

2020 RACE & THE MATERIALISATION OF BIOECONOMY



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Contested Bioenergy

Governance

Premise: International policies on sustainability are setting a pace for the bioeconomic development

“...the delivery of security of supply, a transition to a sustainable energy system with reduced greenhouse gas emissions, industrial development leading to growth and jobs and lower energy costs for the EU economy.”
(Directive 2009/28/EC, 2)



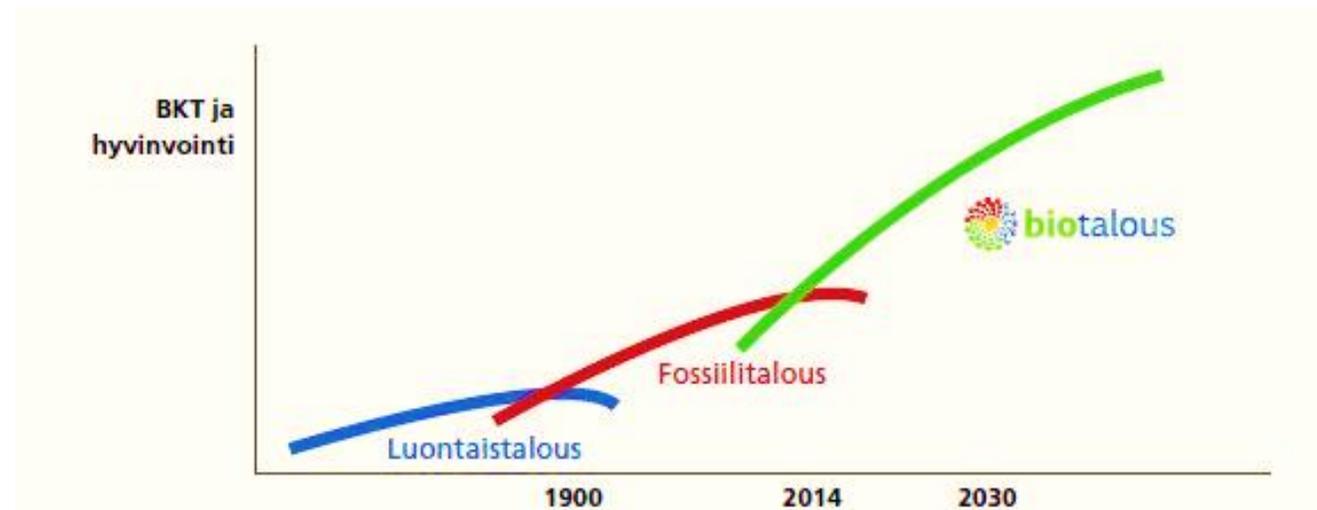
“The Europe 2020 Strategy calls for a bioeconomy as a key element for smart and green growth in Europe.”
(EC 2012, 2)

The transformative promises of bioeconomy

”Bioeconomy... use the latent value incumbent in biological products and processes to capture new growth and welfare benefits for citizens and nations.” (OECD 2006, 1)

”The **bioeconomy** is one of the oldest economic sectors to humanity, and the life sciences and biotechnology are transforming it into one of the newest.” (EC 2005, 2)

Source: *biotalous.fi*



MOMENT 1: national policies & bio-value



- Moral economic agendas without material basis
- A reactionary turn caused by financial crises as much as anything else.
- Agendas include reforms in innovation & education policies, taxation as well as work conditions.
- Environment interpreted normatively through international agreements & obligations.

-> *normative bioeconomy*



MOMENT 2: imaginaries & networks of 'green growth' cities



- Focus on growth policies, boosterism & competition on funding resources.
- Capital accumulation, knowledge-production & technoscientific capabilities as motivation
- Discursive agendas, such as 'carbon-neutral region', 'Global Forest Capital' and 'bioeconomy centre' are central means of actualization.
- Environment understood as a calculative shift in value-generation & political construction.

-> *asset-based bioeconomy*

Picture: *fortum.com*



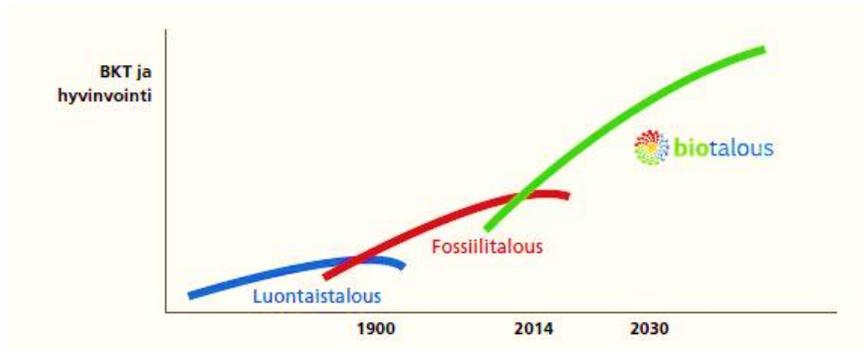
MOMENT 3: bio-value, materiality & rural redefinitions

- Focus on *waste, surplus* and *potential* of existing economic structures.
- Employment and regional development are central motivations.
- Bottom-up strategies along with stand-alone facilities as the mode of actualization.
- Environment understood through local production potentials and material base of renewable resources.

-> *vitalist bioeconomy*



IN CONCLUSION: trajectories, practices & rejections



Trajectory: Different paths of materializations and the conflicts are bound to emerge

Practice: Regional differences in economic activities, cultural relations to nature & social networks are becoming central for the materialization of bioeconomy.

Rejection: The top-down policy agendas have caused also confusion, competing calculations & havoc that should be taken into account.

