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Sheoga Hardwood Flooring Plans to Erect 750 kW Wind Turbine

Middlefield, OH—Sheoga Hardwood Flooring in the heart of Amish country in Geauga County is investing in a 750 kW wind turbine to power nearly 90 percent of its electricity needs. Creating power from renewable sources is nothing new for Sheoga. The company's green efforts utilizes sawdust generated as a by product in the manufacturing process of solid wood flooring. Several wood waste boilers heats their more than 50,000 sq. foot manufacturing and showroom floor space as well as supplies all of the heat to operate their more than 220,000 board feet dry kiln used to cure and season the wood.

This past winter, Sheoga hired Expedite Renewable Energy, a Cleveland, Ohio-based company, to perform a feasibility study to determine the best renewable energy project for its site. It was determined that a wind turbine system would be the best fit and investment in a 750 kW system would provide a good return on investment and generate the power it needs. Expedite Renewable Energy is partnering with SUREnergy, a Sandusky, Ohio-based company, to move this project forward. "We will be submitting the Ohio Department of Development Advanced Energy Fund grant next week and applying for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy Development Assist grant next month," said Stefanie Penn Spear, president of Expedite Renewable Energy. "If the grants are awarded, we will be erecting the turbine this fall."

Sheoga is an early adopter of wind energy and is showing that it is viable for businesses to generate their own electricity and rely on cleaner, renewable sources of power. "This project is exactly what the region needs to grow the green energy economy and put people to work in the renewable energy industry," Spear said. "This is a marquee project for the region, state and nation."

The project will continue Sheoga's commitment to sustainability. Nearly all of the timber used in the production of its hardwood flooring is harvested in the Appalachian forest region. Many of Sheoga's suppliers of hardwood timber are from the Amish community who are still engaged in the traditions of using horses to transfer logs to the sawmill. This method of log transport minimizes damage to young trees and the soil, and completely eliminates the use of greenhouse-emitting, non-renewable fuels. Sheoga is working to finalize its membership to the National Wood Flooring Association Responsible Procurement Program (RPP) and to produce flooring under the RPP's U.S. Renewing Forests label. Erecting a 750 kW wind turbine will be one more feather in Sheoga's cap, proving it is a company that uses resources that meets the needs of today without compromising those of future generations.

Steve Trudick, majority stock holder of Sheoga Hardwood Flooring has interests in a second wind turbine to provide green energy for another business he owns, The Hardwood Lumber Company. Trudick, founder of numerous successful companies, has provided many job opportunities to the Amish community in Geauga County dating back to the late fifty's.

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