

New Domtar Union Council

Last week, Local Unions from the 11 USW Domtar locations from across the United States met in Nashville to continue our work together and build power through unity.

At the meeting, we reviewed strategies and tactics for Building Power as a Bargaining Council to prepare for the expiration of our master agreement in April 2012. Using this program, we:

- Reviewed our Communication and Action Team (CAT) structures
- Identified our Council and Bargaining Goals
- Conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis of the Company and our Council
- Reviewed and Set an Agenda to Improve Communication among the Locals (Conference Calls, Council Newsletter, A Council Directory and using technology together)
- Revisited our legal rights on the job and as union members
- Developed a Calendar of Action for the Next Twelve Months

We also:

- Shared information through Local Union reports
- Discussed the USW Paper Mill Safety Survey results and prioritized action
- Heard from the ICD and the Union Sportsmen Association
- Set organizing goals and plan for action

We also learned about Domtar's innovative biomass energy project with We Energies at the Rothschild Mill. This will result in 150 more jobs in the community. The Domtar Council of Local Unions congratulate Domtar on this innovative move and look forward to moving forward with Domtar on other similar projects.

We also learned that at Plymouth a project is being considered to develop alternative product at that mill. The project would include matching funds from the North Carolina government and we are committed to assisting Domtar in that endeavor.



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