FORESTRY SIDE OF THE FIREWOOD INDUSTRY
SUPPLY FROM RURAL AND URBAN FORESTS

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Since 1950 has supported the wood products industry in North Carolina in the areas of wood education, training, troubleshooting problems, research and overall assistance in making a large variety of wood products.

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NCSU/WPE Website = http://outreach.cnr.ncsu.edu/ncwood
Wood Education and Resource Center

- Is the focus of the US Forest Service effort of support of the hardwood forest industry in the states east of the Great Plains
- Located in Princeton, West Virginia, [www.fs.fed.us/werc](http://www.fs.fed.us/werc)

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Sourcing Firewood Logs from Rural Forests

Brian Knox-Sustainable Resource Management
Sourcing Firewood Logs from Urban Sources

- Urban forests grow with urban sprawl
- Must recover usable wood from urban forests to relieve pressure on “working forests” elsewhere
- Get better cooperation and management from local governments to use urban wood materials
- Firewood is a good use of urban forest materials
- Will tell the story of Damon Barron and TreeCycle America
Damon Barron-TreeCycle America

- Certified Urban Forestry & Local Wood Marketplace
- A collaborative network of certified architects, designers, developers, municipalities, arborists, sawmills, woodworkers, and makers embracing the common goal of using urban trees to their fullest potential
- Located in Charlotte, NC—one of the fastest sprawling cities in the USA
- TreeCycle America operates a sawmill and firewood operation just south of downtown Charlotte
- Damon receives logs from developers and arborists, saws and splits some, gives away logs to others
TreeCycle America

- 844-TREECYCLE (844-873-3292)
- www.treecycleamerica.com
- Charlotte has lost 50% of its trees since 1970 due to urban sprawl
- Charlotte as many other cities claims to be “The City of Trees”
- The city of Charlotte is actively working on a proactive plan to increase the number of trees
- Small annual fee to participate
TreeCycle America Certification

- Mobile app information system
- Arborist takes photo, downloads into app
- Notes species, location, reason tree is harvested
- Mill photos log, downloads into app
- Mill photos lumber, downloads into app
- Woodworker photos products, downloads into app
Benefits

- Full documentation system of tree, log, lumber, end user products
- Arborists avoid landfill tipping fees but not paid for logs
- Unique trees get made into products wanted by buyers
- Multiple small businesses have opportunity to buy local wood and make sales and profits
- Buyers have opportunity to buy local wood made into products they want
Additional Goals

• Supports programs of planting desirable species of multiple species to diversify the urban forest
• Homeowners and cities manage trees to grow suitable sawmill logs
• Organized group of processors to make best use of logs
• Want to keep out of the landfill as much wood material as possible
Eleven Minute Ted Talk by Damon

- Link for Damon Barron TedTalk about TreeCycleAmerica
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvZwezPohKk
- Tells his story of starting TreeCycleAmerica
Photos of Damon’s Business
Damon’s Startup Firewood Business

• Only a part time focus of his crew

• Single head wood splitter

• Focuses small quantities

• Has entered the “bouquet” business-offers for $50 a cloth bag carry bag of a bundle of firewood
Expansion of TreeCycleAmerica

• Damon wants to franchise his concept throughout the US

• Hope to have a network of wide variety of processors- firewood, lumber and woodworkers, such that useable materials from the urban forest can have a home

• Finds that when arborists can tell homeowners that their removed trees become value added products, that customers are more ready to go with the arborist that has a future use for their trees than the arborist that sends trees to the landfill