Redefining turbine lifecycle management

In this exclusive interview with PES, key leaders from Everpoint Services reveal how the company is redefining decommissioning and recycling in the renewable energy sector, an area increasingly critical as the world races toward sustainability. Tyler Goodell, CEO; Candace Wood, COO; David Grobe, CFO & Controller; and James Timmins, Vice President of Engineering, share their insights on navigating the challenges of wind turbine repowering, demolition, and site remediation. Discover the innovative strategies that have positioned this company at the forefront of renewable energy solutions.

PES: Welcome to PES Wind and thank you for joining us today. Let's start with an introduction to Everpoint and the core services you offer in the renewable energy sector.

Tyler Goodell: Everpoint is an independent energy services company. Our focus extends to demolition work when repowering wind assets, including wind blade demolition and recycling services, solar decommissioning, solar repower, and solar remediation services.

We also provide ad hoc site preparation and enhancement work as needed by our clients. We ended the 2024 calendar year with 84 technicians in the field performing demolition and remediation work. We have a corporate office in Houston, Texas, and a warehouse facility in Wichita Falls, Texas.

PES: Your innovative approach involves repurposing materials from old wind turbines. Could you describe how these materials are processed and reused?

James Timmins: We've developed a novel application that avoids sending waste to landfills or using it in cement. We have applied for a patent to protect the process and the application. If anyone in the industry is looking to recycle blades in this way, please contact us for more information.

PES: You have been trusted to manage some of the wind industry's toughest decommissioning projects. What preliminary steps are taken to assess and ready a site before beginning your work?

Candace Wood: Every project starts with proper investigation, operational timeline, and budgetary realities that meet the needs of the client. The reason we have been so successful in decommissioning services is the internal methodology we have. Our team breaks down each task and then builds out an engineered or logistical solution to ensure we are fully prepared before the start of any work scope.

PES: Can you share insights from a project that presented significant challenges and the solutions your team implemented?

CW: One project that presented significant challenges was a partially collapsed wind

turbine. The structure was not stable, it was awkward, and its posture was in a way that prevented safe crane work from taking place. The Everpoint team mobilized our robotic torch and safely cut the base section of the turbine to allow for the remaining tower sections to fall to the ground.

The remaining team members were then able to do what we do best; boots on the ground, torch cutting the tower sections, nacelle, and further breaking down the wind turbine blades for site remediation and recycling to take place.

PES: Safety is clearly a priority in your work. Which specific safety measures do you enforce to protect your team?

CW: Safety is our top priority, and we maintain a proactive, structured approach to protect our team and other personnel onsite. We enforce regular inspections, audits, and emergency drills to ensure compliance and preparedness. Employees and contractors follow strict safety protocols, including risk assessments and emergency response planning.

We also foster a strong safety culture through routine safety meetings, supervisor safety checks, peer observations, and real-time hazard mitigation, ensuring risks are addressed immediately. By prioritizing engagement, accountability, and continuous improvement, we create a safe and compliant work environment for all.

PES: With estimating, permitting and procurement being vital for project success, how do these elements come together to streamline the overall decommissioning process?

CW: Our clients do not have unlimited time or budget to decommission wind turbines. Nor should they. We have to be diligent and fully transparent on costs when it comes to end of life services. Plan, execute, improve, and repeat is our mantra here.

The better the cost estimate and planning of the project the safer it is for everyone involved

Tyler Goodell

and the quicker the site can either be rebuilt for new assets or be returned to the landowner.

PES: Managing equipment and logistics is crucial for large-scale projects. What strategies does your company employ to effectively handle these aspects?

David Grobe: First, we have a talented and experienced execution team that can identify needs and requirements for projects in great detail. Their deep understanding of large-scale project delivery enables them to build strong relationships with both our customers and third party partners, ensuring that we have resources on-site in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

For specialty tooling specific to end-of-life services like saws and grinders, Everpoint fosters collaborative partnerships with manufacturers to maintain access to the most current and innovative solutions the market has to offer.

Pushing even further, we are engaging with the country's leading research labs to further develop our own technologies that will greatly reduce the environmental consequences of large-scale decommissioning projects while

Candace Wood

still offering competitive costs for our services.

PES: Your BladeBlok™ Recycling Program plays a big role in your environmental efforts. Can you explain how the program works and the impact it has on the industry?

JT: The product's main impact is that it provides a cost-effective means of reuse while avoiding the environmental impact of disposing of the material in landfills or burning it in kilns to make cement additives. So, in addition to improving the economics of decommissioning, it's environmentally responsible as well.

PES: Maintaining safety and quality is central to your operations. Do you have any examples of where your commitment to continuous improvement has positively impacted a recent project?

TG: Continuous improvement is just that. We are all improving every day. We are constantly optimizing processes, both in the field and in the office. I was out on site when a unit was being lifted. It quickly turned into a near miss. Luckily, it stayed a near miss!

We issued a stop work authority and within four hours we had an initial incident communication on what had happened. Within 24 hours we had an incident report to the client and before the end of the week we had corrective actions presented to the client to show how we learned from the incident.

PES: Everpoint emphasizes collaboration with clients. In your experience, how does this openness and transparency contribute to the success of complex decommissioning projects?

TG: Honesty and transparency are the right way to do business. End of story. Collectively there is a tremendous amount to gain by showing everything to our clients.

As a service company, once you commit to being hyper transparent with clients on what is happening in the field your company safety improves, operational posture improves, and

the service level provided improves to the point where you can never go back to performing as a best in class service company.

PES: Can you share some frequent misconceptions clients have about your deactivating projects, and the ways you address these?

CW: The most prominent misunderstanding we see with potential clients, and those we have not worked with, yet largely remains with how to dispose of wind turbine blades in a meaningful manner.

Landfilling, cement filler, and cement co-processing are not the only options for companies looking to offload large volumes of wind turbine blades. Everpoint has a novel end use for recycled wind turbine blades that may be interesting for those who want another option.

PES: Please explain the importance of land use optimization in your projects and its impact on sustainability.

TG: On many of our projects we are reversing the supply chain. As we all know wind turbines are massive, and specialized equipment is required to move them. Planning how to effectively use the worksites to stage and logistically move these pieces of equipment is like watching an industrial symphony. Hats off to Candace Wood and her team. I may be biased, but no one does it better.

PES: You're using Sensor ETA technology to track waste streams from turbines to processing mills. I'm interested in how the system provides transparency and confidence for your clients regarding material recycling.

TG: SensorETA, which is becoming an industry leader in this space, provides IoT sensors that are physically attached to the pieces to be recycled. This provides tracking from the work site to the recycling plant to consumption as its final product in the field. Tracking that can be written to a blockchain for further transparency.

James Timmins

David Grobe

It can also use sensors attached to the trucks used in transport, and air quality sensors at the work site and at the recycling plant, to provide additional information to ensure environmental standards are upheld.

This data is shared with partner company Media Sourcery's Proof of Authenticity solution, which collects all of the evidence about the life of an asset to be recycled, stores these transactions on a decentralized public ledger and then provides a 'Proof of Recycling' certificate as a PDF document, a web page and/or as an NFT as a store of value.

In the world of renewable energy, the 'standard' for an entity to prove that they had correctly and assuredly recycled wind turbine parts or solar panels has been, to date, a simple document, printed out, signed and dated. Media Sourcery's Proof of Authenticity collects all of the evidence, providing a transparent track to truly show Proof of Recycling.

PES: What unique aspects of your approach give Everpoint a competitive advantage in the wind energy sector?

CW: We've identified a significant gap in the industry. There are very few companies focused exclusively on end-of-life solutions, addressing complex challenges that keep our clients up at night.

What sets us apart is our partnership with Blastpoint, our sister company specializing in explosives. This strategic alliance allows us to provide a comprehensive suite of services critical to wind repowering, catastrophic failure response, wind blade demolition, and recycling.

Unlike others who may offer these services as a secondary capability, our team is fully dedicated to this niche. We live and breathe this work, which has positioned us as leaders in the industry.

PES: Looking ahead, which areas do you see as crucial for advancing sustainability in the renewable energy industry, particularly within the wind sector?

TG: For sustainability to have a real impact, it must be financially sustainable, either profitable or, at the very least, cost-neutral. If OEMs, EPCs, or dedicated service companies aren't profitable, the entire ecosystem struggles.

What excites me is the level of ingenuity emerging within the wind industry to address some of our most pressing challenges. It's exhilarating to witness this innovation firsthand.

The talent and vision driving this sector are unmatched, and I genuinely believe the next few years will be transformative for the industry. We're on the brink of significant advancements, and it's a privilege to be part of this journey.

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