

DEPARTMENT(S)	EFFECT		
	BUDGET	TAX LEVY	TAX RATE PER \$1,000
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	\$+0	\$+0	\$+0.000

FOOTNOTE INTENT

This footnote directs the Department of Public Works to develop plans for the use of the city’s “Urban Wood” and to provide the Common Council with a report on their investigations, including the approximate commercial value of the lumber produced by the City annually.

BACKGROUND

1. Urban wood is defined as lumber produced from trees (or other sources) that were removed for reasons other than harvest of their lumber.
2. Use of urban wood has occurred for many years and during the 1990’s small-scale networking efforts began to coalesce around the upcycling of urban wood. These efforts ramped up considerably with the infestation of the emerald ash borer, which killed millions of trees across the United States, and in the Midwest in particular.
3. In the years that followed, the U.S. Forest Service began providing funding to launch local networks, demonstration projects, and educational programs to get industry members connected and customers interested in urban wood.
4. The Wisconsin chapter of the Urban Wood Network is one such organization.
5. Annually, the Department of Public Works removes thousands of trees from around the city, representing thousands of tons of wood.
6. Before 2012, these trees were hauled to landfills for disposal, and the city paid landfill tipping charges.
7. Beginning in 2012, the City began a collaboration with Kettle Moraine Hardwoods, Inc. and Bay View Lumber to upcycle these trees into fire wood and other wood products.
8. This practice saved the City the cost of landfill disposal (approximately \$113,000 in 2017) and gives downed trees a second chance at serving a useful purpose.
9. Doing so required the Department of Public Works to change how it removed trees, which involved leaving them in larger sections so they could be processed into a number of different products by partner wood mills.

10. Difficulties in harvesting urban wood to maximize its use, and the unpredictability of the species, size and condition of removed trees has been a significant hurdle in developing a secondary market for Urban Wood and Urban Wood products.
11. To date, there has been no bid process for the City's urban wood or explorations of possible alternatives to the City's partnership with Kettle Moraine Hardwoods.
12. It is in the City's interest to understand the retail value if the wood it produces annually, which can then inform decisions regarding its use and partnerships for its upscaling going forward.

DISCUSSION

This footnote directs the Department of Public Works to develop plans for the use of the city's "Urban Wood" and to provide the Common Council with a report within one year of adoption of this resolution detailing their investigations, including the approximate commercial value of the lumber produced by the City annually.

EFFECT

The footnote will have no effect on the budget, the tax levy, or the tax rate.

<u>COMMITTEE VOTE:</u>	(x-x)	In Favor:	Ald.
		Opposed:	Ald.

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Revised: October 25, 2022