



BIOMASS



GEOTHERMAL



HYDROPOWER



SOLAR



WIND

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Samsel, a family owned sawmill located in central Wisconsin, has installed a new high efficiency, clean-burning wood-fired boiler that uses waste by-product from processed raw logs to heat seven buildings and six drying kilns. In replacing its older, inefficient, polluting wood-fired boiler, the company chose to use a renewable resource rather than fossil fuel.

The decision to use renewable energy was a natural for this 15 year old company, which views itself as a steward of the resources with which it works. "Samsel prides itself on using sound management practices by utilizing our forestry resources not only for timber production, but also for education, recreation, wildlife habitat and research," said Clyde Samsel, president of Samsel Ltd. "Using waste wood from our own operations is good for the environment, and lowers our cost of doing business."

The new wood-fired boiler generates significant energy savings by using waste wood from the sawmill's operations. Samsel's waste wood is used to heat two homes, an equipment garage, several offices, a grinding room, a sales and repair room, one large kiln and five smaller kilns. By replacing its less efficient boiler with the new wood-fired boiler, the sawmill will save approximately \$3,600 annually.

Clyde Samsel is pleased with the performance of the new unit. The company had been burning 80 full cords of oak firewood per year. Because of the high efficiency of the new unit, Samsel anticipates the new boiler will need less than 40 cords per year and the sawmill will be able to operate its wood drying kiln in cold weather. In the past, the kilns were shut down in cold weather to save heat for the two houses. Two added bonuses are that, unlike the old system, no one has to add fuel wood after midnight to keep the houses warm throughout the night, and the back-up oil furnace is no longer needed.

BIOMASS AS AN ENERGY SOURCE

Wisconsin is fortunate to have a thriving wood-based products industry. Both sawmills and wood products companies find that the abundance of timber makes Wisconsin a good place to do business. The wood

waste that companies pay to dispose of can be used in their own operations to save energy and improve the environment. Currently over 170 companies and institutions in Wisconsin use wood for energy.

Renewable energy technologies can help reduce building operation and disposal costs, reliance on imported fossil fuels, pollution and greenhouse gas generation. An added benefit to the local and state economy is that use of renewable energy creates or sustains jobs right here in Wisconsin. Burning wood, or other natural resources, can help supply space heating, process heating, cooling and electricity. In addition, these can be combined into a process called cogeneration, the simultaneous production of heat and power in a single thermodynamic process.

HOW FOCUS ON ENERGY CAN HELP

Businesses throughout Wisconsin that want to install, develop or use renewable energy can benefit from Focus on Energy's technical and financial assistance. Typical renewable energy projects use fuels such as wind, wood, biomass, solar, hydro, and geothermal as their energy resources. Focus on Energy can identify the renewable technologies most likely to fit your needs and will provide technical review, project feasibility analysis and walk-through surveys/review assistance.

For more information about Focus on Energy services related to renewable energy, please call 800.762.7077.

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. **800.762.7077 focusonenergy.com**

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