

SchutteBuffalo

Hammer Mills are Key Components for Processing Green Wood for Biofuels

Industry:	Sawmilling
Application:	Sawdust, Wood Chips, Bark and Branches
Size Reduction	
Equipment:	(2) Schutte-Buffalo Model 15300 Hammer Mills

The Challenge:

Historically, **Groupe Savoie**, a hardwood processing plant in Saint Quetin, New Brunswick, Canada would sell their sawmilling residues to various producers of paper in the area. However, the economic downturn of 2009 resulted in the closing of many paper mills, including many frequent consumers of Groupe Savoie's wood waste. As a result, they were left not only with a loss of revenue, but also a waste disposal issue.

Their solution was to convert the waste material into pellets and briquettes, for export to Europe. However, a few challenges needed to be addressed before for the waste wood was suitable for biofuel:

- Ideally, the feedstock for wood pellets and briquettes is a uniform 1/8" nominal size.
- Most the waste wood used is "green" wood with an average 40 - 50% moisture content. For effective pelletizing or briquetting, wood must be $\leq 10\%$ moisture content

The Solution:

Groupe Savoie purchased two Schutte-Buffalo Model 15300 hammer mills. The first mill to pre-grind the waste wood to 1/2", the size recommended for optimal drying. After drying in a MEC rotary drier to a moisture content of $\leq 10\%$, the material is then fed into a second Model 15300 where it is ground to a uniform 1/8" nominal, ideal for pelletizing and briquetting.

The result: The waste wood was again a marketable commodity with annual production goals of 55,000 tons of pellets and 8,000 tons of briquettes. Eyeing the European market, Groupe Savoie estimates \$9 million in annual sales of the pellets and briquettes.



Model 15300 – Pre Grind



Model 15300 – Finish Grind