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Cascading use of wood- in time and in value

The concept of 'cascade use' or 'cascading of wood' has been highlighted in the recent EU policy discussions on forests and energy. The concept of cascading use of biomass can be defined as 'cascading in time' meaning that the life span of biomass use is increased (e.g. paper recycling). It can also be defined as 'cascading in value' meaning that the maximum value of the whole life cycle of biomass is gained through optimising the use of biomass for multiple applications. The concept of biorefinery, where biomass is sustainably processed into a range of marketable products and energy, is an example of cascading in value approach and in line with the principles of circular economy. Cascading in time implies a system in which biomass goes through a series of material uses, by reuse and recycling, until it is used for energy recovery. This presentation discusses why cascading in time and cascading in value (biorefinery) should both be recognized and seen as complementary concepts.

References:

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