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Grant Helps Wisconsin Company Turn Wood Byproduct into Energy

MONTELLO, Wis. (April 3, 2008) – Glen Oak Lumber & Milling, Inc. of Montello, Wis., one of the nation’s largest hardwood lumber and millwork manufacturers, recently established a new company dedicated to reducing wood waste. The newly formed Wood Residuals Solutions is not only using wood waste to develop new product lines, with the help of a \$20,000 Implementation Grant from Focus on Energy’s Renewable Energy Program, the company is using its byproduct to fuel a wood-fired boiler.

Turning Waste into Profit

Wood Residuals Solutions is using its large supply of wood byproducts such as shavings, sawdust, ground knots and scraps to develop and produce Densified BioTech Fuel™, a product that can be used as fuel for energy production. While the company markets its fuel pellets primarily to large coal-burning plants, it considers businesses wanting to replace natural gas heating with a renewable fuel to be a strong secondary market.

An additional profitable opportunity has been the company’s initiative to screen, process and package wood shavings for animal bedding, to produce wood flour for the wood/plastics composite industry and to someday provide mulch for landscaping applications.

Turning Waste into Energy

In conjunction with the added revenue from new product lines, the company is saving money on energy costs. The newly implemented wood-fired boiler replaces natural gas as the fuel used to heat 100 percent of the 22,500 square foot production facility. It displaces approximately 56,000 therms of natural gas annually, resulting in a payback period of approximately four years, depending on natural gas prices.

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While the system is designed to use wood pellets, it also works with the company's Densified BioTech Fuel™ product. In fact, the company's decision to use the heating system not only supports the company's commitment to renewable fuels, it demonstrates the value of its densified wood products.

"There were several significant reasons for installing the wood biomass heating system," explained Jeff Rabl, general manager for Wood Residuals Solutions. "First, the company intends to use the system as a laboratory for gathering data on the performance of its densified fuel product via stack emission sensors and burn residue measurements. Second, it will demonstrate the business and environmental advantages of using densified wood products."

"Wood Residuals Solutions serves as a valuable demonstration for other manufacturers and commercial operations that want to use renewable energy," said Don Wichert, program director for Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program. "Fortunately, Focus on Energy has a network of experts across the state and offers a variety of programs to help anyone plan, finance and install renewable energy systems like this company's wood-fired boiler."

To find more information about technical and financial assistance available through Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program, visit focusonenergy.com or call (800) 762-7077.

About the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program seeks to raise awareness, provide training and financing, enhance marketing, promote technical assistance and support the installation of renewable energy technologies across Wisconsin. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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