

2012 Timber Committee Week

Side event on “Resource Efficiency in the wood processing industry”

Room XII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 17 October 2012, 14:15-14:45

The practice of Resource Efficiency is gaining an increasingly prominent role as an important tool to improve raw material input and technical processes which saves limited natural resources and avoids waste in all industries, especially in SMEs.

Due to the increasing scarcity of raw materials the Ministry of the Environment of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia founded the Effizienz-Agentur NRW (EFA) 1998. The main work of this Agency is to support the manufacturing industry through providing advice on how to save scarce resources and minimise waste.

Recently the EFA initiated a pilot project in cooperation with the “Landesbetrieb Wald & Holz” (State Forest Company of North Rhine-Westphalia) to apply the tools and methods of EFA on a regional scale with some wood processing industries. The objective was to improve these industrial processes within this important regional industry sector and to reduce any adverse environmental impacts.

This kind of approach might also serve as role model for other regions and countries in Europe.

The Resource Efficiency process can make an important contribution to the on-going discussion on greening the European forestry sector.

First results:

By applying a material-flow-analysis-method, 3 sawmills successfully optimized their consumption of wood resources and significantly improved the economic and environmental performance of their companies. Results showed that there were substantial savings in energy costs and that wood waste was considerably reduced. This was confirmed by a detailed post-implementation analysis of inputs and outputs.

Additional Resource Efficiency and synergy effects were achieved by using cross-sectional technologies (e.g. compressed air systems)

Detailed information concerning the actual project will be presented by Dipl.Ing. Ekkehard Wiechel (Project leader, EFA) on behalf of the Ministry for Climate Protection and Environment of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Further information: www.cleanerproduction.info