

# The Colletonian

## New company puts county ahead in 'green' technology

By Rob Dewig  
Editor

"Biomass" might sound like a dirty word, but a new company dedicated to processing and shipping it to Scandinavia has decided to invest heavily in Colleton County.

CPB LLC will soon renovate the old Castalloy building in the Airport Industrial Park and begin producing biomass for shipment overseas, Heyward Horton, the county's director of economic development, told the County Council Tuesday night. The company's investment will include 25 new

jobs and \$2.5 million in new equipment.

Biomass, essentially, is sawdust and wood chips subjected to high pressure to create clean-burning "chunks" called briquettes, which will then be shipped from Charleston or Savannah to countries in northern Europe to fuel their increasing desire for "green," renewable fuel, Horton said.

"Their regulatory environment requires (that northern European countries) use 20 percent renewable fuel," Horton said. Making biomass is a "simple process ... used for a noble purpose."

"Logistics" was the name of the game when

it came to the company's interest in Colleton County, Horton said. First, we have trees, lots of trees. Second, two major seaports are within easy driving distance. The math was as easy as the process itself.

Horton and others have met with CPB CEO Knox Grant since late February to make the company/county combo reality.

Grant could not be reached for comment. Regardless, Horton called the company's commitment a "coup" for the county: "Oh yeah, you better believe it."

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County Councilman Steve Murdough said Tuesday's announcement was like fishing. You catch enough little ones, you'll eventually get the big ones.

"Certainly we were very happy for the announcement," he added. "It's a small company but small businesses really built the backbone of our society. Certainly everybody wants to catch the big fish ... but we're glad to have the job, certainly."