Alternative Wood Diversion Methods in Winnebago County, Illinois

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BACKGROUND

Winnebago County, Illinois, has 280,922 residents, with about 50% of them living in Rockford, the county's largest city. Only one landfill is located within its boundaries, and in fact, pulls garbage from Boone County, a neighboring county. The landfill is set to fill capacity in 2040, leaving garbage from this county to find a new home.



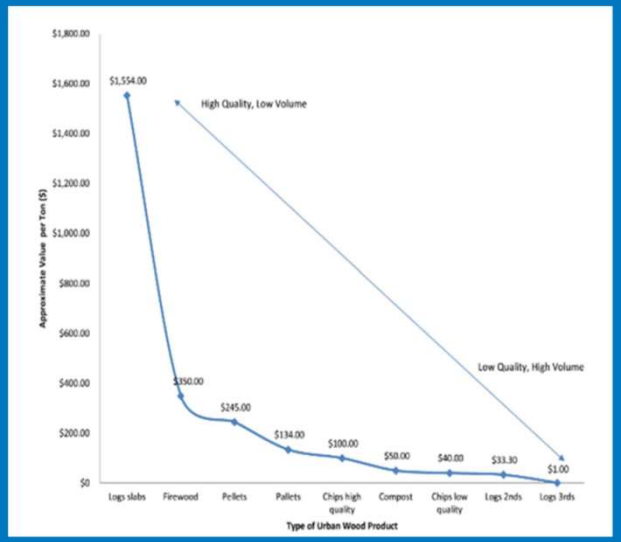
A township outline of Winnebago County, Illinois. The Winnebago Landfill is starred.

Urban wood includes any category of wood found in an urban setting. This includes both wood from trees and infrastructure.

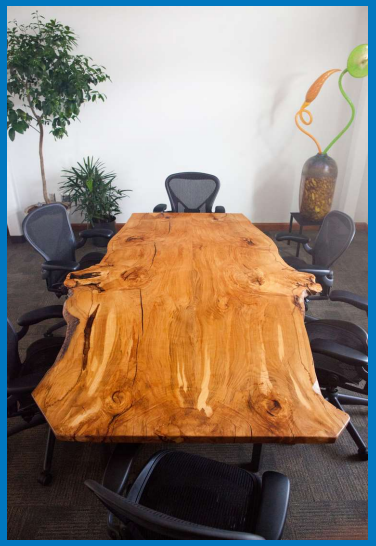
Deconstruction is a teardown method where materials are carefully removed to preserve the material for future uses.

Urban Wood Projects can be **recreated and implemented** in metropolitan regions to further **sustainability efforts.**

Final Policy Report, Supplementary Documents and Contact Information



Wood Byproducts and their approximate value, courtesy of USDA Forest Service



Repurposed tree trunk turned into a corporate conference room table, courtesy of Urban Tree

METHODS

- Literature Review focusing on two impacts of an urban wood project
  - **Environment**
    - Space needed to encompass all sections of an urban wood project.
    - Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
  - **Economy**
    - Financial gain from repurposing urban wood
    - Number of jobs created to complete an urban wood project.
- Case studies
  - (1) Government implementation of a project, (2) Gathering and manufacturing of urban wood , and (3) Production of goods from urban wood

RESULTS

- Detailed outline to recreate an urban wood project in Winnebago County Illinois.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish solid waste management policies prohibiting large amounts of wood from being disposed of in landfills
- Establish proper deconstruction policy as the priority method in building teardown

Next Steps

- Conduct future research on the finances needed to establish an urban wood project
- Conduct community engagement events to gain feedback from the public