With the provided by EU assistance to support the transition to a green economy in Belarus, the Goznak paper mill has significantly upgraded its production of recycled paper. Before the pilot initiative, the mill could only produce low-grade paper from recycled materials: now, with new equipment purchased with EU funds, the mill delivers quality office paper, at hugely reduced cost.

- Raw material costs down €800,000/year
- Fuel and energy costs down €17,000/year
- New jobs created and better conditions for workers

The paper mill was one of 23 pilot initiatives supported by the EU across Belarus for a total budget of €5 million.

“We were interested in recycling waste paper for a long time: investing in new equipment has allowed us to recycle waste paper into quality white paper, reducing raw material costs and saving energy.”

Aliaksiej Kashyn, Goznak paper mill, Barysaŭ

Find out more:
www.greenlogic.by and www.green-economies-eap.org
Healthy peatlands are essential to preventing CO₂ emissions. The EU provided support to clean and preserve the Zvaniec and Sporauskaje fens in Belarus, which together absorb and accumulate 4,100 tons of CO₂ a year.

What was done?
• 714 hectares of peatland have been cleaned
• 1,800 tons of dry wood and 0.9 tons of reed have been harvested
• 3,500 ha of shrubs, reeds and trees have been cut
• 2,500 tons of dry biomass harvested and pelleted for use as fuel, which will result in reduced emissions of 15.6 tCO₂ eq/ha/year
• improved environment for the preservation of endangered wildlife

Find out more:
www.climaeast.eu
and www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/emerald-network

As the head of the executive committee of her village, Angela Timoshenko deals with the management of forest resources, which provide heat, food and jobs to her community. She worked in partnership with the EU-funded forestry protection programme FLEG II, whose research on forest dependency in Belarus helped communities like Angela’s to use forest resources more effectively.

In addition, the project supported Belarus in developing its Strategic Forestry Development Plan for 2015-2030, aiming at creating productive and sustainable forests, along with the conservation of their biological and landscape diversity.

Find out more:
www.enpi-fleg.org/activities/belarus/

“So far, we have cleaned up around 700 hectares out of the planned area. It is more than we expected.”
Vadim Protasevich, Director Sporauski National Reserve

“I want to leave the forests to my children in the same condition as they are now.”
Angela Timoshenko

Looking forward
To help deliver on its commitments the EU is launching two major initiatives:
• EU4Environment integrates in a single strategic framework initiatives to achieve: greener decision making – sustainable economy and green growth – ’smart’ environmental regulation – ecosystem protection – knowledge sharing
• EU4Climate will support the Eastern partner countries to implement their climate policies by contributing to low emission and climate resilient development, and helping them to meet their commitments under the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change

KEY STATISTICS
To find key environmental statistics for Belarus on air pollution, biodiversity, waste, etc. visit the portal of the EU-funded project for shared environmental information systems – ENI SEIS II East.

www.eni-seis.eionet.europa.eu/east