



LEADER European Awards 2023

Application Form

Presentation

Project Name	Ödevata Biochar Project
Name of the Project Bearer	
Legal Structure of the Project bearer	Hans Magnus Axelsson – enskild firma
Name of corresponding LAG	SydostLeader, Storgatan 4, S-361 30 EMMABODA info@sydostleader.se
Country or region	Sweden
Name and email address of the applicant (this will be the main contact during the application process)	Malin Axelsson and Magnus Axelsson malin@odevata.se

Budget items

Total project amount	286 000 Sek
EAFRD Amount	100 000 Sek
Names of co-funders	Malin Axelsson and Magnus Axelsson Ödevata Gårdshotell & FiskeCamp

Project summary

Present the project in a few words and in a communicative way (this paragraph will be used as a subtitle) (200 words maximum).

The project idea is to test and create knowledge about the possibilities of biochar within SydostLeader's geographical area. This will be performed in two different ways. Two test models for environmentally friendly biochar plants are developed, a pilot project for testing a biochar burner, there will be built handling machines to take care of biocoal, a large event with information about biocoal is carried out and the local biochar network with about ten people and entrepreneurs is developed and expanded. The first test model to be built is a simple, modified biochar production model suitable for the horticulturalist. This model, Biochar garden, does not extract heat but produces biochar in a clean and environmentally friendly way. Within the framework of the project, we will build two prototypes and develop them so that they are user-friendly and take local conditions into account. They will be used to spread information about biochar and in a practical and educational way show the technology of producing biochar in an environmentally friendly way.

Detailed presentation of the project

Present the project concisely (500 words maximum). Please include precisions on:

- Project location
- Elements of context (need for action / problem)
- Objectives
- actual or expected outputs
- the role of LEADER in the project (funding, support, networking, etc.)

The project is located in Ödavata, Emmaboda municipality, South East Sweden. The project addresses problems of environmental issues as negative emissions play an increased role in reducing the effects of global warming. Production and use of biochar is a way of creating negative emissions.

Objectives of SydostLeader strategy is that the area's needs and capabilities can then be summarized into three broad goals:

1. Increased attractiveness
 2. Balanced and sustainable living
 3. Strategic partnerships for local development and growth
- The project has a bearing on all of these objectives.

The actual results are far beyond expectations and a real success, the results has been spread across Sweden with more than 40 active ambassadors and partners established such as companies, universities, the church, voluntary organizations and the general public. - They are ready to spread and share the knowledge in the rest of Europe

SydostLeader has mostly been the funding and supporting partner. The project has also been designated to the best Leaderproject during this programperiod in comparison with 70 other projects with the motivation: "whit such a dark result they give us hope on a bright future"

Emblematic / innovative character of the project

Present the innovative/emblematic character of the project (300 words maximum).

Why is this project a priority for LEADER in your strategy?

- How did the project address a major challenge in your strategy (e.g. demographic change, environmental issues, social issues)?
- How could the project be transferred to other LAGs?

Quote from our strategy:

“We must develop environmental measures that promote the hospitality industry and entrepreneurship and improve the quality of life. Both wind and hydropower as well as bioenergy are areas that can be better developed in our area and many places also have good conditions for alternative renewable energy sources. Measures for climate-smart energy access and a balanced and sustainable living environment are thus crucial for the development area's future.”

Says it all! The project addresses both environmental issues, entrepreneurship and also using those issues in developing there visitors center.

There are many different ways the ideas can be transferred to other LAGs and the project has already developed materials and can hold courses and trainings on site in Ödevata and are completely open to sharing their knowledge with others.

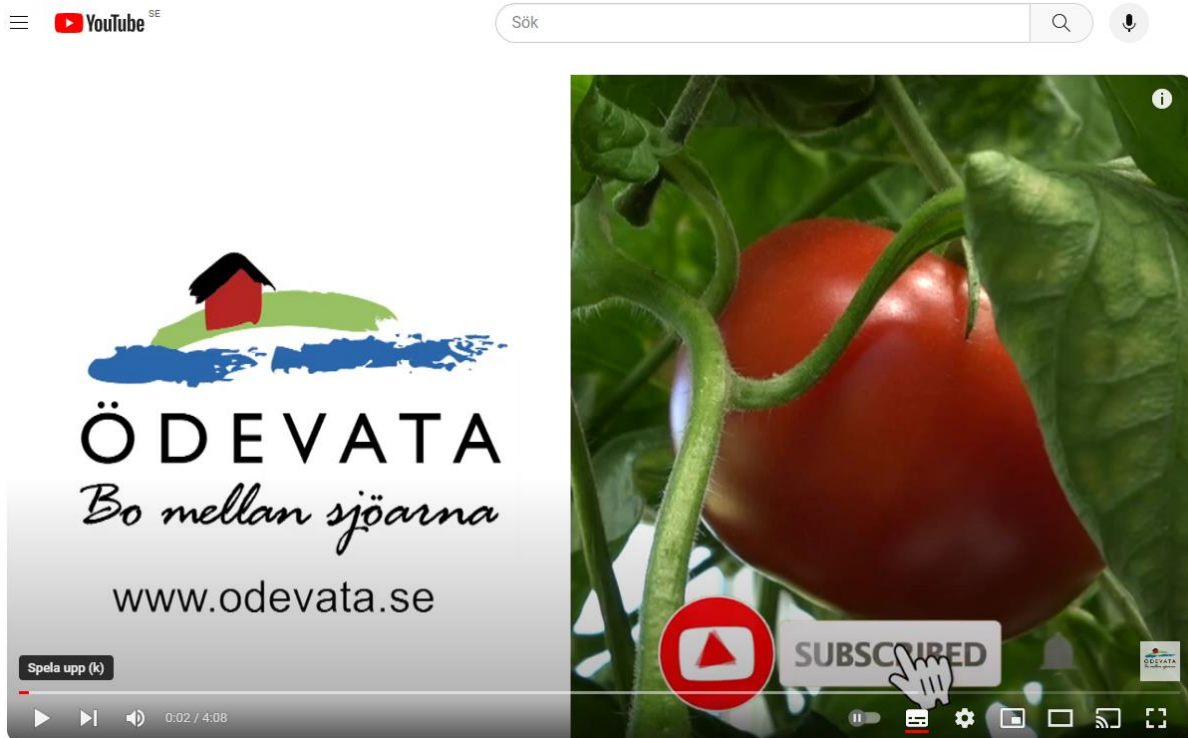
- So anyone who wants to collaborate, just get in touch via sydostleader.se or directly to Ödevata <https://www.odevatagardshotell.se/en/contact/> and you will be provided with material which is produced in English. Some material enclosed.

Photos / illustrations of your project

Insert a few photos or illustrations of the project or links to videos or communication materials.

Youtube. Subtitle are changeable into english.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C10NweT20oQ>



Welcome to Ödevata

Ödevata is an oasis in the wilderness of Småland since 1880

Sustainable lifestyle and tourism



Book a climate-smart experience - stay at our farm hotel (which has a very high standard), plan a rewarding study visit, or host your next conference with us here at Ödevata.



Welcome to Ödevata

Ödevata is an oasis in the wilderness of Småland since 1880.

We provide holiday accommodations and host conferences with the focus on sustainability. We are a holiday destination where you get closer to nature, each other and yourself. With care and dedication, we offer a meeting place for climate-positive experiences.

Our passion - Change

The common theme for Ödevata is to achieve sustainable lifestyle and tourism.

We, Malin and Magnus, are passionate about change. We strive to become the most sustainable tourist establishment in Sweden, perhaps worldwide. At the same time, we also aim to be climate-positive. We want to contribute to a stable climate, not just to cope with it.

Therefore, we are not just spending the night in beautiful surroundings. We are a positive force; we want to



save the world together. We want to show that it is easy and enjoyable to take responsibility. We share our story so that more can be inspired and learn from our experiences.

We simply want Ödevata to show the way.

Fascinating history

Ödevata has a fascinating history. It is, today, a beautiful and red themed courtyard surrounded by lakes, but it was a large-scale farm in the beginning. Parts of the farm date back to 1880. After Ödevata became state property in 1920, three different types of business operated and remained here until 1997. There were, for example, Sweden's first workhouse for "neglected family fathers". During the Second World War, Ödevata was a refugee camp and then it became an open correctional facility with about 40 employees and 60 interns. Afterwards, Ödevata was deserted for almost 10 years, until we bought it in 2005. Back then the farm was in a state of decay with overgrown vegetation.

Biochar as a climate benefit

Today Ödevata is a meeting place for climate-positive experiences and biochar plays a major part.

Biochar, or biocharcoal, has a fantastic potential to support a climate-smart and sustainable society. It can work as a soil amendment, sewage and water purification filter, animal feed supplement, carbon dioxide sink, enhancer for trees in the city, foundation for football fields ... etc.

Together with others, we carry out innovative biochar projects, such as green roofs grown in biochar and water purification in an aquaponic system using biochar.

We use biochar in several stages. It starts off as an animal feed supplement and bedding for our chickens, then a filter system in our aquaponic cultivation, and later as nourishment for our, the hotel guests' and our neighbours' compost buckets. Fully loaded with nutrition, we finally use the biochar as soil amendment for our crops. It then captures carbon dioxide, becoming a carbon dioxide sink, for thousands of years.

We can produce biochar in four different ways. Magnus has built and developed various models to show that almost anyone can make biochar.



We use them in our courses to spread knowledge and inspire others to do the same or better. Together we can save the world.

1. The wood chip boiler has been redesigned and can now produce biochar too. It runs continuously and provides heat to the entire establishment, as well as to our Conservatory of the Future. It also gives our guests hot water.
2. Magnus has also built a biochar oven. It is a so-called batch model, in the sense that it runs from time to time, but can produce a lot of biochar for more frequent biochar users. It is an educational and inspirational machine - a modern coal mill from Australia. It can also be connected to the heating system.
3. The "Kontiki" is a smaller garden model. It is portable, and can convert twigs and branches into biochar. "Kontiki" is perfect for use in one's own garden. For us at Ödevata, it is a good educational tool at our various events and courses about biochar production.
4. Grilling should not only remind you of summer, but also Ödevata! Magnus has designed several unique biochar grills that our guests can use for their BBQ party. Sometimes, we also use them for outdoor cooking.



The Conservatory of the Future

Our latest innovative project in development is "The Conservatory of the Future". It is a massive greenhouse for aquaponic cultivation.

Aquaponics is a sustainable food production system that combines fish and plant farming. Here, we use biochar as a filter system for fish farming, and at the same time cultivate directly in the nutrient-rich biochar.

After countless experiments and trial cultivations, we can now grow passion fruit, bananas and loads of tomatoes!

Do you want to know more?

Our driving force is all the wonderful meetings, events and collaborations we have with our guests and partners. Meetings that inspire and cause a ripple effect.

Ödevata will show the way and together we can make a difference!

Are you interested in learning more about biochar and aquaponics?

Call us and we will help you further.

You are warmly welcomed here!

Book a climate-smart experience - stay at our farm hotel (which has a very high standard), plan a rewarding study visit, or host your next conference with us here at Ödevata.

Welcome!

Malin and Magnus



APPENDIX

Report: Ödevata Biochar Project - A Success Story for Sustainability and Innovation 2018-06-21 and 2020-06-26

Project Results:

We are pleased to announce that the Ödevata Biochar Project has been an incredible success in every imaginable way. After two years of dedicated work and devotion, the project has yielded a range of impressive results:

- The machines are built, functioning, and actively used on the farm and during visits and events.
- Ödevata has become a highly innovative and exciting meeting place for biochar, transition, and innovative sustainable entrepreneurship.
- Ödevata has evolved into a model for sustainable tourism and is sought after for study visits.
- The project sequesters significant amounts of carbon dioxide on the farm through its biochar production, with a potential sequestration period of 1000 years. The goal is to sequester 120 tons of carbon dioxide annually, and we are well on our way to achieving this.
- A social enterprise has been established to produce garden-friendly biochar. This is a direct result of the biochar project and a collaboration with Växjö diocese.
- Through collaboration with neighbors and community cooperation, homemade biochar has been produced instead of being solely burned, spreading knowledge about biochar and its value.
- Veg Tech, a company, cultivated its first green roof, a sedum roof, as a test using Ödevata's biochar. This success story has been featured in newspaper reports. Ödevata has the world's first sedum roof with biochar in the growing substrate in the world on one of its facility's roofs.
- The biochar project has received extensive media coverage with several newspaper articles spreading knowledge about biochar and its potential.
- Annually, Ödevata has hosted 10 paying study visits to the farm due to the high interest in the innovative biochar project.
- Through volunteer work, you have reached approximately 1500 tourists annually, inspired them, and shared knowledge about biochar.
- You have also engaged 300 schoolchildren in biochar production and use during the project.
- During the project, you have identified valuable applications for biochar, including its use as a filtration system in an aquaponics setup.
- Several researchers from institutions such as Linnaeus University and the Department of Marine Sciences in Gothenburg have shown interest in biochar, although no research project has been initiated yet.
- The company Bioenergy visited Ödevata and has now sold and installed a biochar furnace on a farm outside Stockholm with the knowledge contributed by the project.

- You have delivered biochar to a self-sufficient farm for evaluation, and they now serve as ambassadors for biochar.
- Biochar has undergone analysis and proven to be fantastic for water purification, leading to research projects in collaboration with SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) and a wastewater contractor.
- Interest in biochar is steadily increasing, and Ödevata has played a significant role in spreading knowledge about this sustainable material.
- The County Administrative Board of Kalmar County has visited and initiated their own biochar projects as a result of your efforts.
- You have collaborated closely with the organization and association REFARM Linne, and the collaboration has been strengthened through the biochar project.
- The target audience has expanded significantly and now includes a broader audience, from tourists to businesses, municipalities, and organizations.

Project Establishment:

The project has been established by sharing knowledge with visitors, tourists, and partners, as well as by inspiring and engaging people in sustainability issues. You have also collaborated with various organizations and stakeholders to achieve the project's purpose and goals, which has been crucial for the project's success.

Intended Target Audience:

The project's intended target audience included tourists in the local area, in Sweden, and in northern Europe, who are interested in transition and sustainability. Additionally, businesses, municipalities, and organizations in the local area.

Other Beneficial Target Audiences:

Through extensive media coverage and knowledge dissemination, you have reached target audiences that you may not have initially expected. The project has also succeeded in engaging and inspiring a broad audience, including people of different ages and backgrounds.

Project Future:

It is evident that the Ödevata Biochar Project has achieved its goals and delivered fantastic results for a more sustainable world. The project's successes are likely to continue, and you have the potential to



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reach even more target audiences in the future, including farmers, fish farmers, and large heat plants. Your efforts to spread knowledge about biochar and sustainability have laid the foundation for a more sustainable and conscious future.

In summary,

Ödevata Biochar Project has become an exciting success story that demonstrates how dedication and innovation can positively change the world. The project has not only achieved its goals but has also inspired and engaged a broad audience and partners, and its future looks promising. Continue to spread knowledge about biochar.

Other Partners We Collaborated With to Achieve the Project's Purpose and Goals:

Veg Tech AB
Refarm Linné
Sjöborgen
Spetsamåla Gård
Markus Vallien
Anders Ljungberg
Hustech, Jim Johansson
Växjö Stift, Äppelkärnan
Hemma på Hult

Does Ödevata Biochar project continue after the project period ends? 2020-07-01 - 2023-10-31

During the period from June 2020 to October 2023, the time after the project's conclusion has been a continuous and exciting journey. Our passion for biochar has not only persisted but has also grown in tandem with our knowledge and network. We have continued our mission to spread knowledge about biochar, and its strength has not diminished.

Digital Audio File for Easier Dissemination:

We have also taken innovative steps, including the creation of a digital audio file that can guide visitors at Ödevata when we cannot be there personally to guide them through our biochar project.

Visits and Conferences with a Biochar Theme:

We still have an open heart and an open farm for interested visitors who want to learn about biochar production and usage. Interest in biochar has continued to grow, and the demand to visit Ödevata to gain knowledge and inspiration has not waned. We continue to offer study visits, courses, and inspiration meetings.

Interestingly, some conference bookings have focused on Ödevata precisely because of our exciting biochar project. The opportunity to see and experience our biochar production has been the driving force.

Biochar Valborg:

Biochar Valborg, an event with a strong drive to make a difference, is a project that we have initiated in collaboration with our network, Go Nature Trip. Our vision, although ambitious, is within reach. We want to transform all Walpurgis bonfires in Sweden and perhaps even abroad into biochar bonfires.

Biochar Valborg has already been celebrated live in Ödevata for three years and has also reached a digital audience of about 300 people. Additionally, we have invited others to conduct Biochar Valborg at their own locations and together stream our biochar bonfires. We are already planning for Biochar Valborg 2024, which will be live-streamed from a completely different location, and we hope for even more biochar bonfires. Would you like to join and share your fire?

Biochar Valborg is now spreading beyond Sweden:

Biochar Valborg has now expanded to Biochar Samhain in the autumn. This is a result of our collaboration with the artists Nina Bacos and Anna Bokström, who have now brought Ödevata's biochar project to Scotland and Italy. They had previously collaborated with us in Bergkvara and conducted a biochar event at Bergkvara Konsthall. We have maintained contact, and together, we celebrated the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain on October 31. It was an online event in collaboration with Grow food Dunoon, Bullwood Nature Trail in Scotland, Diö Konsthall, and Ödevata. The event included our biochar bonfires and a Scottish performance about the battle between the Summer King and Winter King. Through this collaboration, we have shared our knowledge about biochar even further.

Ödevata lends out Biochar Barrels/Kon-Tikis for free:

We have also lent out our biochar barrels, or Kon-Tikis, for free to other enthusiasts during these three and a half years. Our condition has been that those who borrow them not only use them themselves but also invite neighbors, friends, and other groups to collectively produce biochar and learn more about it. This simple concept has been very successful and has led to meaningful conversations about biochar and sustainability.

In Sweden, there are many Biochar Ambassadors and producers:

Here is a list of individuals and groups we have been in contact with. Those from whom we have learned, been inspired by, loaned our FREE KON-TIKI to, and/or sold a KON-TIKI to, or who have encountered biochar for the first time through us and have become ambassadors for biochar, helping to spread the knowledge further:

Veg Tech AB
Örebro bostäder
Go Nature Trip
Allégården Kastlösa
Lisegården Gullabo



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Holma Folkhögskola
Allégården Kastlösa
Möllekulla Länsmansgård
Marie och Michael Johansson, Stolpabäck
Karin och Karolina, Rörshult
Care – växtkraft i generationer, Emmaboda
Borrabo Gård
Kalmar Energi
Mattias Gustafsson, EcoTopic AB
Skogens Kraft
Ellen Nystedt
Michelle Södermann
Nina Bacos och Anna Bokström
Projekt: Wellbeing tourism
Naturskyddsföreningen
Voxtorps Gården
Refarm Linné
Sjöborgen
Spetsamåla Gård
Markus Vallien
Anders Ljungberg
Hustech, Jim Johansson
Växjö Stift, Äppelkärnan
Hemma på Hult
Våneviks gård
JME Bygg Ab, Anna Svarvar, Finland
Granefors Energi AB
Sjöborgen
Arne Rasmus Vikner, Stockholms skärgård
Kalmar Södra koloniförening
Lena Sjöberg, nätverk Mörtfors
Skogslunds trädgård och bigårdar
Ställdalens byalag
Folkets Trädgård
Möllekulla Länsmansgård
Möndals kommun
Ölands folkhögskola
Eva Zwahlen, Emmaboda
Jörgen Eklund, Katrineholm
Anders Sandkvist, Göteborg
Niklas Kronkvist,
Bottnansmåla Gård, Holmsjö
Börsryd lantbruk, Nybro
Jörgen Olssons Lantbruksföretag, Vistagris
Skärva gård
Mundekulla
Skogslyckan HB
Ekenäs Gård
Kimberly Melkersson
Stockamöllan By



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Eva Oscarsson, Mölndals villakvarter
Iwona Slojka, Cross Baltica
Michael Li, Digital hjälp och ambassadör för Biokol Valborg
HUSHÅLLNINGSSÄLLSKAPET KALMAR-KRONOBERG-BLEKINGE
Mittlandsgården
Aspö by föreningen
Växjö stift, Startade en ekonomisk förening som producerade biokol åt kund
Kosters Trädgårdar
Skogsbönder i Gullabo
Nätverk kvinnliga självhushållare
Emma Svensson, Bungemåla Vissefjärda
Markus Vallin
Halbe Rinsma, Eriksmåla
Emma Axelsson, Emmaboda
Eva och Andreas Garami, Långasjö
Johanna Nanni Söderberg,
Refarm Linne
Länsstyrelsen i Kalmar län
Linne universitetet
Alvesta Kommun

Several are now biochar producers themselves

All of the above have become biochar ambassadors and are helping to spread knowledge about biochar within their networks. Some are solely interested in biochar, while others have started using it in various ways in their locations or communities. Many of them have even become biochar producers and conduct courses and training to further disseminate knowledge.

More Highlights

We have also had several highlights during this period, including training and courses held by Markus Vallin at Ekoby in Lund and at Holma Folk High School in Höör. Våneviks Gård, which, this autumn, hosted a training day for FOBO in Eksjö. Refarm Linne, which has started and operated its own biochar projects after visiting us. The County Administrative Board of Kalmar has also initiated several biochar projects after receiving training from us. Linnaeus University has been inspired by our project and has seen the practical potential of biochar. The university is now conducting several biochar studies.

Biochar is here to participate in saving the world

In summary, biochar is an exciting and powerful concept with the potential to have a positive impact on the environment and society. We are confident that more countries and cultures can benefit from biochar and transform their traditional bonfires into sustainable events. This is what we will work towards. Would you like to help?