

CASE STUDY: GROUPE SAVOIE

Industry:
Wood Processing

Application:
Sawdust, wood chips, bark,
and branches

Equipment:
Two Schutte Hammermill
Model 15300 hammermills



Model 15300 – Pre Grind



Model 15300 – Finish Grind



Two Model 15300 Hammer Mills Key Components to New Brunswick Pelletizing Operation

THE CHALLENGE:

Historically, the Groupe Savoie hardwood processing plant in New Brunswick, Canada would sell these 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, Groupe Savoie was left not only with a loss of revenue, but also a waste disposal issue.

THE SOLUTION:

The best solution for Groupe Savoie was to convert the waste material into pellets and briquettes. However, there were a few challenges to this solution:

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

To resolve the challenges, Groupe Savoie purchased two Model 15300 hammer mills. The first mill will pre-grind the waste wood to $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 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 $\frac{1}{8}$ " nominal – ideal for pelletizing and briquetting.

THE RESULT:

The waste wood is 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.



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