

News:

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 7:05 PM EDT

Company gives tires new life

By Daniel LeBlanc
Olean Times Herald

GREAT VALLEY - An upstart company based in Great Valley has big plans for old tires.

Re-Tread Products Inc. has received a lot of attention from government officials as of late due to the potential of the company's "tire logs." These tire logs resemble wooden ones, only they are made of recycled tires.

Company founder Tom Hansen said in an interview Friday that the tire logs have many applications such as a building product, retaining walls, flood control levees, an earthquake-resistant material and as a barricade.

"Everyone who has seen the product has liked it," Mr. Hansen said.

One of the supporters of the tire logs is Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-NY, who issued a press release endorsing the application of the tire logs.

In a letter to agency officials, Sen. Gillibrand urged FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to meet with executives from Re-Tread Products to discuss the product's potential uses across the country, the press release said.

"The Tire Log has unique properties that make it a promising sustainable, green construction material used for damage prevention," said Sen. Gillibrand in the press release. "By design, Tire Log is a flexible but strong material that can bend without breaking, enabling it to prevent damage from extreme shock or stress. Therefore, this product could be used for various civil engineering applications, including replacement for lumber, concrete and other building materials for flood-control projects like dikes, levees and retaining walls and in areas subject to earthquake activity."

Re-Tread was founded around 2004 based on the idea of using the tire log as a replacement for utility poles. While developing the idea, Mr. Hansen said he discovered other uses for the now patented material such as for building homes and in flood retention projects.

His son, Shane Hansen, now owns the company.

"We're trying to get different levels of government to collaborate and get this done," Mr. Hansen said.

Most of Re-Tread's funding has come through grants such as the state fee collected on the purchase of new tires, Mr. Hansen said.

The company has contracted with Snyder Manufacturing in Salamanca to make some tire logs for small projects.

"We're looking to mass-produce the product," he said. The company plans to open its own factory in Salamanca if it can get an estimated \$1 million for manufacturing equipment.

"We believe we can make it more cost-effective to manufacture. We hope it will be the first of many factories," Mr. Hansen said.

Some test projects Re-Tread is looking into include building a small sea wall at Onoville Marina and as a check dam in ditches in Ashford - which had some roads wash out in recent flooding. The Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office plans to test the material as a backstop at their firing range, Mr. Hansen said. The company has also made a small cabin made out of the tire logs.

In order for the company to move forward, Mr. Hansen said Re-Tread will seek more funding from government entities for green manufacturing.



This small "log cabin" was built using Re-Tread's tire logs. Photo submitted

AUTOS

REAL ESTATE

EMPLOYMENT

More News

Great Valley Part 1: Early settlers drawn to area by abundant timber

After random assault, Mayor Emley reminds residents to keep guard up

Great Valley Part 2: Rural living suits residents just fine

City not only one jacking up county tax

Public-health director goes full circle

Wadas changing area's musical landscape

Area hospitals to use report to help guide their future plans

Health care side bar

H1N1 vaccine expected to arrive soon

Grandmother's battle inspires student to take action

Fisherman finds human remains at reservoir


Orchestra opens 7th season

Eldred Part I: Town renamed for judge in 1838 murder trial

Plan for former Castle property announced

Developer seeks IDA tax benefits

 printer friendly version

 e-mail this story

Movement toward new courthouse made

Company gives tires new life

Features of the Olean Times Herald Web site

Reader Comments

There are **No comments posted.** comments to this story.
The following are comments from the readers. In no way do they represent the view of bradfordera.com.

Submit a Comment

We encourage your feedback and dialog, all comments will be reviewed by our Web staff before appearing on the Web site.

Name: _____

Email: _____

(optional)

Comments: _____

Image Verification: (Case sensitive)



Copyright ? 1995 - 2008 Townnews.com All Rights Reserved.

Send us your community news, events, letters to the editor and other suggestions.