

SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP

(The continued build-out/expansion of the industrial pellet sector in the US South continues. I'm curious where the plateau might take place regarding feedstock availability. Regards, Rich)



\$175 million Black Belt plant could transform area, leaders say

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Biofuel producer Enviva will build a \$175 million plant in the Port of Epes in Sumter County, manufacturing wood pellets like those seen here.

It may have been in the 90s Friday in Livingston for the [announcement of a new \\$175 million wood pellet plant in Sumter County](#), but the weather didn't matter to Livingston Mayor Tom Tartt.

"When I heard about a \$100 million yearly impact, I got chill bumps," he said. "Can you imagine what that will mean for this community?"

Biofuel company Enviva Friday announced it will build a wood pellet production plant at the Port of Epes, bringing at least 85 jobs and 180 associated jobs in logging, transportation and local services to the Black Belt county.

Enviva, which calls itself the world's largest supplier of wood pellets, will ship the product down the Tenn-Tom waterway to markets through Pascagoula, Miss., and on to Europe and Asia. The pellets are in high demand as an alternative fuel to coal. Enviva owns and operates eight plants in the South, producing more than 3.5 million metric tons of wood pellets each year.

The Sumter County plant, projected to finish construction in 2021, will initially produce 700,000 metric tons of pellets annually, though production could eventually be increased to 1.15 million tons per year. It will use a mix of softwood and scrap from mills sourced from within a 75-mile radius.

The company does not own forestland but works with suppliers meeting sustainability criteria, it says. That includes a proprietary monitoring system to verify and document the source of its wood. Enviva



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says it sources wood from “responsibly managed” forests and has policies preventing it from using wood from high conservation value bottomland forests.

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