

Award Recipient of the ENERGY STAR® Challenge for Industry



Georgia-Pacific – Palatka Pulp and Paper Operations

Country Road #216
Palatka, FL 32178

Georgia-Pacific's Palatka, Florida, consumer products mill began operation in November 1947 as Hudson Pulp and Paper Company. Its first product was kraft paper used to make bags and sacks. Today, the mill employs approximately 900 people and operates two kraft paper machines and three tissue paper machines. In addition, the mill operates 14 converting lines to manufacture a wide variety of consumer bath tissue and paper towel products.

The Palatka pulp and paper operations achieved the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry in February 2018. The mill achieved a 10.5 percent reduction in energy intensity over a period of three years. The project that drove the majority of the improvement was the installation of a new set of multi-effect evaporators, which remove water from byproducts of the wood pulping process. These pulping byproducts are burned as fuel in the mill's recovery boiler. The Palatka mill invested approximately \$70 million to install the new set of evaporators, replacing four sets of outdated equipment with one technologically advanced set. As a result, the mill has reduced its energy usage by 14,300,000 BTUs and reduced energy costs by an estimated \$1 million per month. An additional benefit has been a 30 percent reduction in water use by the mill.

Additionally, mill personnel developed an energy measurement tool during an early phase of the evaporator project that continues to help evaluate new energy optimization opportunities.