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CPBIS Project to Document Carbon Footprints

A new CPBIS project is underway to develop carbon footprints for major fiber and energy inputs to pulp and paper manufacturing. A comprehensive literature search and survey will be conducted and the results incorporated into a summary of the relevant existing knowledge.

The literature review will include thorough coverage of a variety of sources, including databases, scientific journals, and outputs of trade associations and government agencies such as the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture. In addition to reviewing the extant literature, the research team will contact other researchers and appropriate representatives of industry, government, and academia to help document and verify the collected information as well as to fill in gaps in the knowledge base resulting from the literature search.

Discussions with industry stakeholders have revealed that there is a high level of interest in understanding the carbon footprint of the larger set of inputs that go into pulp and paper production. The research is expected to be of considerable value to paper producers and other industry players in their efforts to understand the size of the footprint and to evaluate possible trade-offs that can impact production and supply chain decisions.

The inputs to be considered constitute a comprehensive list: various wood fiber types, chips and roundwood, softwood and hardwood, northern and southern, tropical hardwoods, various recycled fiber types, a variety of nonwood fiber types, all relevant fuel and energy sources, and transportation-related inputs.

The project is being led by Dr. Jacek Siry of the University of Georgia, and is expected to be completed early next year.

Pulp and Paper Sustainability in Georgia

Sustainability practices and plans of the pulp and paper industry in Georgia were the subjects of a recently

completed study by Georgia Tech researchers Jan Youtie, Philip Shapira and Luciano Kay. The study was funded in part by CPBIS and was the subject of a presentation at last week's TAPPI Engineering, Pulping and Environmental Conference in Memphis.

A survey of Georgia manufacturing establishments yielded 45 responses from pulp and paper manufacturers, of which 13 had 100 or more employees. For comparison, the survey also included other Georgia manufacturing sectors.

The study yielded numerous observations that will be of interest to the industry as it strives to monitor and document progress toward achievement of its sustainability goals. Relative to other Georgia manufacturing industries, pulp and paper

- has incorporated sustainability into more of its processes,
- has made less use of sustainability practices in supplier selection, employee training and logistics,
- has set more and higher energy reduction targets,
- makes greater use of energy audits, recycling of production materials and water recycling,
- is more likely to have participated in federal energy programs,
- is more likely to have adopted environmental stewardship practices,
- is less likely to have adopted activities like ISO 14000 and life cycle costing,
- is slightly less energy intensive (in terms of energy expenditures per dollar of sales), and
- has higher levels of adoption of sustainability practices among small establishments than is traditionally the case in new technologies.

Within pulp and paper, the study also compares mills with non-mills. Mills are more likely to have

introduced sustainability practices in supplier selection, product design, facility design planning and packaging. Other pulp and paper facilities are more likely to have introduced sustainability practices in selection of raw materials and logistics.

Across all industry sectors, the authors showed that reductions in energy intensity are associated with increased productivity in terms of value added per employee.

The report concludes with the assertion that “pulp and paper manufacturers have notable strength in energy usage and sustainability practices. To attain a broad-based sustainability position, pulp and paper manufacturers will need to engage in a balanced range of technologies and techniques in addition to their leading position in energy reduction practices. Investments in employee training in sustainability practices and a diverse array of knowledge sources will be important in this regard.”

Recent Forestweb Headlines

Every week, Forestweb publishes “Newsbeat,” a news report tracking recent developments in and around the paper and forest products industries. Newsbeat is available by subscription from Forestweb. See <http://www.forestweb.com/Corporate/index.cfm>

Below is a small sampling of headlines from recent issues, together with brief synopses.

October 19

U.S. pulp and paper companies could realize US\$25B-US\$50B over three years under new black liquor-related cellulosic biofuel producer tax credit

The current tax credit for fuel mixtures expires at the end of 2009. Black liquor will remain eligible for an even more generous tax credit at \$1.01-per-gallon, for cellulosic biofuel producers.

North American printing and writing paper shipments up in September from August; declines continue to moderate -- PPPC

Papermakers shipped 830,000 tonnes of uncoated woodfree in September 2009, compared to 806,000 tonnes in August and 885,000 tonnes in the year-ago period. In coated papers, the picture was equally pleasing.

NewPage studies wind turbine power for pulp and paper mill in Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia

Placing wind turbines at the Cape Breton site, in the Port Tupper area, is at the conceptual stage. It is uncertain whether

the company would use all the resulting electricity or sell any surplus to Nova Scotia Power.

Sodra to invest in its first wind turbines that will be constructed together with Sodra Cell's Monstera, Sweden, pulp mill; electricity production from turbines expected to start autumn 2010

Permission to build the turbines has been granted and the planning process has started. Electricity production from the turbines is expected to start in autumn 2010.

October 12

Canada says 24 pulp and paper companies have qualified for funding under C\$1B Green Transformation Program; can expect funding for approved capital projects by early 2010

The Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program allows Canadian pulp and paper companies that produced black liquor in 2009 to access this \$1-billion fund. Qualified companies will be able to use the program to help finance green projects at any pulp and paper facility they own.

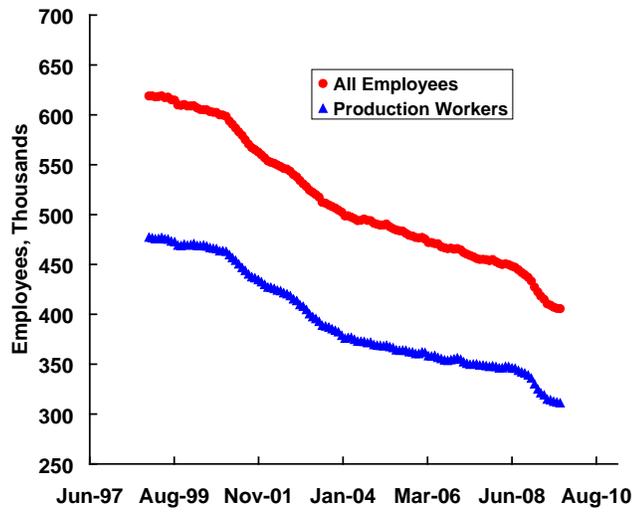
October 5

AF&PA: U.S. paper and paperboard production rises slightly from July to August as industry continues to operate at 85% of capacity

U.S. paper and paperboard production rose 0.2% month-to-month in August and was down 10.2% from a year earlier, according to data released by the American Forest & Paper Association.

Statistics Corner: Diminishing Employment

The figure below documents extensive job losses in the U.S. pulp and paper industry since the beginning of 1999. On the positive side, the lessening impact of the current recession is evident.■



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics