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## George County Supervisors tour Enviva's newest wood pellet plant

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George County supervisors traveled to Sampson County, North Carolina last week for a full tour of Enviva's newest wood pellet plant. The \$110 million facility is the working "blueprint" for the proposed wood pellet plant at the George County Industrial Park.

"It was an extremely informative tour," Supervisor Henry Cochran, Beat 5 explained. "Enviva's Sampson County Plant mirrors the plans for the George County Plant almost exactly from number of employees, to utility needs, and size requirements. It was really beneficial to see firsthand."



The Sampson County Plant began full production in November and is expected to produce approximately 500,000 tons of wood pellets a year. The 80 acre facility employs 90 full-time employees and takes round and chipped wood from local timber haulers.

"I've been around construction and processing plants my whole life, and I can tell you this is a well-run facility. It was clean, efficient, and well planned out. Based on what I saw, I think they're going to be a good tenant inside the Industrial Park," Supervisor Kelly Wright, Beat 2 said.

Enviva Biomass is the leading producer of wood pellets in the U.S. selling their biomass product to European and United Kingdom power plants to be used as a sustainable fuel. The company owns and operates five pellet plants.

It took more than four years from the first official site visit to make the \$110 million project a reality in North Carolina.

County supervisors also toured Enviva's state-of-the-art storage facility at the Port of Wilmington. This new \$50 million project is the "blueprint" for Enviva's expansion at the Port of Pascagoula. Wood pellets from Sampson County are transported one hour south to the port and stored in two 17-story domes.

“This is the exact working model we have for George County and the Port of Pascagoula. It’s very encouraging to see this transportation plan in operation right now. Now, we just need finalized plans to get it here,” Supervisor Fred Croom, Beat 1 said.

Using North Carolina as the model, Enviva has now developed several site layout options for the George County Industrial Park. County officials received the site options following the visit and are now reviewing focusing on transportation and utility needs.



**Cutline:**

- GC Supervisors tour the wood yard at Enviva’s wood pellet plant in North Carolina. Pictured (R to L): Supervisors Fred Croom, Henry Cochran, and Kelly Wright, along with Plant Manager Rickey Searcy
- County supervisors visit Enviva’s new domed storage facility at the Port of Wilmington in April.