

Açaí, the fruit of our energy

Environment preservation, the development of a new production chain, support to the local economy, creation of more jobs, generation of additional income and a more sustainable energy matrix are the benefits of our project "Use of açai seeds as a substitute for petroleum coke", carried out at our plant in Primavera, Pará.



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The Amazon is the largest tropical forest in the world, occupying 60% of the Brazilian territory. It is rich in biodiversity and home to more than 10,000 species of plant

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One of its native plants is the açai palm tree, which produces a purple fruit that is known for its antioxidant properties and high energy value

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The açai pulp serves as food and sustenance for many communities, but it is in its seeds that we found something unique and innovative

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Until very recently, most of this fruit was thrown away. 80% of the açai fruit used to be discarded. Now its seeds serve a new purpose



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The seeds are a good substitute for fossil fuels, as they produce lower CO2 emissions and are aligned with environmental, social and governance (ESG) best practices

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At the Votorantim Cimentos plant in Primavera (Pará), açai seeds are used to replace a significant percentage of fossil fuels used in cement kilns

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The seeds go through a drying process, are stored and then transported to Primavera, a town 200 kilometers from the city of Belém, in the state of Pará

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Suppliers from Igarapé-Miri, known as the world capital of açai, collect and separate the seeds that are discarded

FOR US, THE CLIMATE AGENDA ALSO MEANS COMPETITIVENESS

- The most competitive businesses will be those with the lowest greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the circular economy is part of our daily lives. We carry out thermal substitution in our cement kilns, replacing fossil fuels with alternative fuels, such as biomass, used tires and urban and industrial waste that cannot be recycled. By doing so, we help reduce the volume of waste that would end up in landfills, while also reducing our CO2 emissions, helping to decarbonize our planet.
- For us, sustainability is a strategic driver and a pursuit that goes hand in hand with our history, which began in 1936 – more than 80 years ago. Decarbonization, defined as the reduction of CO2 emissions, is one of our sustainability commitments.
- Driven by ambitious science-based targets, reducing the use of fossil fuels is an important lever for reducing emissions. The co-processing of açai seeds is one example of how Votorantim Cimentos, a building materials and sustainable solutions company, is also contributing to the decarbonization of the planet.

