

# NEW-INDY NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Q4 | 2022

*In 2021, 88,676 log loads were purchased by New-Indy Catawba, fortifying the livelihood of hundreds in the area while supporting sustainable forestry practices.*



*This edition of the New-Indy Catawba newsletter contains a recap of recent community events, a feature on sustainable forestry, Community Engagement Group updates, and an employee spotlight section.*



## ABOUT NEW-INDY CATAWBA



**New-Indy Catawba:** *The mill supports the livelihood of more than 400 men and women.*

New-Indy Catawba is a world-class integrated virgin linerboard and pulp manufacturing mill. The facility opened in 1959 and began operation as New-Indy Catawba in 2019. The facility produces a lightweight linerboard used in corrugated packaging and unbleached pulp for other applications. New-Indy Catawba supports the livelihood of more than 400 hard-working employees and hundreds of indirect jobs in the region in logging, chemical and material supply, and transportation. In addition, the mill has partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor and York Technical College to develop an accredited apprenticeship program.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### ***New-Indy donates to Lancaster Children's Home***

New-Indy Catawba recently donated money to the Lancaster Children's Home to support its 12th Annual Fall Flurry Clay Shoot Fundraiser. The organization served about 100 boys and girls in 2022 and donations like New-Indy's have a major impact on each child. Lancaster Children's Home educates and instills positive values and life skills in children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected so that they can become independent, productive, and responsible citizens.



**Tremendous Impact:** Donations like New-Indy's help Lancaster Children's Home educate and instill positive values in underprivileged children.

### ***New-Indy Partners with The Rock Hill Schools Education Foundation to Fund Teacher Programming***

Many teachers dig into their own pockets to keep classroom creativity alive. New-Indy Catawba recently presented a grant to sixth-grade social studies teacher Thomas Monza at Castle Heights Middle School on behalf of itself and The Rock Hill Schools Education Foundation. The funds will underwrite a hobby that is turning into a program for students - Esports, also known as video gaming. "It's about communication, teamwork, and team building," Monza said. His program is one of several projects the foundation is funding with nearly \$60,000 in grant money.

### ***South Carolina wins New-Indy's Palmetto Bowl***

New-Indy Catawba held an employee donation event in November - its own version of the Palmetto Bowl. New-Indy's Palmetto Bowl challenged employees to donate canned goods, with each contribution representing a point for their preferred team. South Carolina defeated Clemson, 335-203, which means that a total of 538 canned goods were collected and donated to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen.

As a result of the win, the mill flew the Gamecock flag at its entrance for the week leading up to the game. In addition, mill manager and University of Alabama graduate Chris Loach wore a South Carolina sweatshirt. New-Indy employees came together for a friendly competition and accomplished a meaningful objective.



**More Programming for Students:** Local teacher Thomas Monza will use a New-Indy donation to start an Esports program for his students.



**Hefty Donation:** New-Indy employees donated 538 canned goods to the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen.



**Regrowth:** The Southeastern forestry industry plants five times as many trees as it harvests.



**Sustainable Forestry:** There are more trees in the State of South Carolina today than there were 100 years ago.

## NEW-INDY SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

The forestry industry of South Carolina has a \$23.2 billion-a-year impact on the economy. The industry sustains more than 100,000 jobs and produces \$5.5 billion in labor income for its workers. Forests also play a vital role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon sequestration and carbon storage.

Carbon sequestration is the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and the storage of it. It is one of the most effective methods in combatting climate change, because carbon is an emission that creates the greenhouse effect.

Careful management of the forest keeps trees healthy and improves carbon sequestration. By using well-researched management techniques, loggers increase the size of young forests when they replant. Growing trees in U.S. forests annually pull 1,581 million metric tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere – almost as much as the annual U.S. emissions generated from burning fossil fuels for electricity.

In 2021, 88,676 log loads were delivered to New-Indy Catawba harvested from South Carolina (94%), North Carolina (6%) and Georgia (.2%). New-Indy supports sustainable forestry, which includes the practice of planting more trees than are harvested. As a result, there are more trees in the State of South Carolina today than there were 100 years ago.

## EPA CONSENT DECREE & S.C. DHEC CONSENT ORDER FILED

The U.S. District Court in South Carolina reviewed and approved a consent decree between New-Indy Catawba and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Justice in November. New-Indy Catawba has made numerous improvements to its facility since acquiring it in 2018, which the EPA has endorsed or requested. The upgrades worked as anticipated. Visit [www.newindycatawba.com](http://www.newindycatawba.com) to read the EPA's memo on motion to enter the consent decree, excerpts from the memo, New-Indy's statement, and amendments to the decree.

Also in November, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control issued its consent order, which requires New-Indy Catawba to comply with the department's requirements to maintain the substantial progress it already has made. The company is required to install a new steam stripper, add on-site air monitors, and increase sampling for air contaminants.

Visit [www.newindycatawba.com](http://www.newindycatawba.com) for more details about the consent order.

## NEW-INDY CATAWBA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

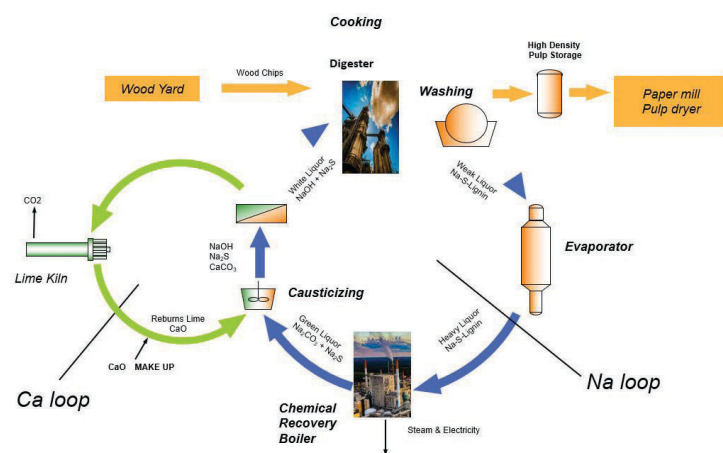
The New-Indy Catawba Community Engagement Group (CEG) was formed in June 2021 and is comprised of individuals who live in the community surrounding the mill. Membership is evenly distributed among local environmental leaders, members of surrounding businesses, and concerned citizens.

### Recent Meeting Recaps

**AUGUST 22, 2022:** The August session included a presentation on industrial black liquor, which is a by-product of the kraft process of turning wood into pulp. The process name is derived from the German word kraft, meaning “strength”. The black liquor produced during the paper-making process is burned as biofuel in a recovery boiler to produce energy and recover cooking chemicals.

In August 2021, the facility experienced a black liquor overflow in its primary containment tank and excess water in the Aeration Stabilization Basin, causing a spike in hydrogen sulfide readings. The situation was quickly addressed, and air monitor readings have been negligible or zero ever since.

To prevent future spills, New-Indy installed a sump system and is in the process of installing a 1.2-million-gallon secondary containment tank, which will significantly increase capacity and remain empty most of the time. The primary tank holds 850,000 gallons.



**Black liquor:** This graphic represents the kraft process chemical cycle.

**OCTOBER 17, 2022:** A programs director from York Technical College delivered a presentation on the school’s apprenticeship program and partnership with New-Indy. Since the apprenticeship program partnership between the Catawba mill and York Tech began in 1984, more than 250 employees have completed the program. The course is set up as a 10,000 hour or 5-year hands-on learning curriculum but in practice, apprentices normally complete the program in 3½ years.

An apprentice graduate and mill employee since 1985 shared his testimonial about working his way up to superintendent. Being accepted into the apprenticeship program was one of the most important things to occur in his life and he conveyed that the experience gained from it helped him to prepare the next generation with crucial mentoring and instruction. The mechanical and electrical apprenticeships are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor and meet the education requirements for former military service men and women to receive GI bill money while



**A Strong Partnership:** Partners since 1984, York Tech students gain valuable experience and on-the-job training during their apprenticeships at New-Indy.

enrolled in the program. Upon completion, all apprentices are offered full-time employment. For nearly 40 years, the apprenticeship program has helped develop a strong workforce, nurture talent in specialized and high-tech career pathways, and reduce hiring and training costs for the mill.

Learn more at <https://www.apprenticeshipcarolina.com>.

**NOVEMBER 13, 2022:** November is Native American Heritage Month, and the New-Indy Catawba Community Engagement Group recognized the ancestry and traditions of the Catawba Indian Nation with a presentation by a member of the local tribe at its monthly meeting. The Catawbas have lived on their ancestral lands along the banks of the Catawba River dating back at least 6,000 years.



**A Celebratory Nation:** A woman performs the fancy dance at a recent Catawba Indian Nation festival.

The Catawba people have endured many changes throughout the years and learned to adapt and evolve with their new surroundings. Traditionally, Catawba communities were matriarchal societies. Catawba women were seen as dominant centers of their communities.

Of the 573 federally recognized tribes in the United States, the Catawba Indian Nation is the only one located in the State of South Carolina. There are currently over 3,300 enrolled members of the Nation, which has a long history and a rich culture that lives on today.

## AUGUST 2022 BATHYMETRIC SURVEY

New-Indy Catawba has been removing solids from its Aeration Stabilization Basin (ASB) since 2021 to increase the volume of water in the basin. This is important because it directly increases the time for retaining water in the ASB. The longer the water is retained in the basin, the longer such wastewater will be biologically treated. More complete treatment of the wastewater reduces the risk of adverse results, including the production of hydrogen sulfide.



**Bathymetric Survey:** The most recent bathymetric survey indicated that the average depth of water in the ASB is six feet. New-Indy will continue to remove solids until there is six feet of freeboard across the entire basin.

To gauge progress of the solids' removal from the ASB, surveyors traveled across the basin by boat to conduct a bathymetric survey. A bathymetric survey is the measurement of the depths of bodies of water and mapping of the underwater features of a body of water from the water surface. New-Indy's survey conducted in August 2022 revealed that the average depth of water in the ASB is six feet, indicating that the volume of water in the basin increased by 18 million gallons between December 2021 and August 2022.

While there are no regulatory standards for the depth of the ASB, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) requested that New-Indy continue to remove solids until there is six feet of freeboard across the entire basin. DHEC has ordered New-Indy to complete this activity by 2026. New-Indy estimates that it will do so without difficulty assuming conditions remain consistent with the current situation.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CHANDLER THOMAS

Chandler Thomas, New-Indy's process engineering group leader, was raised in Rock Hill and attended South Pointe High School. She aspired to be an engineer and knew she wanted to attend the University of South Carolina. It was the only school she applied to. Each summer during college, Chandler interned with the engineering department at a Domtar plant in Bennettsville, S.C., another paper, pulp and packaging company.

After she graduated from South Carolina, Chandler was offered a full-time position at Domtar as a process engineer but her education allowed her to focus on environmental engineering. Soon after starting work with Domtar, she decided to enroll in graduate school to earn her MBA from Winthrop University. Chandler was working full-time while taking classes online in her spare time. She earned her diploma last summer.

Chandler was employed at Domtar for five years until she felt the pull to come home again. She connected with New-Indy and her education background and experience made her an excellent hire. Chandler started at New-Indy Catawba in May 2021 as a process engineer and eight months later, her supervisor stepped aside and she was promoted into her current role.

Chandler's department provides technical support to the mill and she is responsible for training the entry-level process engineers and managing the engineering interns. She feels very fortunate that New-Indy has put a lot of faith in her professional growth and appreciates the challenges each day brings. Her favorite part about working at New-Indy is interacting with fellow employees. They bring her joy and make her laugh.

In her spare time, Chandler likes to hang out with her family, most notably being an attentive aunt to her nieces and nephews. As a lifetime SC supporter, she has been attending Gamecock football and basketball games since she was a child.

Explore great career opportunities at [newindycontainerboard.com/careers](https://newindycontainerboard.com/careers).



### **A Master of Engineering and Business:**

*New-Indy's process engineering group leader Chandler Thomas studied civil and environmental engineering at the University of South Carolina and earned her MBA from Winthrop University.*

Thank you for reading the New-Indy Catawba newsletter. It provides the community with updates and developments at the mill. Additional information and daily updates can be found at [www.newindycatawba.com](http://www.newindycatawba.com).

**Contact Us:** New-Indy has a dedicated phone line for reporting concerns or feedback about our operations. Please call 803.670.2001 and make sure you tell us your name, phone number, and the reason for your outreach.

