





**From Streets to Sawmills:  
Reclaiming Urban Wood**

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University of Tennessee  
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Nov. 20, 2013 12:20 pm Room 160 PBB



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**Outline**

Background Information  
Current Issues  
Reclaiming Urban Wood  
Success Stories  
Future Directions



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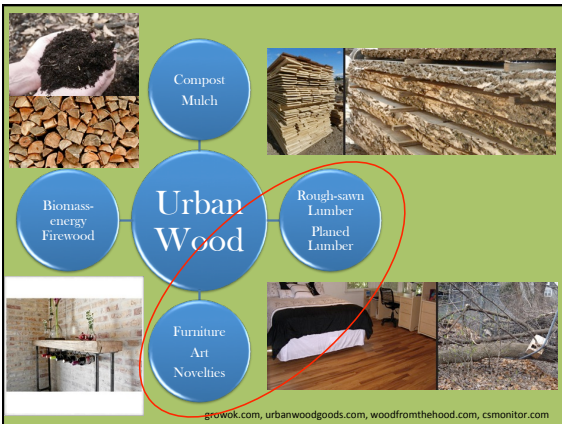
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growok.com, urbanwoodgoods.com, woodfromthehood.com, csmonitor.com

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## Urban Wood Utilization

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED)



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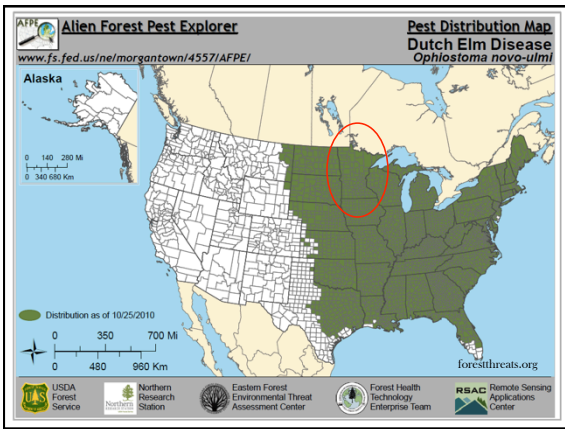
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## Urban Wood Utilization

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED)
- 1989 Waste Management Act



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### Urban Wood Utilization

- Dutch Elm Disease (DED)
- 1989 Waste Management Act
- Urban Tree Utilization Project (1991-1994)
  - The Twin Cities area
  - 826,000 tons tree residue yearly
  - 85,000 tons in logs (Sherrill, 2003)



theridgewoodblog.net, en.paperblog.com

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### Wasted Wood



200 million cubic yards of green waste

3-4 billion board feet of lumber

25% of 14 billion consumed in U.S.

30 million cubic yards of logs can be utilized

Sherrill, 2003

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### Sources of Wood Waste

- Storm Damage
- Land Development
- Arboriculture Practices
- Invasive Pests



politicalcartoons.com, broadbentinc.com, livingwithinsects.wordpress

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### Emerald Ash Borer: The Current Issue

- Ash spp. popular tree for developed areas
  - Chicago 289 ash trees/ha (Kovacs et al., 2009)
- Affect healthy Ash trees



pronorecord.com

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### Emerald Ash Borer: The Current Issue

- Ash spp. popular tree for developed areas
  - Chicago 289 ash trees/ha (Kovacs et al., 2009)
- Affect healthy Ash trees
- 2010-2020: \$12.5 billion to treat or remove and replace (Kovacs et al., 2011)
- Current status of EAB?

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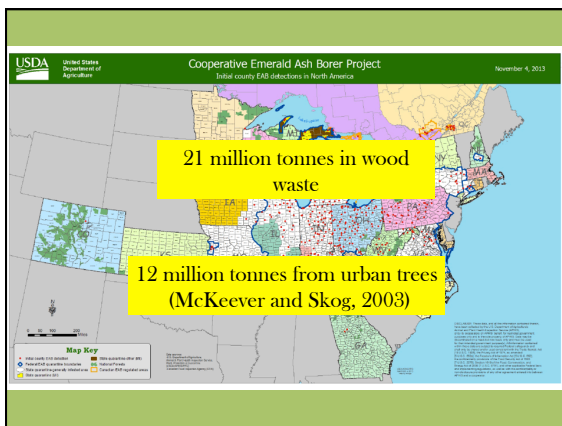
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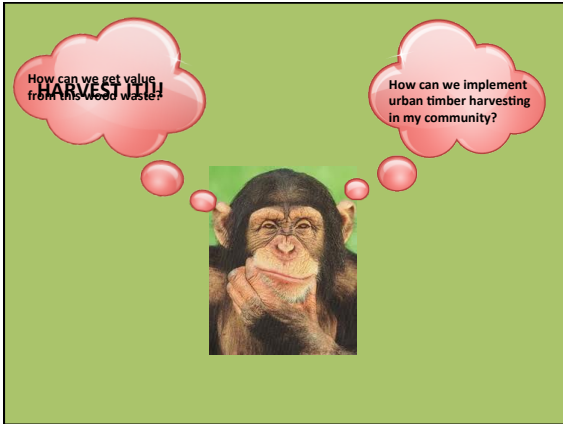
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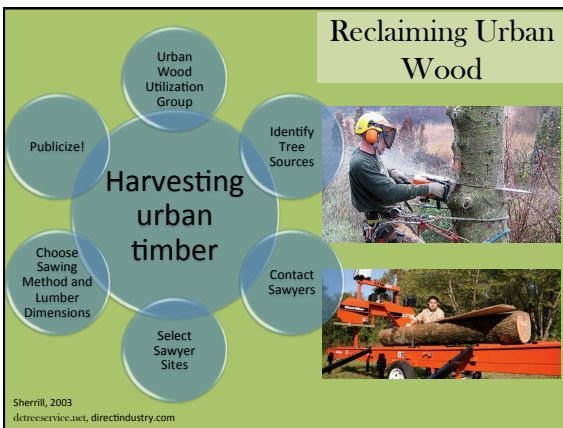
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### Success Stories

**Wood from the Hood**  
- Minneapolis, MN

woodfromthehood.com

**The Urbanwood Project**  
- Ann Arbor, MI

urbanwood.org

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### Wood From the Hood

- Minneapolis 2005
- Lumber (8/4, 4/4), flooring, specialty orders, novelty items
- Partnered with local arborists
- Tag every product with zip code
- Have Coop with local grocery stores
- The "Buy Local" Market



Woodfromthehood.com

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### The Urbanwood Project

- Ann Arbor 2005
- Focus: "Recycle dead urban trees, especially those killed by EAB"
- Recycle from municipal tree crews and private tree care companies
- 6 local sawmill partners
- 3 Retail locations in SE Michigan
  - Ann Arbor
  - Flint
  - Haslett



urbanwood.org

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### Urbanwood products: A sustainable choice that supports communities in Southeast Michigan



crainsdetroit.com

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### Keys to Success

- Cooperative effort
- Consistent and multiple wood sources
- Specialty orders
- Get the public excited




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### Future Directions

- Urban Tree Waste is not declining
  - Invasive pests, storms, and harsh environment
- Sustainable living and buying local
  - Becoming the norm
- Develop Cooperative Agreements
  - Partnering to offset costs



wbez.org

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## Questions?



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