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Georgia-Pacific Equipment Enhancements Lead to Energy Savings

(ATLANTA) – The Georgia-Pacific gypsum plant Sweetwater West, located in Sweetwater, Texas, recently completed board drying equipment enhancements that are anticipated to result in CO₂ reduction, energy savings, and the lowering of resource consumption.

The installation of an Energy Optimization System (EOS) (also known in the industry as exhaust heat recovery) at the plant included the installation of new ducting, two new fans, and a new exhaust stack to an existing four-zone dryer.

Prior to the EOS conversion, each of the four zones within the plant exhausted waste heat to atmosphere. The newly upgraded system enables collection of the waste exhaust from the first three zones and injects it into the fourth zone, allowing the useful heat to be recovered before exhausting it at a lower temperature. The waste exhaust streams from the first three zones, when combined, contain almost all heat required by the fourth zone, enabling the burner in that zone to operate at a lower capacity.

The result? A net energy savings equivalent to powering approximately 441 homes for one year and a reduction of 2,500 tons/yr. of CO₂ emissions which is the equivalent to approximately 489 passenger vehicles on the roads for one year¹.

“Advancements in energy savings and resource consumption reduction are goals toward which Georgia-Pacific works every single day,” said David Neal, vice president of Gypsum Operations for Georgia-Pacific. “At Georgia-Pacific our focus is to make progress daily, improving performance by living a principle of stewardship, embracing creative destruction, improving efficiencies, eliminating waste, and finding new ways of meeting needs and driving conservation activities that leave more resources available to satisfy other needs in society.”

For more information on Georgia-Pacific Building Products, please visit www.buildgp.com.

Source: 1) [Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator | US EPA](#)

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Founded in Augusta, Ga., in 1927 as the Georgia Hardwood Lumber Company, Georgia-Pacific pioneered the use of southern yellow pine plywood in 1963. In 1986, the revolutionary DensGlass® Gold Sheathing was introduced, changing the face of gypsum forever. Long recognized as a leading supplier of building products to lumber and building materials dealers and large do-it-yourself warehouse retailers, GP Building Product brands now include DensElement® Barrier System, ForceField® Weather Barrier System, DensDefy™ Products, DensDeck® Roof Boards and DensDeck® StormX™ Prime Roof Boards, DensShield® Tile Backer, Plytanium® Plywood, DensArmor Plus® Interior Panels, and ToughRock® Gypsum Board. For complete information on GP Building Products, please visit www.buildgp.com.