



Compliance with the SBP Framework: Public Summary Report

SCS Global Services
Evaluation of Appling County Pellets, LLC
Re-assessment

Sustainable Biomass Program
sbp-cert.org





Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 2.1 and SBP Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 (REDIII)

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

Version 2.0	Published 10 August 2023
Version 2.1	Published 21 May 2025

© Copyright Sustainable Biomass Program Limited 2025

Table of contents

1 Overview	3
2 Audit conclusions	4
2.1 Certification decision	4
2.2 Open non-conformities and observations	4
2.2 Closed non-conformities	5
2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation	5
2.4 Notes for the next Audit	5
3 Scope of the audit and SBP certificate	6
3.1 Description of the company	7
3.2 Site details	7
3.3 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system and Product Groups	7
4 Specific objective of the audit	8
5 Evaluation process	9
5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities	9
5.2 Auditor team qualification	9
5.3 Description of evaluation activities	9
5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited	11
5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used	14
5.6 CB stakeholder engagement	14
5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response	15
5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations	15
5.9 Summary of evaluation activities for robustness of the Supply Base Evaluation	15
5.10 Summary of evaluation activities for Processing residues and/or Post-consumer feedstock requirements per Standard 2 and EU RED	15
5.11 Summary of evaluation activities for chain of custody system per Standard 4	15
5.12 Summary of evaluation activities for collection and communication of data per Standard 5	15
5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel	15
5.14 Summary of audit findings for GHG methodology per Standard 6 (if applicable)	16
6 Detailed evaluation of BP's Supply Base Evaluation (if applicable)	17
6.1 Overview of BP's risk assessments and mitigation measures including EU RED scope	17
6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures	17



1 Overview

Certification Body (CB) Name:	SCS Global Services
Primary CB contact for SBP:	Maggie Schwartz
Primary CB contact email:	mschwartz@scsglobalservices.com
Audit team leader:	Kyle Meister
Audit team members:	N/A
Name of the Company:	Appling County Pellets, LLC
Company legal address:	248 Sweetwater Drive, 31513 Baxley, United States
Company contact for SBP:	Randy Stevenson
Company contact email:	stevenson@framfuels.com
Company website:	www.framfuels.com
Date of installation:	
SBP Certificate Code:	SBP-04-17
Date of certificate issue:	04 Oct 2021
Date of certificate expiry:	03 Oct 2026
Audit closing meeting date:	27 Mar 2026
Audit cycle:	Re-assessment

2 Audit conclusions

2.1 Certification decision

Based on the auditor's recommendation and the Certification Body's technical review, the following certification decision is taken:

Certification decision:	Certification approved
Certification decision by (name of the person):	Tom Harlan
Date of decision:	10 Apr 2026
Other comments:	N/A

2.2 Open non-conformities and observations

2.2 Closed non-conformities

2.3 Actions taken by Organisation Prior to Report Finalisation

N/A

2.4 Notes for the next Audit

N/A

3 Scope of the audit and SBP certificate

Scope item	Check all that apply to the Certificate scope
Primary activity	Biomass Producer
Secondary activity	Trader
Approved Standards	SBP Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance v2.0; SBP Standard 2: Feedstock Verification v2.0; SBP Standard 4: Chain of Custody v2.0; SBP Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data v2.0; Instruction Document 5E: Collection and Communication of Energy and Carbon data. v2.1; Instruction Document EU RED: Bridging Requirements for Meeting the Directive EU/2023/2413 v2.0
Product Group IDs	☒ Forest feedstock (1A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Urban and landscape feedstock (2A) ☐ Trees outside forest (TOF) - Agricultural land feedstock (3A) ☒ Processing residues feedstock (4A) ☐ Post-consumer feedstock (5A) ☐ Other (please specify)
SBP Feedstock types	☒ SBP Compliant; ☐ SBP Controlled
Includes Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	No
Includes EU RED Scheme	Yes
Includes EU RED Supply Base Evaluation (SBE)	Yes
Products	WB 1.1 Wood pellets
Feedstock origin (countries):	United States
SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessments used: Public link: https://sbp-cert.org/documents/standards-documents/risk-assessments/	SBP-RRA-US-NF-FOR_v1.0 RRA for US National FOR_Interim, SBP-RRA-US-PF-FOR_v1.0 RRA for US Private FOR_Interim
Chain of custody system	☐ Physical separation ☒ Mass balance
Outsourcing	Yes
Changes in the scope	Updated to EU RED.

3.1 Description of the company

Guidance: Please describe the type, structure and operations of the company including its role in the supply chain, its inputs and outputs as they related to SBP Standards.

Fram Renewable Fuels, LLC operates five wood pellet mills in Southeast Georgia, USA, each with their own SBP certificate: Appling County Pellets, LLC (Baxley GA), Hazlehurst Wood Pellets, LLC (Hazlehurst, GA), Telfair Forest Products, LLC (Lumber City, GA), Ideal Pellets, LLC (Oglethorpe, GA), and Archer Forest Products, LLC (Nahunta, GA). All mills receive a combination of secondary mill residuals (e.g., green sawdust, chips) and pre-consumer tertiary residuals (e.g., dry sawdust and dry chips from milling of secondary products) from local forest product mills (e.g., sawmills, engineered forest product mills, pulp, etc.). Hazlehurst Wood Pellets (HWP) also receives primary material in the form of roundwood and in-woods chips. Appling County Pellets and Archer Forest Products receive primary material as in-woods chips. Since the company has completed a Supply Base Evaluation, all output pellets are considered SBP-compliant.

3.2 Site details

Legal entity name	Address	Site Activity	Visited during the audit
Appling County Pellets	Baxley, GA	Pellet mill	☒
Port of Savannah	Savannah, GA	Port operations	☒

3.3 Detailed description of the Chain of Custody system and Product Groups

Guidance: Please describe the operation of the CoC system including details of the mass balance management and a list of established Product Groups.

As applicable, all material is subject to the organization's COC procedures for sourcing certified and noncertified material. The organization sources material from certified sources under its valid COC certificate(s) per the following systems: ☒ FSC ☒ PEFC and/or ☐ SFI. As applicable, any non-certified sources have been evaluated under the BP's COC Due Diligence System (DDS) or Controlled Wood procedures, as well as ☒ SBE and/or duly approved ☐ Regional Risk Assessment.

4 Specific objective of the audit

The specific objective of this evaluation was to confirm that the Biomass Producer's management system is capable of ensuring that all requirements of specified SBP Standards are implemented across the entire scope of certification.

5 Evaluation process

5.1 Timing and duration of evaluation activities

Audit Level of Effort (LoE)		
Activity	Auditors	Auditor hours
1. Preparation	Kyle Meister	15.0
2. On-site (excl. travel time)	Kyle Meister	20.8
3. Report writing	Kyle Meister	8.0
4. Other	Kyle Meister	10.0

5.2 Auditor team qualification

Auditor qualification		
Auditor name	Role	Qualification
Kyle Meister	Lead Auditor	Lead SBP Auditor

5.3 Description of evaluation activities

Audit schedule: ST
1, 2, 4, and 5 (SBE
and/or certified
sourcing)

Activity	Location	Auditor name	Date Time				Notes
			AF	AC	HW	ID	
Opening meeting (incl. review of previous non-conformities)	Remote	Kyle Meister	3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5	Introductions, auditor review of audit scope, audit plan and intro/update to SBP and SCS standards and protocols, client description of organization
Review of trademarks			3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5 9:30	SBP TMLA and trademarks
Review of procedures			3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5 10:00	Written procedures, work instructions, feedstock description, accounting system (transfer, percentage or credit; physical separation, percentage method)
Review of SBR, SBR Annex I			3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5 11:00	Review of ST 1 and ST 2 requirements

(SBE), Determination of Origin, and associated evidence (e.g., internal audit reports)						
ST 4: Business integrity, social, health & safety	3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5	13:00	Overlaps with ST 1 and general COC requirements
ST 4: review of inputs, outputs, traceability, training, etc.	3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5	14:00	Auditor-selected sample of the following: material tracking system, summary of purchases and sales, invoices, shipping documents, training records, outsourcing agreements, other applicable SBP systems, tracebacks from certified outputs to eligible inputs, verification of calculations for conversion factors, percentage claims, and credit accounts, as applicable
ST 5: Review of SAR and GHG data collection/ calculations	3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5	15:00	Review of sampled primary, secondary, and tertiary supplier records.
END DAY 1	3/2	3/3	3/4	3/5	17:00	Review of GHG data, record-keeping, calculations, etc.
Final review of SAR and SBR	3/6	3/6	3/6	3/6	9:00	Final review of GHG data, record-keeping, calculations, etc. Final review of ST 1 and ST 2 requirements.
END DAY 2	3/6	3/6	3/6	3/6	17:00	
Inspection: verification of COC and GHG control points, OHS measures, scope end points	3/23	3/24	3/24	3/27	8:00	Review of physical inputs and outputs, material receipt, storage, processing, sale, and overall control. Remote inspection of Port of SAV
Interviews with staff	3/23	3/24	3/24	3/27	10:00	Training, OSH, responsibilities, etc.
ST 1: field inspections	3/24	3/24	3/24	N/A	12:00	Inspections of sampled primary tracts.
3/25	3/25	3/25	N/A	8:00- 16:00		
3/26	3/26	3/26	N/A			

Closing meeting preparation	3/27	3/27	3/27	3/27	12:00	Auditor takes time to consolidate notes and review audit findings for presentation at closing meeting
Closing meeting	3/27	3/27	3/27	3/27	13:00-14:00	Convene with all relevant staff to summarize audit findings, review identified nonconformities, and discuss next steps

5.4 List of forest management units and feedstock suppliers visited

☐ N/A – No forest sites or suppliers visited during this evaluation

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 1
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Harvested and replanted with Slash pine after bedding. Left part of stand partially harvested with pole-sized trees standing.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 2
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Thinning done 3-4 years ago prior to hurricane. Inspection of landing and pond buffer (flagged). Main haul road inspection. Property boundary identified by change in stand age and swamp. Hunting stands observed o two parts of property. Second and third pond buffer inspection.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name

ACP, HWP supplier 3
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Flat planted with Longleaf pine after harvest. It has been burned and had firebreaks cleaned. Intent is to produce pine straw. Inspection of landing. Hardwood retention pocket along pond.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 4
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Inspection of pond buffer and log landing. Not yet planted or burned. Microchipped. Inspection of SMZ and property boundaries. Hardwood retention along property boundaries.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 5
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Hunting stand present. Pond buffer inspection. Supplier chipped the tops for the pellet mills. Site was being raked to prepare for bedding. Inspection of landing area.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 6

Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage 1st thinning. Loblolly pine. Inspection of landing. Hunt lease. Microchipped. Straight trees left with healthy crowns. Little to no residual damage.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 7
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Flat planted with Longleaf pine after prescribed burn. Pond buffer and SMZ inspection. Hardwood retention along SMZ. Fram took microchips.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 8
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Purchased by landowner to prevent development. Harvested and only sprayed to control hardwoods. Wind-rowed. Property line identified by different stand type, SMZ, and pink flagging.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 9
Site location

SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. Fram took microchips only. Clearcut area and thinning/shelterwood area inspected. Prescribed burn done post-harvest. Property boundary identified by pink flagging. Adjacent to hardwood swamp. Hardwood retention between clearcut and thinning area. To replant with Longleaf pine. Interview with landowner.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

Site name
ACP, HWP supplier 10
Site location
SE Georgia
Site description
Hurricane salvage. One side was Wind-rowed, prescribed burn, bedded, and replanted with Slash pine. One side was Wind-rowed, prescribed burn, and flat planted. Low swampy area unharvested. Hardwood retention along property boundaries.
Rationale and focus of visit
Active supplier during audit period
Description of audit activity
See site description

5.5 Describe audit sampling methodology used

As a minimum, a sample of the square root of the number of processing residues and waste feedstock suppliers (or 10% whichever is higher) is audited individually annually and increased depending on the level of risk. The sample is representative of the whole group and determined using a combination of risk and random selection (random selection is used to select a minimum of 25% of the sample). The suppliers selected for audit may vary from year to year. Supplier sampling is determined using SBP sampling formulas described or cited in SBP Standard 3 and SBP's RED II sampling table, included in section 5.3 of this checklist template. Audit teams ensure to sample across the variety of forest ecosystems and/or feedstocks from which the organization sources, including by selecting different land ownership/management (e.g., small, public, private, etc.), harvesting types (thinning, final harvest), and feedstock type (primary, secondary, tertiary, hardwood, softwood, etc.).

5.6 CB stakeholder engagement

☐ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

Guidance: Please specify the number and types of stakeholders engaged, method of engagement and its outcomes.

SCS relies on its Master Stakeholder List, which contains interested parties such as stakeholders and/or rightsholders that are identified by type (e.g. ENGO, Government/regulatory, Educational/Academic, Industry, Indigenous/Aboriginal/Tribal, etc.) This list is categorized by country and state/province/territory at the very least, and for this consultation was filtered to omit any interested parties that were not geographically relevant to the certificate holder/applicant's supply base. A notification is sent out to all identified interested parties after the BP's consultation period has ended. Comments from interested parties that are received outside of regular consultation periods are fully considered. Methods used to communicate with interested parties may include, but are not limited to, public, private or semi-private meetings, email, telephone, written correspondence, and/or messaging application.

Consultation that may have been conducted by the BP during the audit period may be described in the BP's SBR. Sometimes, formal and informal consultation may not be documented in the BP's SBR due to confidentiality concerns of interested parties.

The following consultation activities occurred as a part of this audit:

- ☐ Consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services.
- ☒ Consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services, but interested parties did not respond to any communications and/or did not provide permission to include comments in the report.
- ☐ No consultation has been conducted by SCS Global Services.

Comments received by the organization's consultation program may be addressed in its SBR. Refer to the SBR for details.

5.7 Stakeholder feedback and response

- ☐ N/A – Certification Body stakeholder consultation not applicable for this evaluation

- ☒ No stakeholder comments by SCS were received before, during or after the evaluation.

5.8 Main strengths and weaknesses of the management system and operations

Strengths: Systems for gathering and maintaining supplier information remain strong. Once relationships are established with suppliers, the BP has rarely had to remove them.

Weaknesses: Refer to any nonconformities issued.

5.9 Summary of evaluation activities for robustness of the Supply Base Evaluation

- ☐ N/A – Standard 1 not in the scope of the evaluation

N/A - does not use SBE.

5.10 Summary of evaluation activities for Processing residues and/or Post-consumer feedstock requirements per Standard 2 and EU RED

The organization maintains a list of suppliers which include relevant information such as name and address, type of supplier, category of feedstock supplied, and a supplier self declaration. The organization conducts supplier audits and visually inspects the feedstock upon delivery to the mill. Trip tickets are used by the suppliers to gain access to bring feedstock to the mill which ensures that the feedstock meets the SBP standard requirements

5.11 Summary of evaluation activities for chain of custody system per Standard 4

The audit team observed all critical control points in the pellet mill, such as the scale house, feedstock storage, production, feedstock points, blending after the dryer, pelletization, lab/control room, and pellet storage/load out.

5.12 Summary of evaluation activities for collection and communication of data per Standard 5

The organization has a comprehensive set of records in which all Standard 5 data is compiled and maintained. All compilation and calculations are conducted by organization's staff through use of IT platforms, logbooks, and/or spreadsheets.

5.13 Summary of audit findings for competency of involved personnel

The SBE was completed by the organization's staff who have local forestry experience and knowledge of ecological and social values associated with the supply base, applicable laws and regulations, business management practices, operation of suppliers, and the local forest resource. The organization's management and control systems for SBP are similar to those used to meet other Chain of Custody requirements. Key personnel tasked with implementing the management and control systems relating to SBP compliance are well trained and competent, with strengths in accounting, markets, silviculture, management, harvesting, and conservation issues. Staff at production facilities are knowledgeable in data collection systems.

5.14 Summary of audit findings for GHG methodology per Standard 6 (if applicable)

☒ N/A – Standard 6 not in the scope

6 Detailed evaluation of BP's Supply Base Evaluation (if applicable)

☒ N/A – Supply Base Evaluation not in the scope of the evaluation

6.1 Overview of BP's risk assessments and mitigation measures including EU RED scope

N/A

6.2 CB evaluation of specified risk indicators and mitigation measures