

Oji Group installs pilot wood-derived ethanol/sugar solution equipment

Oji Holdings Corporation (President: Hiroyuki Isono; Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo) announces that it has decided to install pilot manufacturing equipment for wood-derived ethanol/sugar solution at the Yonago Mill of Oji Paper Co., Ltd. (President: Takao Funada; Head Office: Chuo-ku, Tokyo).

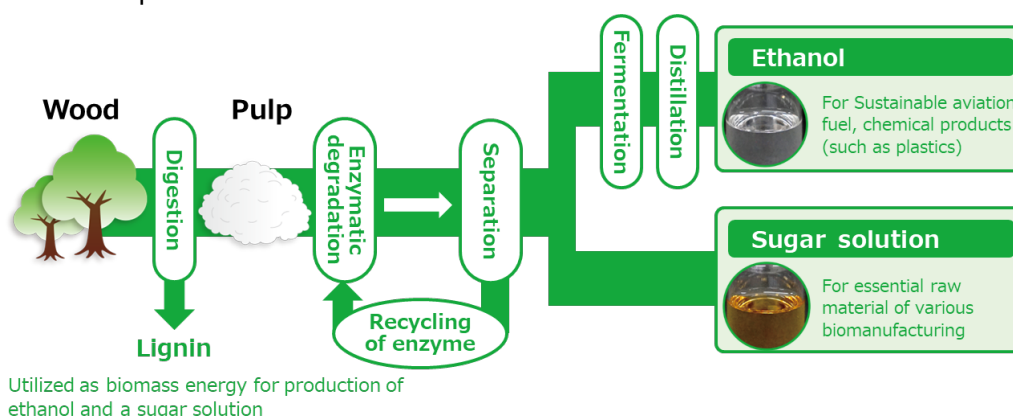
With the goal of contributing to the decarbonization of society through the replacement of petroleum-derived fuels and plastics with biomass-derived alternatives, the Oji Group has been advancing the development of new wood-derived materials using wood obtained through its sustainable forest management. Related to these efforts, it is expected that demand will grow for wood-derived ethanol to be used as SAF¹ in the airline industry or used in the manufacturing of basic chemical products in the chemical industry, and for a wood-derived sugar solution, an essential raw material in a variety of biomanufacturing² processes.

Regarding wood-derived ethanol, the Oji Group was commissioned to implement a NEDO project³ in 2018 and, since then, it has been enhancing its manufacturing technologies. Regarding the sugar solution, we succeeded in developing proprietary technologies including a diastatic enzyme recycling technology, and numerous users have tried using samples.

With the pilot manufacturing equipment installed, a large volume of ethanol and sugar solution will be supplied to users eyeing commercialization. At the same time, we will accelerate initiatives towards the future operationalization of the process through continuous technical improvement (Target for 2030: Supply of 100,000 kL of ethanol).

By installing the equipment in the paper mill, the existing pulp manufacturing lines can be used and, additionally, the lignin that is a by-product of the manufacturing process can be utilized as biomass energy. This is also expected to reduce the CO₂ emitted during the manufacturing of the ethanol and sugar solution.

Moving forward, we will continue to contribute to the establishment of a sustainable society through the development of new wood-derived materials.



■ Outline of pilot equipment plan

Location: Yonago Mill, Oji Paper Co., Ltd.

Capacity: 1 — Wood-derived ethanol Maximum of 1,000 kL/year (820 t/year as weight)
2 — Wood-derived sugar solution Maximum of 3,000 t/year at maximum (As dry weight of sugar)

Volume of raw material used: Approx. 6,000 t/year of wood chips or approx. 3,000 t/year of wood pulp

Beginning of operation: Second half of FY2024

