

Flambeau River Papers 2015 Sustainability Report

Green Tier, Green Master, and ISO 9001/14001 certified Flambeau River Papers continues to be guided by policies that ensure continuous improvement and that resources are used wisely. Aggressive goals continue to be set to assure minimal environmental impacts. A summary of the mill's environmental status as well as the other sustainable initiatives the mill is working on follows.

Water

There were no exceedances of the mill's wastewater permit in 2015. A tool provided by Watertech, a company with a long history of helping the mill with incoming water treatment, gives remote monitoring and reporting capabilities of the mill's water use. This tool is being used to help better manage water usage and flows to the wastewater treatment plant. The switch to a variable speed drive in 2015 on a pump at the wastewater treatment plant is not only estimated to save 810,000 kwh per year but has also allowed the mill reduce their water withdrawal from the Flambeau River. The mill was issued a new wastewater permit on August 1st and the mill's lab that performs regulatory testing on the wastewater was nominated for lab of the year by the DNR.

Air

There were also no exceedances of the mill's air permit in 2015. A pre-quench section and new duct work was added in late 2014 to improve the flow condition and velocity profile of the mill's main boiler. 2015 stack testing of this boiler showed compliance with the Boiler MACT limits that went into effect on January 31, 2016. The mill was issued a new air operating permit on December 15.

Residuals

The mill has only had to landfill minimal treatment plant residuals because of wet fields over the past few years since the landspreading of these residuals from the mill's wastewater treatment plant continues to provide farmers with the nitrogen and other nutrients their fields need. Work progresses with other residuals that would give farmers even more soil amendment benefits. Demand for the mill's one-time-use turn-up tape to make baskets similar to what is shown below continues to be strong.



ISO 14001

The target of 100% compliance was achieved in 2015 and continues to be the mill's main objective for 2016. The results of the 2015 3rd party audit were favorable with only small issues requiring attention. The mill will be audited against the revised ISO 14001-2015 standard in November which will require updates to the environmental management system. Chemical stewardship including ensuring that all pertinent data is received and the study of the water intake structure rule are the other topics that will be focused on for 2016.

Greenhouse

The mill had another successful growing season with the Flambeau River Community Growing Center which is the greenhouse that is located on mill property. The site was host to a variety of events including garlic workshops and instructions on how to make hoop houses. Two focuses for next year include working with the food pantry and holding a master gardener session.

Employees

With veteran papermakers from other mills and employees from other manufacturing environments joining Flambeau River Papers the mill was fortunate to gain a lot of knowledge in 2015. The mill was also fortunate to hire several process engineers directly out of college. New employees are always asked to share ideas that worked well at their schools or former places of employment.

Flambeau River Papers managed the challenges of 2015. The mill's commitment to being a responsible environmental and energy steward hasn't changed. If you have questions or concerns about our environmental performance please contact us during office hours at (715)762-5375 or by calling our 24-hour community concerns hotline at (715)762-5239. Please visit flambeauriverpapers.com to see the mill's environmental policy and for more information about the mill.