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### **Azwood Energy Adopts Leading Production Efficiency Measure**

Azwood Energy's Executive Operations Manager, Ben Crawford, explains why it is the right time for Azwood Energy to implement the OEE Standard business-wide, with a view to supporting the future of its growing business.

"Manufacturing a product is a complex process. Without metrics and guidelines, it is very easy to lose control and have your business managed by your production. OEE, (Overall Equipment Effectiveness), is a tool that combines multiple manufacturing issues and data points to provide information about the production process.

"By analysing and calculating data it also functions as a framework for root cause analysis. Through a documented process of combining the underlying data, OEE provides specific process information. All members of the manufacturing team, from plant operators to financial personnel can use the data to understand the current state of the manufacturing process. By having a predetermined framework of the impact of machine availability, performance and quality, OEE provides a scheme to track underlying issues and root causes. OEE also provides a framework for improvements in the manufacturing process. By using key OEE concepts such as 'The Six Big Losses', waste exposed by tracking OEE can be understood, and efficiencies can be improved.

"It felt like the right time to implement a world-class productivity-increasing strategy within Azwood Energy. With the size of Azwood Energy increasing, the need to streamline the production process using a tool that would provide me with a more efficient, effective and productive manufacturing process was crucial. OEE enabled me to fully understand the various issues in our manufacturing process and how these could be reduced to maximise the efficiencies.

"I knew it was essential that all Azwood Energy's staff understood OEE and the benefits of this tool, because this would ensure that once the strategies were implemented, our consumers would benefit further. The education of Azwood Energy's staff about OEE meant they understood why I chose OEE, how it was going to improve the production performance and quality, and how it was going to benefit the company and the consumers.

"Our reliability to our consumers is of the highest importance. The implementation of OEE became a more in-depth measure of our reliability, enabling Azwood Energy to guarantee we meet the consumer's needs 100% of the time. With many industry-leading companies using this strategy with effective results, I knew integrating it into our production process would assist in the reduction of waste from Azwood Energy, and further reduce our carbon footprint. This is extremely important to us, as we are working to help New Zealand transition to a lower-carbon future by supplying cost-comparative carbon-neutral wood fuel as an alternative to fossil fuels. If using OEE correctly can help me advance the production processes at Azwood Energy by improving efficiencies, then I can enhance our reliability to our consumers."



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Azwood Energy is the only wood energy supplier manufacturing the entire range of specified wood fuels. The largest range means Azwood offer impartiality in specifying fuel for wood energy projects.

Azwood Energy have built a technical knowledge and reputation in the energy industry for over 40 years and offer free, no obligation, expert technical advice on specifying a wood fuel project.

As a company Azwood Energy are committed to environmental sustainability by manufacturing carbon-neutral, sustainable products, which will help New Zealand transition to a lower-carbon future. Our main products are Biomass Hog Fuel, wood energy chip and wood pellet fuel (industry and retail). View our product range at [www.azwood.co.nz](http://www.azwood.co.nz)

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