



Anthony Holden
Alabama Technology Network

Phone: (256) 824-6289
Fax: (256)824-6970
Email: holdena@uah.edu

Buchanan Lumber Co.

Aliceville (Pickens County)

Buchanan Lumber installed a wood-fired boiler in 1999 that could run off of sawdust to produce steam to heat their kilns.

Buchanan Lumber works with White and Red Oak to produce hardwood flooring. Their wood-fired boiler produced steam to heat kilns and ran a 550 kW turbine generator. This boiler is fed by a conveyor that, in turn, is fed by a screw conveyor. The screw is perpendicular to the stock of sawdust sitting on a moving underground auger with hydraulic presses to regulate the amount of sawdust falling into the screw.

In 2008, the biomass system was converted to run mostly off of wet sawdust as opposed to all dry sawdust. This wood-fired boiler currently burns 8,486 tons of sawdust per year. The initial investment of the system including the building, the silo, and the conveyers was about \$1.45 million; but with the help of the State of Alabama in 1999, their budget allocated to this project was reduced to \$1.37 million.