

# The Colletonian

## EDITORIAL

### County did a great job finding new biomass business

Kudos to Colleton County officials for managing to put the county on the cutting edge of the renewable energy by using that most ubiquitous of Lowcountry fauna – pine trees. We have, obviously, more than our share of those.

County officials announced Tuesday that CPB LLC will soon open, create “biomass” – or clean-burning fuel – by subjecting sawdust and other after-the-paper-companies-are-done detritus by

subjecting it to enormous pressure, then send it through Charleston or Savannah to European countries a bit more excited about renewable energy than we here in the States have been to date.

It’s so simple, yet so far outside the box. Who would have thought sawdust would be worth 25 badly needed new jobs and \$2.5 million worth of capital investment? CPB, obviously, but credit the county, too. Creativity like that is superb, the very antithe-

sis of what most folks think of government bureaucracies as capable of coming up with.

As the national economy teeters along its wobbly course, it’s nice to see our local economic development arrow is pointing up, the way it should be.

Best of all, county officials are treating CPB’s arrival as merely the first of many such successes. County Councilman Steve Murdough called CPB a “small fish,” which means county officials are think-

ing big.

And big is good.

CPB cannot be classified as low-hanging fruit because inviting to town a business that creates fuel from sawdust simply doesn’t fit the definition of plucking the easiest apple from a tree. It doesn’t even look like an apple. We can’t even see the tree. But county officials did.

So if something this off-the-wall is a small fish, we can’t wait to hear what county officials consider a big fish.