

Blue Ridge Fiberboard Participates in Regional E3 (Economy, Energy, Environment) Project

Company Profile:

[Blue Ridge Fiberboard Incorporated](#) is a manufacturer of reconstituted wood products located in Danville, Virginia employing approximately 85 people. Established in 2009, it is a subsidiary of W. R. MEADOWS, which has multiple locations throughout North America.

Blue Ridge Fiberboard is committed to providing the best quality products possible to architects, engineers and contractors. Types of manufactured Celotex® products include Structodek® roofing insulation board, SoundStop® fiberboard panels, SturdyBrace® structural wall sheathing, and VersaKor® all-purpose fiberboard.

As a member of the U. S. Green Building Council and a Green Building Initiative Supporter, Blue Ridge Fiberboard is helping to build a greener future with products not only designed for high performance and quality, but with the needs of the environment as a primary focus.

Situation:

Sustainability is integral to all aspects of Blue Ridge Fiberboard's business. Their products, systems, solutions and services are designed to improve customer business – centering on improved reliability and increased industrial productivity – while lowering environmental impact. They seek to look in-house as well, minimizing the environmental impact and maximizing energy efficiency of their processes and technologies.

As part of their ongoing green initiative, Blue Ridge Fiberboard is participating in the Danville/Pittsylvania County Regional E3 effort. This project is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and funded by the Tobacco Indemnification Commission and the Danville Regional Foundation. Its goal is to identify potential opportunities and benefits in the E3 areas. GENEDGE ALLIANCE, a NIST MEP affiliate, was identified to conduct the E3 assessment at the Danville site.

Response:

This E3 project consisted of an on-site review of Blue Ridge Fiberboard's operations by GENEDGE to identify opportunities to improve productivity, reduce environmental impacts and reduce energy intensity.

The final report revealed opportunities in several areas:

- Economy
 - Implementation of lean concepts of TPM and autonomous maintenance, set-up reduction, 5S and visuals, and pull systems
 - Improving work instructions
 - Cross-training more employees to create increased flexibility
- Environment
 - Reuse of process water

- Settling of process wastewater to allow reuse
- Energy
 - Compressed air generation and distribution
 - Lighting replacement
 - Waste heat recovery
 - Combined heat and power

Results:

- More than \$200,000 in operational cost savings
- Facility layout improvements and re-work reductions
- Invested \$160,000 in energy-efficient equipment
- Reduced compressor leaks and improved compressed air quality
- Expected annual savings from changes to water treatments of \$300,000

Management's Comments:

“At Blue Ridge Fiberboard, we view ‘sustainability’ and conservation of our natural resources very seriously. With the E3 assessment report generated by GENEDGE, we’ve been shown that there is much more to reap than just saving the company money and energy. Our impacts reach far beyond energy, dollars or the environment. More importantly it is about our people and our community here in Danville and beyond.” – Joe W. Hundley, Process Engineer, Blue Ridge Fiberboard, Inc.