

CASE STUDY

INDUSTRIAL SYMBIOSIS IN KEKAVA

Collaborating for green transition



Background

The collaboration between the CleanR plastic recycling facility and their neighbouring business Kekava foods provides a good example of the opportunities for industrial symbiosis provided by co-location and business proximity in industrial zones.

Kekava foods was founded in 1967 and is the leading poultry producer in Latvia as well as one of the leading producers in Baltics, employing 890 people. Just over 1 km from their full cycle (egg to poultry product in shelves) production facility in Kekava, is a relatively small plastic recycling plant (700 tonnes per month) belonging to the CleanR Group. CleanR is a group of leading companies in the environmental services sector in Latvia providing waste management service, cleaning and roads and urban maintenance to over 50,000 customers all over Latvia.

Thanks to their close proximity, along with a shared ambition to improve their environmental impact, both companies identified a potential symbiosis focussed on reducing their water usage.

Kekava foods consumes approximately 700,000 m³ of water annually and strives to reduce this amount as part of its comprehensive sustainability strategy. CleanR also has a high demand for to feed the cleaning element of their plastic recycling process.

Today the wastewater from Kekava foods is treated onsite by CleanR, who use it in their cleaning process. The parts they can't use are treated by Kekava municipality before being returned for reuse by Kekava foods.

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The EcoCore Project

Green Transition in Small Cities along Transport Corridors

‘THIS IS A WIN, WIN SITUATION’

Iveta Bikse, Sustainability Manager,
Kekava Foods



Benefits:

- The collaboration benefits both Kekava Foods and CleanR
- Kekava Foods has been exclusively using green energy at its facilities in Latvia since 2021 and it aims to reduce water consumption by 1.8% by 2027.
- CleanR aims to become climate neutral by 2050. Resource consumption, including the consumption of water is a critical part of this.
- This collaboration has provided Kekava Foods with additional water volume - an essential resource for their production facility. It also means that they use fewer chemicals to purify the water, and avoid penalties for water pollution.
- CleanR benefits from not having to invest in and build additional water infrastructure, saving time, money, resources and avoiding related environmental harms.



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URBACT



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