

URBAN WOOD: GROW ONCE. BENEFIT TWICE!

Ever wondered what happens to street trees after their growing years are over? Instead of dumping these trees into landfill, there is a growing movement that harvests former street trees for lumber and many other products.

REDUCES DISPOSAL COSTS

Communities utilizing street trees are able to create savings in disposal and landfill costs. Municipalities can also reduce the amount of crew time needed to process logs into firewood or small pieces, thereby either reducing labor costs or diverting labor to other important community maintenance tasks.¹

CARBON STORAGE

To produce their food and energy, trees absorb and lock away carbon dioxide in their wood, roots & leaves, reducing the amount of carbon in the air. Reusing urban logs keeps carbon stored away longer.²

SUSTAINABLE RAW MATERIALS

Industries that utilize wood from the local area have access to a new sustainable source for raw materials. This helps businesses to develop new products, create jobs and keep dollars in the local economy.³

MORE UNIQUE & MORE VALUABLE

Urban forests are made up of many tree species, with unique features not readily available from other sources. These wood products can sell for up to 400% more than standard lumber. Selling a tree log as lumber is more profitable than selling as firewood.⁴

MAKE BIOFUEL

Even when a felled tree cannot provide any useful lumber, the trunk, and branches can be used to produce biofuel, with wood chips used as an alternative to fossil fuels for heating.⁵

CONSERVES FORESTLANDS

Generating logs for sawmills from street trees that would need to be removed anyway, due to either natural occurrences (pests, disease, or storms) or other causes (road widening, or utility work) helps to conserve our forest resources and natural habitats.¹



For more information on urban wood programs or directories, visit urbansalvagedwoods.com or ufei.calpoly.edu/urbanwood.

Literature Cited:

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