



A Better Fuel, A Better Future

— Gary Couture / Westbrook, Maine

Several years ago, always on the lookout for sustainable business practices that result in benefits to the bottom line, SFPNA started exploring the possibility of using construction and demolition wood (CDW) as an alternative fuel at the Westbrook Mill. CDW is a wood component of solid waste resulting from construction, remodeling, repair and demolition of structures—a carbon neutral material. In 2008, SFPNA received a Beneficial Use License from Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that allowed them to burn CDW, which the mill procures from various licensed sources like recyclers and municipalities that are located primarily in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Each successive year, the Westbrook plant has been turning about 50,000 tons of CDW fuel into steam that drives the facility's main turbine generator. Burned with biomass, CDW tends to be dryer than the chips from trees and therefore helps the mix burn more efficiently. Although the Maine DEP has developed fuel

quality standards for CDW that all suppliers must meet, the implementation of CDW has presented the Mill with challenges related to dust and fuel contamination. Harnessing the capabilities of alternative fuels like CDW, despite these initial challenges, has been an ongoing process.

SFPNA's operations and maintenance personnel continue to modify operational procedures in order to successfully burn CDW fuel, which is crucial to the Mill's cost control efforts. "It benefits the environment because it is a renewable fuel source and by converting a waste stream into energy, less refuse goes into landfills," said Gary Couture, Westbrook Mill's Utilities Manager. And, for SFPNA, Couture says it helps the company control its energy costs, ultimately allowing them to be more competitive in the paper industry.



Ripple Effect

RiverQuest / Cloquet, Minnesota

Given that you can't step in the same river twice, it stands to reason that these vital waterways could teach you something new every year. That's why since 1993, nonprofit River Quest has been providing river-based experiential education to students and teachers in the Midwest and it's also the reason SFPNA is glad to sponsor the program for the third year in a row. This May, River Quest, with the help of SFPNA, invited nearly 1,200 sixth-graders aboard the *Vista Star* boat to participate in hands-on learning activities about preserving Minnesota's St. Louis River ecosystem and sponsored a feature presentation by Chad Pregracke, founder of river cleanup organization Living Lands & Waters.

During the two and a half hour educational harbor cruise, students visited a dozen different learning stations staffed by volunteers who covered topics ranging from pollution prevention and invasive species to boating safety and commercial shipping.

SFPNA hosted the learning station, "Efficient Industrial Water Use – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!" which demonstrated how much water the Cloquet mill uses daily, where the water comes from and what happens when the mill is done with the water.

Students and teachers were surprised to learn that 97 percent of the water used at the mill each day goes through on-site filtering and is then sent off for further treatment before it is discharged it back into the St. Louis River. "It's amazing to be able to share our environmental story by investing in educational outreach programs," said SFPNA ISO Coordinator Nikki Carlson, who has volunteered with RiverQuest since SFPNA started sponsoring the event. "Having the opportunity to change the common misconceptions about our industry and watching local students learn is invaluable for future generations."



The Best Practices Make the Best Neighbors

Green Community Day / Westbrook, Maine

Organized by SFPNA Sustainability Ambassadors and employee volunteers, the first ever Green Community Day was staged at the Westbrook Mill. An informative, fun-filled event provided local residents the opportunity to learn more about not only paper manufacturing and sustainable practices, but also how these two operations can work hand-in-hand. "In planning this event, our goal was to showcase what Sappi does, convey the pride our employees have in our company and share how they take part in the community," said SFPNA IT Service Center Manager Marty Duggan, who supervised over 100 volunteers in organizing the event.

Through numerous educational displays and activities, participants were able to learn about the range of Sappi's product offering, including coated papers, specialty papers and dissolving pulp used for textiles. SFPNA foresters provided hands-on demonstrations showing how to take core samples to determine the age of trees, identify animal and plant species in the Maine

woods and more. They even had harvesting equipment on-site and allowed people to climb on board to see firsthand the modern equipment in use today by professional loggers.

Attendees were able to learn about countless practices that they can make a part of their daily lives and were also introduced to a host of local community groups who were invited to participate. By providing free on-site recycling facilities, volunteers at the event collected sneakers, eyeglasses, mobile phones and CD/DVDs; unusual materials which might otherwise end up in area landfills. "Green Community Day highlighted the great talent and expertise of many Sappi employees and gave us an opportunity to share with our friends, family and neighbors what a great organization we have," said Duggan. In the end, over 500 people participated in the inaugural event, demonstrating that the company and the community share similar sustainability goals and that by working together we can certainly achieve them.