

## Summary

The task of the present study was to explore the balance between ecological, economical, forestry- and/or environmental – technological views and legal aspects of biomass – recycling and disposal, respectively.

In detail, this paper specifically focuses on biomass derived from the surrounding of railway tracks of the Austrian Federal Railways. The geographical regions under study include the areas of Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Salzburg, as well, as the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Current legal regulations do not allow to burn down biomass material along railway embankments. This burning down and the establishment of fire prevention sectors interfere with current nature conservation laws, but special exceptions are integrated in the Forestry Law.

Therefore state-of-the-art technologies to collect and to treat biomass, that are compatible with legal regulations had to be evaluated.

As a result, the cooperation with already existing biomass – recycling – facilities along the railway tracks is proposed.

Furthermore reflections are made on the feasibility of company – owned and company – driven biomass – recycling – plants.

If logistics prove to be manageable, the proposals of the present study could be extended to the entire area of Austria.