

ECOINFLOW Workshops: industry engagement

During December 2013, the ECOINFLOW team organized two workshops for sawmill industry stakeholders in Norway and Germany.

The Norwegian workshop was organized as part of the Norwegian sawmills union technical meeting and it targeted the sawmill managers on different levels, with approximately 100 participants. The workshop was aimed to raise the awareness on ECOINFLOW project and present our recently developed SawEnMS Handbook, the guidelines based on sawmill-adapted EnMS. The handbook was appreciated by the industry representatives, and we think that more sawmills in Norway will now be interested in implementing EnMS by following the guidelines in the handbook.



The Germany workshop was organised as a joint action of the Thünen Institut of Wood Research, DeSH (German Sawmilling Association) and VDMA (German Engineering Federation). It targeted members of the German sawmill industry and the associated engineering industry. More than 20 participants got an opportunity to get familiar with the scientific background of ECOINFLOW and practical implications in context with energy efficiency. The practical sessions focused on challenges related to energy efficiency, benchmarking, interdisciplinary networking and further monitoring, all together identified as crucial for the sector. Regarding benchmarking and networking, the main conclusion was that ECOINFLOW will continue to lead the further discussions and support the sawmill industry in its challenges.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

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- SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden (SE)
- Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (DE)
- L'Institut Technologique Forêt Cellulose
- Bois-construction Ameublement (FR)
- The Norwegian Sawmill Industries Association (NO)
- InnovaWood (BE)
- Deutsche Säge- und Holzindustrie (DE)
- Fédération Nationale du Bois (FR)
- BSW Timber (UK)
- Mühlböck (AT)
- Bergkvist-Insjön AB (SE)
- AmberWood LTD (LV)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The project partners will continue to develop the benchmarking tool, which will be finished before the summer 2014. The dissemination work will be mainly focused on promotion of the ECOINFLOW handbook.

Best practice case studies in terms of energy utilisation at sawmills and building the network with key industry stakeholders will also be one of the main priorities in planning the future project activities.

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News



ECOINFLOW - Energy Control for Information Flow



Halfway into the project: First results and achievements

Henning Horn
Senior Researcher at Treteknisk
Project Coordinator

The first half of the ECOINFLOW project is behind us. It has been a period dedicated to strong team building, positive spirit, high ambitions and loyalty towards our objectives. We have aimed to build a close cooperation with the sawmill industry, without whom our project goal would not be possible. During this period, 45 sawmill companies all around Europe have been visited. The project partners conducted an extensive energy efficiency survey at the participating sawmills. The aim was to get more information on energy consumption, review possible implemented energy saving measures, and disclose potential new ones. The results from the survey enable us to build an extensive database of showcases,

which will be used as core inputs for our future energy efficiency benchmark tool. Certainly, our most significant achievement during the first half of the project has been the provision of the EnMS (Energy Management System) handbook. The first pilot version of the handbook is now available on-line through our website. The handbook is aimed to serve as a guide for sawmills on how to implement a practical and usable EnMS. By following this guide, sawmills will be able to develop a successful framework for working with energy management. The implementation of the tailor made EnMS will enable sawmills to have more accurate analysis of energy saving potentials.

The advantages of having EnMS will also trigger development and investments in new energy saving technology, which, together with changed behaviour, should lead to a reduction in energy consumption of 20 % in the sawmilling industry.

Saying all this we are looking forward to cooperate with all of you in 2014, believing that only together and by implementing the EnMS we can reach our goals and significantly contribute to reduce energy consumption.

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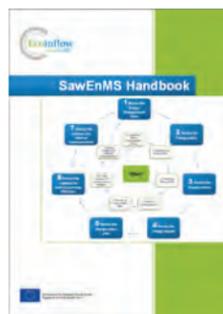
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SawEnMS Handbook

The main objective of ECOINFLOW is to reduce the annual energy use in the European sawmills industry (SMI) by 1 TWh through international engagement, collaboration and knowledge transfer. As a first step in achieving this goal, the ECOINFLOW team produced the EnMS handbook, which, besides some general guidelines, contains recommendations and measures specifically designed for the sawmilling industry.

Largely based on the international standard for Energy management systems, ISO 50001, the handbook represents the guidelines on how to implement a practical and usable EnMS. It enables the users to develop a tailor-made framework for working with energy management. Even though many parts of an EnMS are relevant to companies in any sector, the SawEnMS is particularly suitable for implementation at sawmills. The handbook gives relevant examples, recommendations and tools for direct implementation. The ECOINFLOW team has made efforts to make it a simple, but robust and powerful tool for energy management.

Although it is based on the ISO 50001, it is not intended as a complete EnMS that can be certified. However, by following all the steps of the guide, the users will have a very good starting point for an EnMS ready for certification.



Benefits of EnMS implementation

Energy consumption, especially electricity consumption, is one of the most important cost factors in the sawmilling industry. While the market settles the price of energy, the consumption of energy is, to a certain extent, possible to influence by the company. By implementing and actively using an EnMS, companies can directly influence energy consumption. An EnMS can also serve as an incentive for an overall improvement of the production processes. Companies generally experience several direct and indirect benefits from introducing an EnMS.

The most common benefits for companies are:

- Economic savings thanks to lower energy use and increased level of systematic work in general.
- Reduction of the environmental impact, which is an important decisive factor for an increasingly number of environmentally conscious customers.
- Increased knowledge, awareness and control of the company's energy use, which makes it easier to identify areas for improvement and to make well-founded decisions, (e.g. purchasing of new equipment).
- An EnMS can help the company to better structure the production processes and make them more energy efficient.
- By doing an energy review, many companies quickly find areas for improvement, where small investments often can result in big savings.
- By working in a structured way, different units of the company can share knowledge and experiences, which may lead to bigger savings.
- Energy issues are included at an early stage in various planning processes.
- An EnMS puts energy issues on the table for the top management, which raises the acceptance and status of energy efficiency work throughout the organization.
- By working with energy related tasks continuously and in a structured way, energy becomes a part of the daily agenda, which raise the awareness amongst the personnel.
- Implementing an EnMS ensures that documents and routines are followed-up and updated.

Overview of the SawEnMS handbook

The idea of EnMS handbook is based on “seven steps” concept.

By using SawEnMS, you will be guided through the whole process, following those steps. In the SawEnMS handbook the user will be able to find guidelines, examples and sawmill-specific tools. The seven steps are as follows:

1. Appoint an Energy Management Team.
2. Decide on an Energy Policy.
3. Perform an Energy Review (mapping the energy use).
4. Decide on Energy Targets.
5. Develop an Energy Action Plan.
6. Develop routines for energy efficiency in everyday work.
7. Develop routines for internal communication.

The pilot handbook tool is now available online. It is multilingual and includes versions in 6 languages (English, French, German, Latvian, Norwegian and Swedish).

For more information on handbook tool follow us at ecoinflow.com/sawenms and ecoinflow.com.



Figure 1. The idea of seven steps is seen as an infinite spiral of enhancements to reach a higher level of energy efficiency