

## THE COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ALLIANCE (National Capital Region Demonstration Program)

The U.S. Forest Service reports that in the United States over 200 million cubic yards of urban tree and landscape residue is generated every year. Much of the residue is from trees that have blown down in storms, that are old, diseased or removed to accommodate urban expansion and development. Of this amount 15 percent is classified as “un-chipped logs.” If these logs were sawed onto boards, they theoretically would produce 3.8 billion board feet of lumber, or approximately 30 percent of the hardwood lumber produced annually in the United States.

Today, essentially all of the logs are chipped. Some are used for mulch but most are either burned or disposed of in landfills. Not only does this represent a waste of a valuable public resource, it represents a substantial financial loss to the community. Cities, suburban regions and outlying communities are faced not only with the volume of tree removals but with the associated financial costs as well. Rising labor and transportation costs, increased landfill and tipping fees and lost opportunity costs (money that cannot be used elsewhere in the community) create a financial burden for managers of community woodland programs and ultimately the tax-paying citizen. Even if disposal costs were not an issue, landfill space is dwindling and tree disposal in landfills has been either outlawed or reduced by regulation in many states. ***Our overarching goal is to put an end to this waste of valuable resources.***

### A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

The American Institute of Urban and Regional Affairs, with crucial support from public agencies, the university community, private business and other non-profit institutions, has established the Community Woodlands Alliance as a full-scale demonstration program in the National Capital Region. ***The demonstration is a cooperative sustainable development initiative to conserve community woodlands through recovery and more efficient use of waste wood resources.*** To achieve that end, the CWA has organized its resources to :

- Conserve and restore the integrity of forest ecosystems.
- Enhance woodland carrying capacity through multiple resource use.
- Ensure woodland continuity through uneven-age tree management and sustained yield practices.
- Salvage and recycle under-utilized waste wood resources for their highest and best uses in the community.
- Invest CWA revenues in basic resources required to support woodland conservation, restoration and enhancement.

### ELEMENTS OF THE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

The demonstration program is comprised of a coordinated group of activities planned to accomplish each of the stated operational

objectives. Professional, economic and ecological benefits of each is described in the narrative that follows.

### Waste Wood Resource Development Center

**Production Operations:** Near Dickerson, Maryland, at the Seneca Creek Joinery, the CWA has developed a vertically integrated waste wood resource development center. We have in place the technology, infrastructure and logistics capability to perform every aspect of wood production including timber harvesting, raw materials preparation, manufacturing and fabrication, physical distribution and marketing. Public and private woodland owners and managers are encouraged to bring trees lost to storms, disease and urban expansion to the center for processing.

**Custom Services:** Custom saw milling, kiln drying and related lumber preparation services are available to those with special requirements. We will accept your raw material for processing or provide your needs from our stock.

**Production Sharing Policy:** Raw materials received are processed into firewood, lumber or finished products and sold. Through our production sharing policy we return payment to suppliers of raw material at prevailing stumpage price. We encourage these funds to be used for reforestation and related environmental conservation programs. Revenues received by the CWA are used exclusively to finance the other community service programs .

### Community Outreach Initiatives

**Technical Assistance:** Communities wishing to organize CWA chapters or similar programs to salvage and recycle waste wood resources may request technical assistance from the Global Extension Service. GLOBEX is the international outreach arm of the American Institute of Urban and Regional Affairs. It is a cooperative network of business executives, public administrators, technical experts, academicians and lay people dedicated to providing services in the field of sustainable development. GLOBEX is organized to assist communities by providing access to a competent corps of advisors and a range of professional support services.

**Economic Development:** We support cooperative, community-scale economic development activities in three related areas:

- Conservation, restoration and enhancement of community woodlands.
- Collection, preparation and processing of waste wood resources into usable building materials and craft woods.
- Production of marketable wood products and services.

Such joint enterprises, owned and operated by their members, can

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provide opportunities for resource sharing and a variety of jobs in the community.

**Woodlands Planning and Environmental Design:** The CWA has organized an interdisciplinary team of professionals to provide technical support services in woodlands planning and environmental design. The team is comprised of people with skills in

- Forest Ecology
- Entomology and Plant Pathology
- Forestry management
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- Woodland Recreation
- Water Resources Engineering
- Green Architecture
- Landscape Architecture
- Master Gardening
- Urban and Regional Planning

The team is available to provide technical support to private and public interests to conserve, restore and enhance the integrity of forest ecosystems, “woodscaping,” environmental design, and related woodland resource development activities.

**Energy Conservation:** CWA provides funding to support a tree-planting program with a dual mission. The first is a domestic program of strategically locating trees in urban neighborhoods with a view toward conserving energy. Properly placed trees can reduce energy requirements for cooling in the summer months and heating in the winter months.

**Global Warming:** The second program provides funding for mass planting of trees in developing countries with the objective of reducing global warming. The more trees that are growing, the more carbon dioxide is being removed from the atmosphere and replaced by life-giving oxygen.

## Research and Demonstration

A framework and an agenda is being developed for basic and applied research in community woodlands science and alternative uses of waste wood resources. The CWA seeks corporate, academic, governmental and NGO partners to work in collaboration on research projects of mutual interest. Mechanisms are available for carrying out research including cooperative agreements, guest researcher agreements, research and development contracts and informal collaboration. Once acceptable research proposals are formulated the AIURA may seek funding to conduct the work under the provisions of its non-profit, tax-exempt status.

## Education and Training

**Early Childhood Education:** The CWA is developing a series of children’s interactive books and games that focus on various aspects of community woodland conservation.

**Community Service - Conservation Education :** Tree planting, wildlife enhancement, woodscaping and a variety of other environmental conservation opportunities are available for

seniors, master gardeners and students at the middle school and high school levels.

**Advanced Studies In Sustainable Development:** The American Institute of Urban and Regional Affairs has developed and tested a doctoral degree, masters degree, and a professional certification program in sustainable development. These programs, and technical support for implementing them, are available to colleges and universities who wish to add sustainable development to their academic offerings.

**In-Service Technical Training:** The CWA teams with other professional associations, educational institutions and private industry to develop and offer short courses on technical aspects of woodlands conservation and management.

**Continuing Education:** We advocate and support entrepreneurship and “prosumerism;” that is, the production of goods and services for one’s own consumption. To support these programs we assist in the development of woodworking clubs, supply a variety of art and craft woods and offer courses in various aspects of applied arts, design and wood construction.

**Conferences:** A program of conferences, symposia and workshops is offered at locations and covering subjects that pertain to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and management of community woodlands.

## Information and Communications

The Commons Press is the publishing arm of the AIURA. The Press depends heavily upon the Writer’s Cooperative; a network of scholars, practitioners and laymen who collaborate to produce substantive books, articles, technical bulletin, instructional materials and other information needed for woodland resource management.

COMMUNITY WOODLANDS, the official journal of the CWA, is a forum for the expression of professional views, and for reports on committee activities. Faculty, practitioners laymen and students in the field are encouraged to submit manuscripts.

**THE COMMUNITY WOODLANDS ALLIANCE**  
**A Project of**  
**The American Institute of Urban and Regional Affairs**

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