



## Legislation Text

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230254  
ORIGINAL  
ALD. COGGS

Resolution directing the Department of Public Works to develop plans for the use of the City's "urban wood".

This resolution 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 its investigations, including the approximate commercial value of the lumber produced by the City annually and a list of possible, additional collaborators for the initiative.

Whereas, Urban wood is defined as lumber produced from trees (or other sources) that were removed for reasons other than harvest of their lumber; and

Whereas, 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; and

Whereas, 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; and

Whereas, 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; and

Whereas, The Wisconsin chapter of the Urban Wood Network is one such organization; and

Whereas, On an annual basis, the Department of Public Works removes thousands of trees from around the city, representing thousands of tons of wood; and

Whereas, Before 2012, these trees were hauled to landfills for disposal, and the City paid landfill tipping charges; and

Whereas, Beginning in 2012, the City began working with partners to upcycle these trees into fire wood and other wood products; and

Whereas, 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; and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Forest Service, during the first year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, prices of processed wood products, such as softwood lumber and plywood, nearly quadrupled; and

Whereas, It is in the City's interest to understand the retail value of the wood it produces annually, which can then inform decisions regarding its use and partnerships for its upscaling going forward;

now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Department of Public Works is directed to develop plans for the use of the city's "urban wood" and to provide the Common Council with a report on its investigations, including the approximate commercial value of the lumber produced by the City annually as well as a list of possible, additional collaborators for this initiative; and, be it,

Further Resolved, That the Department shall present its findings within 3 months of adoption of this resolution.

LRB 177777-4  
Christopher Hillard  
6/1/2023