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# Extended uses of wood waste

## Mauro Saviola Group Italy

In partnership with:

With financial support  
from the EU



## Introduction:

### Mauro Saviola Group

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## Company's Description:

The **Saviola Group** is the leading transformer of wood waste in the world, with a recycling capacity of 1.5 million tonnes of post-consumer wood per year. The production philosophy is based on the recovery and reuse of secondary raw materials that can be reborn and reused without the need to cut down new trees, through an economically and ecologically sustainable process. The types of timber that are collected are pallets, fruit crates, shipping boxes, beams from demolition, timber for building construction, scraps from sawmills, particleboard, old furniture, reels for electric cables and prunings

## Sub-sectors affected:

- X Sheets manufacture (1st Wood processing)
- X Board Manufacturing (1st Wood processing)
- X Others: recycling

## Implementation Process:

Wood should be collected because it is very polluting waste, from at least two points of view. Firstly landfills are saturated: usually wood waste is bulky and the spaces in ecological islands are not infinite. Each cubic metre of wood takes away space from other types of waste that cannot be used otherwise. Secondly, the wood becomes methane: wood in an anaerobic (without oxygen) environment such as a landfill undergoes a process of methanisation. If the gas is not captured and used (very few facilities are equipped to do so) it is inevitably released into the air – and methane is a greenhouse gas twenty times heavier than carbon dioxide.

Wood waste can have many uses. From the Retailers to the farmer with a fruit crate at the vegetable market, from the heavy industry that receives huge amounts of crates to the small artisan who uses a few pallets to store and handle his goods. But also joists, planks to hold washing machines in place, planks for stowage in ships or to make the wedges under trucks. You can find plenty of examples in the fabric of trade and manufacturing. Wood, for availability and ease of use, has always been the prime choice for the world of packaging.

### Initiated practices:

The companies of the Mauro Saviola Group offer a service of collection and disposal of “domestic” used wood with the ability to collect the material directly from the company with vehicles equipped with mechanical claws and install containers of various sizes at the companies themselves with periodic collections.

A continuous and reliable service, completes with all the technical and bureaucratic assistance. There are many advantages such as significant reduction in disposal costs, fully structured service, full guarantee for the regulated environmental responsibilities and certification that relieves from all legal responsibility regarding the recycling

### Results:

The Mauro Saviola Group has always been the most important partner of the Italian municipal waste companies in the collection of wood. The local multi-utility can collect wood on their own: the small trader or the ordinary citizen can find in their urban centre the ecological island where they can bring the crate, the broken chair etc.... In this case the Group's logistics service goes and picks up the material. Otherwise, the Group joins the municipal waste company and performs the collection service directly: it collects the material from the small carpenter, the wholesale markets, and the ecological island. The results are: 10,000 trees saved every day, 14 plants in Italy, Belgium and Argentina, 1.5 million tons of reclaimed wood processed each year, 22 [collection centres](#) in Italy and in Europe, dozens of certifications for a production system that many have tried – with little success – to replicate.

Some excellences such as the Ecological Panel, the only particle board to have the FSC 100% Recycled Wood certification, the LEB ecological panel, the particleboard with the lowest formaldehyde emissions in the world. The most extensive and complete range of papers and laminates, edges and surfaces, decoratives and finishes, perfectly coordinated, available on the market today.

Innovative products that come from the Innovation area, such as Saviotan – natural tannin extracted from chestnut wood, used in the tanning industry and in animal feed – or Sazolene – slow-release nitrogen fertilizer initially used in agriculture, but which touches on many other areas (gardens, golf courses).

## Recommendations:

If today the Mauro Saviola Group collects and processes 1.5 million tonnes of post-consumer wood material per year, it is also because it was the first operator on the Italian market to develop the collection of wood waste and there are two key levers. Firstly, the collaboration with municipalities and local municipal waste companies: The used wood collection service of the Group is based on a collaboration with more than 1,000 municipalities. An organised and widespread system able to respond specifically to the different requirements related to the disposal of used wood, which relieves the municipality or the company of the organisational costs and certifies the procedures. Secondly, the network of Ecolegno collection centres. A network of platforms located close to major urban centres, aimed at obtaining a more significant recovery of this precious resource. Each collection centre is equipped with vehicles with mechanical claws and containers to be left at the ecological island or the company.

## Conclusions:

Company certifications Cert ISO 9001 08 Gruppo Mauro Saviola srl, I QNET 9001, ICILA ISO 9001 GRUPPO MAURO SAVIOLA, ICILA ISO 9001 GRUPPO MAURO SAVIOLA, Remade in Italy Certiquality

Product Certifications: Raw Ecological Panel, Melamine-faced Ecological Panel, Laminated

### Keywords:

- X Energy
- X Cascade use of wood
- X Recycling