



# SHARE

Social Housing Action to  
Reduce Energy Consumption



## Case Study 6



## Firewood stacking in Estonia

The burning of wood logs for home heat is common throughout the Estonian rural areas and villages. In these areas many of the residents are retired people and in many cases they have a relatively low income. With rising oil and gas prices, wood heat is one way to reduce the fuel bills.

At the same time for many people wood heating is a life style.



A prudent householder, who lives in a house with wood stove heating, usually stores firewood in the early summer for at least one winter season.

Unfortunately not everybody has a woodshed for storing the wood in good conditions, and in any case open air storage helps the drying process as wood is not sold already sufficiently dried.

There is a great demand for wood, so everything that comes from the forest is

SHARE is an Intelligent Energy Europe Project working in eight European areas to develop energy efficiency and low carbon technologies in social housing. For more information about the SHARE project and for other case studies see the project website:

[www.socialhousingaction.com](http://www.socialhousingaction.com)

needed and sold sooner or later.  
Before stacking a pile of wood it is recommended to let the logs just lie in a heap for a while



Some people find that stacking a regular freestanding pile isn't as easy as they expected. You need to build the piles along a wall or wedge sticks against the piles to give them some stability.

A practical and aesthetically pleasing solution is to create a round woodpile that looks a bit like a haystack. Despite the exotic appearance, making such a woodpile is very simple.




## Steps to making round woodpile:

- ❖ First look at how much fire wood you have to stack and decide how big the round woodpile will be.
- ❖ Mark the area out on the ground to make it easier to stack. Nobody has said, that pile must be perfectly round - oval is also interesting
- ❖ It is advisable to stack the bottom row more sparsely, so you can correct the shape more easily.
- ❖ Logs must be stacked bark down
- ❖ Logs should slope inwards – it is safer and the pile won't fall apart. If some logs slope outwards, place some across them in the next layer
- ❖ It is important to reduce the pile diameter as you build upwards.
- ❖ You can throw logs into the middle, still with the bark down., and filling the pile as evenly as possible
- ❖ Towards the top, you can start to let logs slope outwards gradually
- ❖ For the top layer the bark side must be upwards – like a roof, so the snow and rain don't damage the wood. The top of the pile can also be covered with waterproof covering to keep off rain but do not cover the side

### Contact Details

Name: Elmu Potter  
Organisation: REC in Estonia  
Telephone: +3725210530  
E-mail: [elmupotter@hotmail.ee](mailto:elmupotter@hotmail.ee)

Intelligent Energy  Europe

The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not represent the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein