Alise Kristāla

Biomass cogeneration plant Fortum in Jelgava

For a long time Humans have used the resources of our planet, and they have never run out as quickly as today. That’s why we need to take care of the Earth and make sure that it also remains green in the future. Factories must follow all processes, procedures to not harm our environment. During the virtual tour, I learned what processes biomass cogeneration plant Fortum in Jelgava follows in order to preserve natural resources. It fuels biomass, uses equipment to treat flue gas, supplies most of city Jelgava.

This company produces heat and electricity at the same time by burning biomass. Producing two products in one process saves fuel, energy, time, and is very beneficial. Using biomass preserves non-renewable natural resources of our planet, such as coal, natural gas and oil. However, Biomass consists of agricultural and forestry residues that can be regenerated.

Fortum uses flue gas cleaning equipment to reduce harmful fumes going into the atmosphere. This process is important because the unnecessary smoke and fumes entering the atmosphere deplete the planet's ozone layer, which protects the Earth from global warming. Purifying the air from fuel emissions reduces the likelihood of acid rain, which also causes a great deal of damage to nature. They change the acidity of the water, affecting the animals and plants that live in it, and cause great damage to forests.

The company heats most of the residents' houses, offices, shops and public buildings in Jelgava. As Jelgava is the fourth largest city in Latvia, it saves construction resources, as there is no need to build other stations. Construction would require more materials, space and would affect the environment of surrounding place. With one full-fledged biomass cogeneration plant, I think, the work is more efficient and more environmentally friendly than with several such plants.

The biomass cogeneration plant Fortum in Jelgava was opened in 2013, it was the first kind of such company in Latvia. I hope that in the coming years, this company will continue to develop, and other companies will follow suit to jointly improve the environment, save natural resources, take care of our planet.