Sustainable Building Products (online)
2 February 2010

Papyrus Australia's banana-fibre technology

By Editor on 2 February 2010

PAPYRUS Australia has claimed its banana-fibre technology is the solution to global need for sustainable fibre sources.

According to Papyrus Australia, the Papyrus technology, which uses the waste trunk of the banana palm to produce paper and timber products, was developed in response to the increasing global demand for fibre resources with environmentally-responsible manufacturing processes.

Papyrus Australia founder Ramy Azer says the banana-fibre technology is a new, innovative, low cost and environmentally sustainable solution for the timber and paper industries.

"Producing fibre from trees is an inefficient process and has adverse affects on the environment," Azer says.

"The Papyrus process is the result of 15 years of detailed research and selection which identified the banana plant as an ideal supply of fibre. There was previously no economically viable use for the 2.5 billion tonnes of banana trunks that go to waste every year around the world. This decomposing raw material emits more than 232 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere every year.

"Unlike timber which has a long growth cycle, a banana plant will produce a new trunk every six to 12 months, depending on the plant type and location and this makes it an abundant and easily renewed fibre source.

Papyrus estimates total carbon dioxide emissions to be less than 10 kilograms per tonne of raw paper produced, which represents a potential saving of more than 1.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per tonne of raw paper produced, when compared with traditional methods.