 visitors in 2025
- 25 February – 1 March



UPPER AUSTRIA – A LEADER IN BIOENERGY

The region of Upper Austria, one of Austria's nine regions (population of 1.5 million), is a **leader in the clean energy transition**: Already 37 % of the primary energy is supplied by renewables, more than half of these renewables are clean and sustainable bioenergy. Through a smart combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy, greenhouse gas emissions of the entire buildings sector were reduced by 57 %.

The region's strategic approach to the energy transition supported the growth of a **vibrant industry** which successfully exports worldwide.

The region holds a **front-runner position in bioenergy heating** and is home to **leading bioenergy companies**.

- 18 % of the primary energy comes from sustainable bioenergy
- over 100 million Euro per year invested in new pellet boilers and fuels
- 35 % of all dwellings heated with clean bioenergy
- More than 25 % of all modern small-scale bioenergy boilers installed in the EU are manufactured by Upper Austrian companies.
- over 6,000 jobs in the bioenergy heating industry
- 57 % reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings sector
- 4.6 billion Euro invested annually in sustainable energy



Young Biomass Researchers Conference

24 February 2026

24 February | 14.00

This conference presents the work and achievements of young biomass researchers from all over the world.

- **Opening and welcome**
Gerhard Dell / Christiane Egger, OÖ Energiesparverband
- **Optimising a pellet-based cookstove**
Akshansh Kataria, EcoSense Appliances, India
- **The contribution of bioenergy to defossilising the Austrian energy system**
Doris Matschegg, BEST, Austria
- **Environmental preferences for HVO: a discrete choice experiment in Italy**
Davide Ricci Focaia / Luca Mariani, IUSS Pavia / Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy
- **Climate impact of bioenergy and wood: new emission factors**
Stefan Füchsl, TU Munich, Germany
- **Biomass characterisation using physics-informed neural networks**
Aleix Fornieles, Eurecat, Spain
- **Investigation of process routes for biomass utilisation as biofuel platform**
Stefanie Mörth / Christoph Markowitsch, Technical University of Leoben, Austria
- **Trade-offs between hydrogen demand, carbon and energy efficiency in biofuels**
Ebru Işık, Utrecht University, The Netherlands



- **Exploring a potential power to methane plant in the northeast of Austria**
Helena Katzenberger, BOKU University, Austria
- **Biogas upgrading experiment from a CH_4 + CO_2 gas mixture via clathrate hydrate**
Meku Maruyama, Keio University, Japan
- **AAIL as catalyst for direct transesterification: RSM, kinetics and thermodynamics**
Jivana Parameswaran, University of Petronas, Malaysia
- **Boosting biohydrogen production via coupled dark fermentation and MEC**
Soumyajit Chandra, Sharda University, India
- **Activated carbon and improved energy efficiency in biomass gasification**
David Gurtner, MCI Innsbruck, Austria
- **H_2 production via biological CO shift reaction in a reactor and H_2 separation**
Muhammad Maaz / Jonas Vogl / Maximilian Hettler, Hochschule Landshut, Germany
- **Hydrogen production from biomass/MSW via BECCS**
Akshay Bagde, University of Glasgow, UK
- **Enhancing biohydrogen production from agricultural waste in dark fermentation**
Jayen Aris Kriswantoro, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
- **Co-digestion of brewer's spent grain pulp and duckweed**
Jessica Di Mario / Alberto Maria Gambelli, University of Perugia, Italy
- **Tapping into rice straw's biomethane potential with hydrothermal pretreatment**
Pankaj Garkoti, IIT Bombay, India
- **Softwood lignin via GVL: high-purity recovery, β -O-4 retention & trade-offs**
Medya Hatun Tanis, Lund University, Sweden
- **Hydroponics effluent to biochemical-rich biomass via microalgal photogranules**
Harshit Tiwari, Indian Institute of Technology, India
- **Biomass influence on fast pyrolysis products at 900°C for bio-based chemical looping**
Alice Wittmann / Guillaume Gerandi, Université de Haute-Alsace, France

Chairperson:

Elisabeth Wopienka, BEST, Austria

Conference dinner



Young Biomass Researchers Posters



- **Pellet combustion: strategies for the reduction of pollutant emissions**
Julien Cottineau / Julie Schobing, Université de Haute-Alsace, France
- **Ionic liquid-derived lignin pellets for clean combustion**
Marcell Gyurkač, National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia
- **Biochar production and characterisation by pyrolysis of oil palm biomass**
Heidi Teran Pradilla / Akshay Bagde, University of Glasgow, UK
- **Urban biomass to biochar: effect of sludge pyrolysis on phosphorus leachability**
Stella Špirochová, UCT Prague, Czech Republic
- **Techno-economic analysis of TAD of napier grass**
Gaganpreet Kaur / Rakesh Godara, NIT Jalandhar / SSS-NIBE, India
- **Interactions between natural hydrogen and natural gas hydrates**
Meku Maruyama, Keio University, Japan
- **Size effects of TMDs in electrocatalytic N_2 reduction to NH_3**
Yiğit Osman Akyıldız / Emre Aslan, Selçuk University, Türkiye
- **Pollutant and GHG quantification in tractors via thermal imaging processing**
Gabriel Juraski, State University of Campinas, Brazil
- **Advancing the water-energy-food nexus through tannery wastewater biorefineries**
Philadelphia Ngobeni / Ashton Mpofu, University of Cape Town / AfriVolve Group, South Africa
- **Biomass-based green H_2 via pyrolysis and photocatalysis**
Buket Guntay / Remzi Mısırlılar, Konya Science Center, Türkiye
- **Bio-energy management from a micro-algae bio-computational based reactor**
Maryam Roohabadi, University College Dublin, Ireland
- **A novel microalgae based pyrolysis route for enhanced methanol production**
Tuğçe Özcan / Oğuzhan Kaya, ERCET, Türkiye
- **Biomass interaction with NTP for syngas synthesis**
Wondmagegn Wonago Kululo, Wolkite University, India

The conference organiser: OÖ Energiesparverband

The OÖ Energiesparverband (ESV) is the energy agency of Upper Austria. It drives the energy transition by promoting energy efficiency, renewables and e-mobility. It supports energy technology companies in the framework of the Cleantech-Cluster Upper Austria.

Practical information



Date:
25 February 2026



Venue:
Stadthalle Wels, Pollheimerstrasse 1
4600 Wels, Austria



Registration:
online at www.wsed.at



Conference fees

245 € Pellet Conference (25 February)
420 € all WSED conferences (24 - 27 February)
65 € for the Young Energy Researchers Conference (24 February)

All fees include entrance to the tradeshow, lunches / dinners and conference documentation.
All fees plus 10 % VAT. For student fees see www.wsed.at



Conference languages

English, German (simultaneous interpretation)



How to reach Wels?

- by railway: direct connections from Vienna and Vienna airport, Salzburg, Linz, Munich, etc.
- by car: A1 and A25 motorways
- by air: airports in Vienna (222 km from Wels), Salzburg (110 km), Munich (247 km)



European Pellet Conference 2026

Date

25 February 2026

Venue

Stadthalle Wels, Pollheimerstrasse 1
4600 Wels, Austria

Organiser and conference office

OÖ Energiesparverband
Tel. +43/732/7720-14386
office@esv.or.at | www.wsed.at

Registration

Online at www.wsed.at




450 participants
50 countries
40 speakers



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Innovation, Mobility
and Infrastructure
Republic of Austria

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Economy, Energy
and Tourism
Republic of Austria

 FEDARENE



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