



Fibre
Excellence
PROVENCE

FIBRE EXCELLENCE PROVENCE

One of the only two French pulp mills



THE FIBRE EXCELLENCE PLANT

The Fibre Excellence Provence plant produces around **250,000 tonnes of pulp per year**, which is processed into **many everyday products**: hygiene products, packaging, filter paper, etc.

It employs **over 250 people** and generates **over 5,000 indirect jobs** in the region, particularly in industry and in the forestry sector. The plant therefore injects an additional 100 million euros into the local economy every year.

Located in Tarascon since 1951, the plant has been continually modernised to meet changing regulatory standards and improve its industrial processes.

PULP USES

The pulp produced by Fibre Excellence is used in Asia (China in particular) and Europe (especially France, Spain and Italy) to manufacture products that are used all over the world. There is a differentiation between bleached and unbleached pulp.

Currently, the Fibre Excellence Provence plant only produces only unbleached pulp, thereby minimising the use of chemicals.

Known as UKP - Unbleached Kraft Pulp, this unbleached pulp is used to produce:

- Packaging, bags;
- Corrugated cardboard sheets, flat cardboard;
- Building materials, used in so-called 'fibre cement';
- Insulation materials (for cables, batteries, etc.);
- Moulded products such as disposable tableware.



UNDERSTANDING THE PULP PRODUCTION PROCESS

Responsible wood procurement, an essential component of pulp

Responsible and aware of national forestry challenges, the Fibre Excellence Provence plant is committed to promoting French forest heritage. As part of its activity, the plant:

- Contributes to the maintenance and renewal of the forests, in particular through the use of wood from thinning operations which are governed by the French Forestry Code and contribute to proper forestry industry cycles to guarantee forest renewal.
- Uses a certified timber supply chain compliant with the international PEFC and FSC sustainable forest management standards.
- The plant supports reforestation initiatives through sponsorship or direct support to forest owners committed to the renewal of their forests.
- Part of the supply is composed of local sawmill by-products (sawmill chips), thus making the most of the material from French forests.

The plant relies on local sourcing:

- Several thousand private and public owners are involved in the marketing of the timber needed to supply the sector.
- 250 suppliers and 150 hauliers then supply FEP the timber. Most of them are small and medium-sized forestry companies, on average located within a radius of 250 km from the plant.

TIMBER, A RAW MATERIAL THAT HAS MANY BENEFITS

A NATURAL AND RENEWABLE RAW MATERIAL

A SUSTAINABLY MANAGED RESOURCE THAT CONTRIBUTES TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

A MATERIAL THAT HAS MANY USES AND INNOVATIONS



85% of logs from forest thinning operations
20% of related products from local sawmills



250 km supply radius around the FEP plant



Certified timber supply chain



Pulp production for everyday use



Energy production from paper by-products (electricity, biofuels)



Production of green chemical components

How is pulp produced?

The timber - purchased by Fibre Excellence Provence from local forestry players (including the Fibre Excellence Group subsidiary SEBSO) - is debarked and shredded, then cooked using the combined action of heat and chemicals (white liquor) to extract the cellulose which composes the pulp.

The cellulose is then washed, pressed into large sheets and dried. These sheets are then shipped to paper manufacturers that use the pulp in their production process.

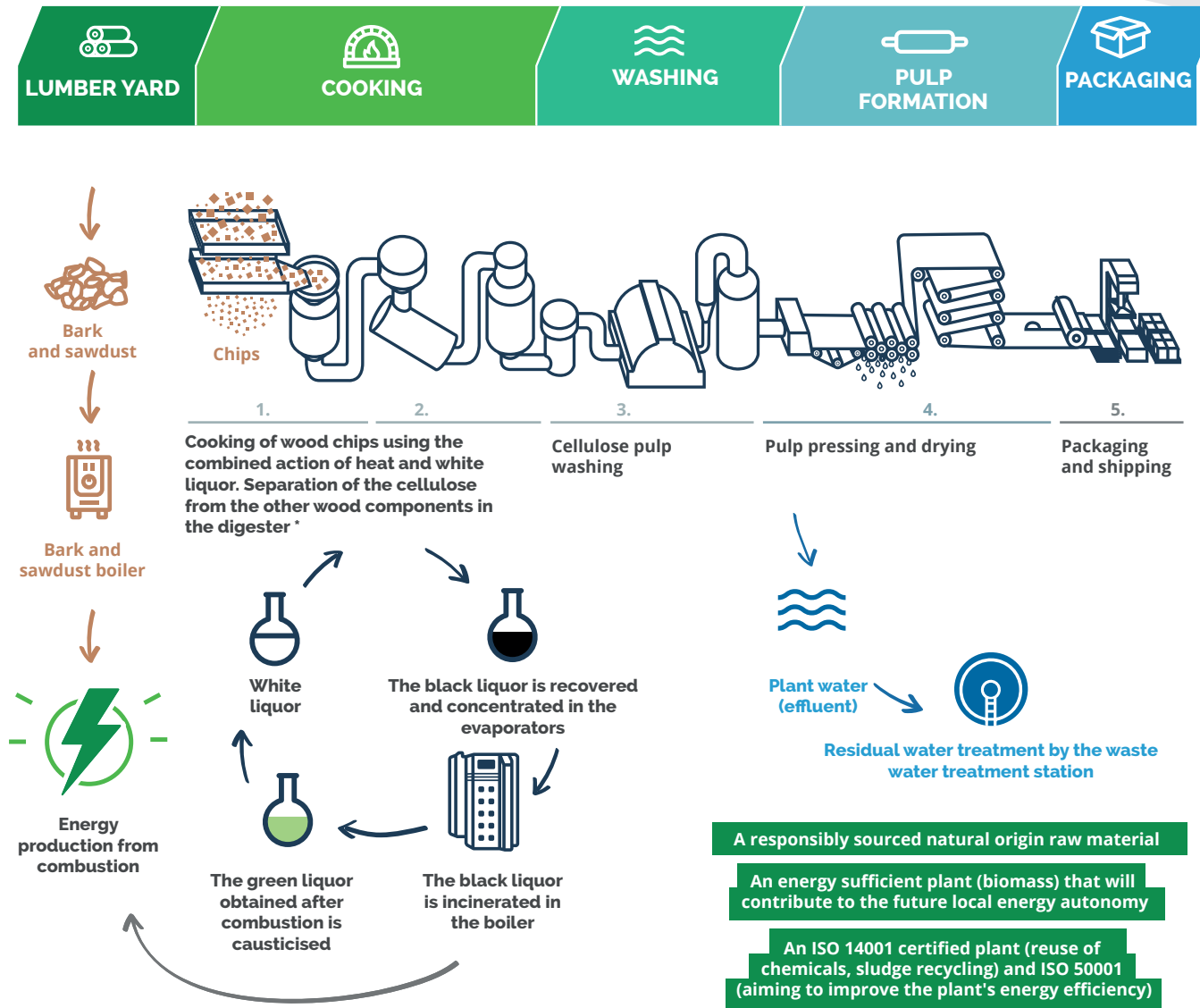
During pulp production, the cellulose is separated from the water, lignin and hemicellulose: these residues are known as black liquor. This black liquor is concentrated and then incinerated at very high temperature in a boiler, known as a black liquor boiler, which provides double recycling. During incineration, the organic part of the black liquor is used to generate steam, whereas the mineral part is regenerated.

The steam generated by the two boilers (black liquor and biomass) supplies three turbines that drive the alternators to produce electricity. This is known as cogeneration.

The process allows the plant to be self-sufficient in energy and even to produce a surplus. In the future, the Biowatt project will allow the plant to increase its energy production capacity to supply the region with electricity from renewable sources.



HOW DOES THE FIBRE EXCELLENCE PROVENCE PLANT OPERATE?



* Water, lignin, hemicellulose of which black liquor is composed

A PLANT COMMITTED TO REDUCING ITS ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

For several years, the plant has applied a general policy to reduce its impacts and its environmental footprint.

Between 2018 and 2020, the plant invested 22 million euros, resulting in a significant reduction in the inconveniences that its activities may have been causing.

In the coming years, Fibre Excellence Provence will carry on its policy to reduce its environmental footprint by installing facilities to reduce odours and improve water quality, thus confirming its commitment to meeting the expectations of the plant's neighbours.

A FUTURE-FOCUSSED PLANT

At the end of 2021, Fibre Excellence Provence carried out major site maintenance and modernisation work, in particular as part of a major shutdown operation to achieve the best industry standards. In 4 years, the plant will have been considerably modernised and its environmental footprint greatly reduced.

- The plant recently announced the launch of the Biowatt project. An investment of 50 million euros, the Biowatt project will make it possible to install a cogeneration boiler on the site from 2022, fitted with a twice as powerful steam turbine (25 megawatts). Based on timber by-product recycling, this boiler will not only increase plant efficiency, but will also generate enough energy to contribute to local energy autonomy. Biowatt will thus favour a new source of income for FEP, thanks to the additional revenue contract that will be paid by EDF over the next 20 years.
- Fibre Excellence Provence is carrying out major site maintenance and modernisation work, in particular as part of a major shutdown operation to achieve the best industry standards.
- In the coming years, the plant will continue its policy to reduce its environmental footprint by installing facilities to reduce odours by collecting and incinerating odorous gases, and the improvement of water quality by improved filtration and the construction of rainwater retention basins.
- Fibre Excellence Provence also plans to install an oxygen delignification facility within 4 years. This will make it possible to bleach the pulp using oxygen and thereby greatly reduce the use of chemicals.

