

# State of Louisiana

## LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RELEASES FOREST PRODUCTS GUIDE TO ASSIST INDUSTRY EXPANSION**

**BATON ROUGE, La.** –Feb. 22, 2005 -- Michael J. Olivier, Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development (LED), today announced that Louisiana, in conjunction with Evergreen Engineering (Evergreen), will release a forest product reference guide to assist prospective investors to understand and identify forest product development opportunities in Louisiana.

“This new report prepared in collaboration with Evergreen will allow us to showcase Louisiana’s existing forestry industry and present opportunities for new expansion opportunities. With the Governor’s high priority on creating new manufacturing jobs, Louisiana is in a position to offer very attractive incentive programs to companies considering an investment in the state,” said Michael J. Olivier, Secretary of LED. “Louisiana possesses the natural resources, productive workforce and infrastructure that make our state attractive to forest product companies, who have a track record of responsible management of those resources.”

The forest product reference guide reveals that Louisiana possesses a thriving timber resource base, capable of supporting expanded utilization. The widespread adoption of the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative have resulted in pine and hardwood forests that are very well stocked and some of the most productive in the world. Abundant timber stocks are available in many regions of Louisiana.

The Louisiana timber resource base is attractive to a number of forest products companies that can utilize these resources in many types of applications, especially secondary wood products such as doors, flooring, cabinets, and molding and in various composite materials, according to Kelsey Short, LED Director of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. "A goal of Vision 2020, the state's master plan for economic development, is to develop the forest products industry beyond the harvesting of timber for exportation to other states for manufacturing purposes. Louisiana has the resources, knowledge and people to attract additional downstream investment. This resource guide provides a detailed regional analysis of Louisiana pine and hardwood inventory."

LED commissioned this study in support of its 2004 Action Plan to promote growth of the state's forest products' industry. Evergreen Engineering is an engineering firm located in Eugene, Oregon (541-484-4771) that specializes in pulp & paper, woodyard/chip uniformity systems, wood products, industrial panel plants, engineered wood products, alternative fibers, urban wood, and emission controls.

For a copy of the Louisiana Forest Industry Report and timber inventory analysis, or more information about business development opportunities, contact Mr. Kelsey Short, Louisiana Economic Development at 225.342.5892 or email: [short@la.gov](mailto:short@la.gov)