

Collaboration agreements between municipalities and the Mid-Sweden University

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History

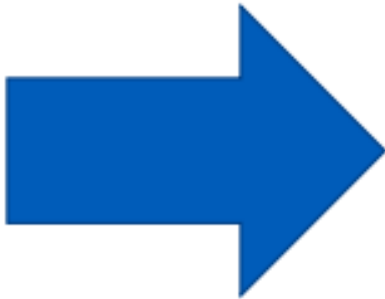
- **Östersund** – 48 msek, 2019-2022 (Start 2011)
- **Sundsvall** – 40 msek, 2018-2021 (Start 2014)
- **Härnösand** – 14 msek, 2016-2020
- **Timrå** – 8 msek, 2018 – 2021
- **Örnsköldsviks kommunkoncern**, 4 (kommun) + 2 msek (bolag), 2019-2022





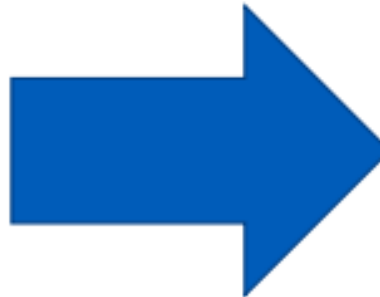
Development of the collaboration

2014



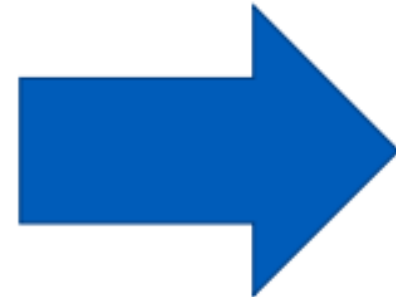
- Developing a good practice for initiation and review of research actions
- Mostly pre-study project

2016



- Wider mix between pre-study projects and larger project
- First projects shared between municipalities

2020



- Research programs including several municipalities
- Expansion of number of agreements

Current status

- New periods for agreements have been signed for the all municipalities
- New agreement with the municipality of Sollefteå and ongoing discussions with Nordanstig municipality
- Process to form larger common research programs in the area of health care and education
- A new process for collaboration and knowledge sharing of R&D between municipalities



Research programs

- Building strong research environment in important service sectors for the municipalities
 - Focus on building a common R&D culture
 - Portfolio of projects selected to build quality and best practice as well as provide a strong position of the academic research
 - National visibility
 - Funding for research
 - Attracting talent to the region
 - Stronger recruitment to education programs
 - Competence development for all partners

Clustering of subjects into thematic research areas

- Research centers
 - DEMICOM – media and communication
 - STC – Industrial IT and sensor technology
 - FSCN – Forest industrial research
 - STRC – Sports technology
- Thematic research
 - KOD - Quality management and digitalization
 - NHU - Natural science and sustainable development
 - MOD - Mathematics and didactics
 - DES – Design and art

Formal initiation and decision process



Dialogue

- Organizational need
- Academic challenge and relevance
- Leadership
- Long term vision

Proposal

- Objectives and deliverables
- Co-financing
- Long term effects
- Future work

Quality process

- Presentation
- Research relevance
- Implementation
- Benefits for society
- Profiling and long term vision

Decision

- Collaboration board
- Consensus
- Review
- Vice chancellor and chair of the municipality gets the final word

More than 80 projects/pre-studies over a wide range of fields





Between 2014-2020 spin-off projects with a turn over of 280 MSEK



Some examples

- BioRem Fiber

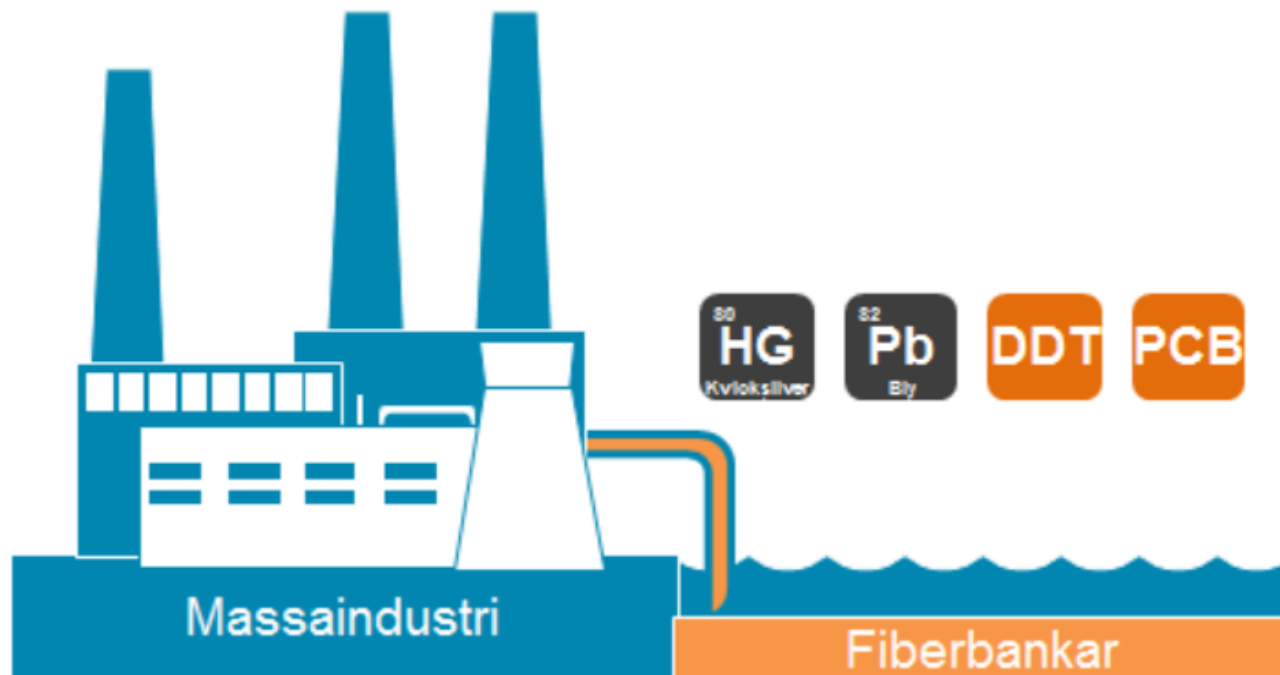


Within the BioRem Fiber research project, the goal is to develop market-adapted environmental technology to clean up fiber banks along the coast of Västernorrland with the help of fungi, plants and bacteria, so-called bioremediation.



BioRem Fiber

- The fiber banks have been formed through emissions of contaminated process water from the wood and pulp industry and contain environmentally hazardous heavy metals and organic pollutants.

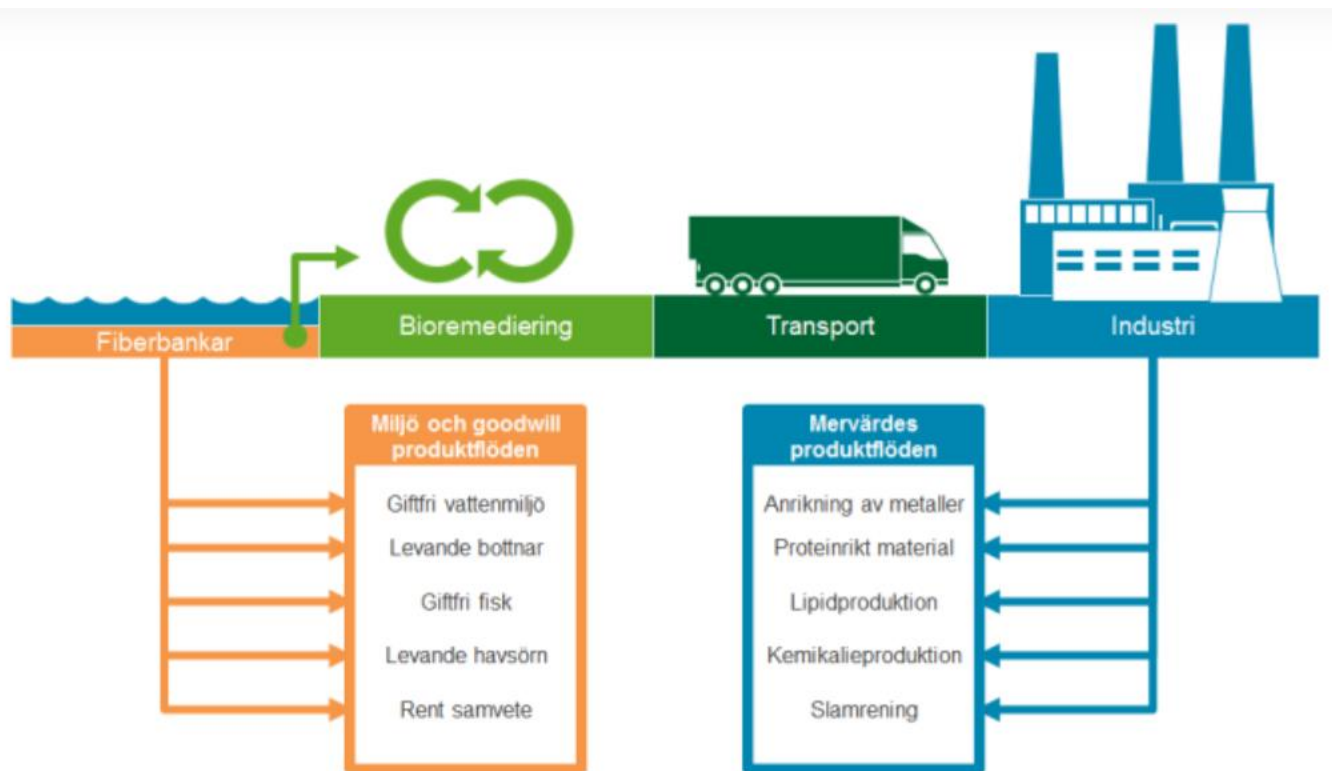


BioRem Fiber

- The toxic content of the fiber banks has been mapped by, among others, the County Administrative Board of Västernorrland and Sweden's geological survey and now the next step needs to take.
- The project target to contribute to a sustainable environment while developing processes for detoxification of the fiber bank material as well as production of value-added products from the detoxified material.
- Joint efforts between the Mid-Sweden University, municipalities, industrial partners and the county environmental authorities.



BioRem Fiber





National impact

- Academic research – publications and knowledge creation
- Development and evaluation of CleanTech procedures by industrial partners
- Influence authorities and companies on the importance of addressing environmental problems related to fiber banks
- Attracting national and international funds for R&D to handle different aspects of the environmental challenge

From pre-study program to a national research program

- Mid Sweden University receives SEK 17.3 million from state research funder Forte to study local labor market programs for six years in the research program "Local labor market programs - Challenges of and for an inclusive labor market".
- - We hope that with our research we will find ways and means that help groups that are far from the labor market to enter working life and get their own livelihood.
- The researchers focus on local initiatives in Västernorrland and the Gothenburg region, with a special focus on municipal initiatives.



Some advice:

1. Start by building trust and respect among university researchers and intermediate officials in relevant public organisations.
2. Municipalities or regions. Get to know each other.
3. Try to find a public challenge that interest researchers. Based on common interest, try to stimulate research questions benefiting both parties.
4. Try acting quickly, but in small steps. It takes time to build consensus.
5. Management of expectation is key and failures a prerequisite for success.
6. Financing all organisations contribute equal

Thank you !