Pennsylvania Urban Wood Utilization
Current Status

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Overall Goal: Develop Pennsylvania urban wood network linking

- **Suppliers of city logs** - tree services, homeowners, municipalities
- **Processors of city logs** - owners of sawmills, dry kilns
- **Lumber outlets** - Habitat for Humanity Restores, others
- **Lumber users** - craftsmen, woodworkers, artists, schools, non-profits
- **Biochar producers** - municipalities, prisons, vo-tech schools, commercial operations
- **Biochar users** - municipalities, non-profits, landscapers, homeowners
- **Retail outlets** – gift shops, art shows, garden centers

Initial Focus Locations

- **Harrisburg** - capital, local, organic recycling center planned
- **Philadelphia** - largest city, already initiated efforts to use wood
- **State College** - state prison with forestry/ arboriculture/ horticulture program; progressive university town
- **Online directory**
HARRISBURG AREA

September 2016 Workshop
“Understanding Urban Wood Utilization Options”

- Overview of other urban wood networks across country
- Recognizing defects
- Log evaluation & grading
- Dry kilns

USFS Forest Products Lab, Princeton, WV kindly provided instruction, sawmill, and milling demo

Bureau of Forestry provided charcoal making instruction and demo

- Sawmill demo/ discussion
- Charcoal making demo/ biochar discussion
60 attendees
• Arborists
• Foresters
• Municipalities
• Sawmill owners
• Woodworkers
• Vo-Tech teachers
• PA DEP

Cumberland Perry Area Vo Tech School
• Carpentry class began making charcoal with wood scraps
• Horticulture class tried biochar as a growing medium for model green roofs
• Applied for and received US Forest Service LSR Grant
  • Buy a portable mill, build lumber dry kiln and charcoal retort
  • Work with us to experiment with use of biochar
  • Develop curriculum materials to share with other vo-techs
City of Harrisburg Yard Waste Recycling Facility in the works
• Large DEP approved site secured
• Plans under development
• But... neighbors currently opposed!

(Images taken at other facilities similar to what Harrisburg needs)

Habitat for Humanity Harrisburg Restore
• interested in serving as outlet for wood
Dickenson College Farm
Sustainable Ag Program
- Currently process food waste to fuel gas and compost
- Interested in producing biochar for soil amendment
Dickenson College Farm
Biochar charged with--
• compost made from food waste and woodchips or
• liquid from food waste digester
Applied to fields and planting beds
PHILADELPHIA AREA

Philadelphia Organic Recycling Center sawing urban logs

- Lumber and stakes for community gardens
- Lumber for carpentry training program at prison
- Lumber for furniture construction program to benefit homeless

Gene Hamilton Custom Sawing, Sawyer

Curtis Helm, Phila Parks/ Rec, Project Mgr, Urban Forestry & Ecosystem Mgmt
Philadelphia Organic Recycling Center receptive to making biochar from scrap wood

- Have USFS grant to build dry kiln
- Applying for PA TreeVitalize grant to increase lumber production
- Potential use in Park/Rec Dept. nursery

Jon Wybar, Owner “Revolution Recovery”

Max Blaustein, Nursery Mgr., Phila. Parks/Rec, Urban Forestry & Ecosystem Mgmt.
Revolution Recovery commercial construction recycling company

- Processes and hauls away many tons of scrap wood daily
- Very interested in making biochar if markets are developed
STATE COLLEGE AREA
Rockview State Prison
Forestry, Arboriculture, Horticulture Program
• Committed to providing jobs training
• Agreed to produce biochar
• Agreed to experiment with use of biochar as soil amendment
• State College Borough potential market for biochar and nursery stock

Wade Renninger, Forest & Nursery Manager
In summary
• Beginning to identify potential partners
• Will continue seeking out new partners from every link in the chain
• Establish on-line directory to help link all and grow the network