Urban Wood Utilization Survey – Virginia Tech (Dr. Eric Wiseman)

- Response Rate: 50% for Municipal & 30% for Private Arborists
- 2/3 could not give estimate of how much urban forest waste (ufw) was produced – too small a sample to draw any conclusions as to how much volume is annually produced
Urban Wood Utilization Survey – Virginia Tech (Dr. Eric Wiseman)

➤ Types of urban forest wood produced:

- Municipal  90% chips & brush; 10% logs
- Private Arborists  65% chips & brush; 35% logs
Urban Wood Utilization Survey – Virginia Tech (Dr. Eric Wiseman)

- **Logs**: More likely to be utilized by commercial tree care / private arborists. Much of municipal log material is disposed of.
  - Main products: firewood, lumber & pallets

- **Chips**: Utilization more even between municipal & private. Several municipalities in Atlanta area give mulch away.
  - Main products: mulch, compost & small amount for biomass energy.

- **Brush**: More than half is not utilized.
  - Main products: mulch, compost
Urban Wood Utilization Survey – Virginia Tech (Dr. Eric Wiseman)

➢ Attitudes about urban wood utilization & barriers vs. opportunities

- Most were neutral about seeking to increase utilization
- Many believed that utilization would become a more important issue (more customer driven – value added service)

Opportunities
- Avoiding costs
- $ If market matures/develops
- Environmental sustainability

Barriers
- Lack of stockpiling space
- Expense of specialized equipment
(2) Urban Wood Utilization Workshops – Atlanta area & Augusta area (2 years ago)

- Target audience: municipal tree care, city engineers/solid waste departments
- Chose Augusta because of severe tornado damage previous year – large amount of debris overwhelmed the system
- Topics: GA urban wood study results, Industry clusters, lessons learned from other cities, urban forest management & assessments

Both events were well attended with positive feedback!
(2) Urban Wood Equipment Demonstration Meetings in Atlanta Area
Networking Opportunities!

• Targeting Arborists, Tree Services
• Private & Municipal
• Urban Sawmills and Artisans
• Sawmill Tour

• Handful of sawmills around metro Atlanta area – a couple of others throughout the state
  – Local Interest: custom sawing
  – Table tops, furniture, cabinets & pallets
  – Flooring too competitive
Small Wood-Lot Management

• One has already been held in the Atlanta area
  – Using woody material for mulch & compost for urban gardens
  – Using red oak logs for Shiitake mushroom cultivation (Hugelkultur)
  – Another is planned in next couple of weeks: tour and demonstration using urban wood for composting and growing local & organic vegetables

• Focus is on managing small wood-lots for community gardens & food production – locally grown
• Much interest & the first one was well attended!
Urban Wood–Using Mills Section

- Added a section in our 2017 Wood-Using Industry Directory for first time

- Includes mills that source all or some of their wood from urban/suburban areas

- Includes sawmills (custom & pallet), mulch producers & firewood operations

- Mills that use urban wood taken directly from location and processed
Upcoming Events

- Documentary Film: “Felled” – about “Giving New Life to Fallen Urban Trees”


- Contacting theatres in the Atlanta area & possibly looking at other locations around the state.

- Plan to spread the word to arborists, tree care workers, urban mill owners & the public as a whole
Thank You!

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