

For Immediate Release

The City of Ann Arbor, Michigan and [Urban Ashes®](#) launch the first Circular UrbanWood Triconomy™, a Municipal Wood Recycling Model.

Ann Arbor, MI – October 3, 2024 – The City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in collaboration with Urban Ashes, has launched the first Circular UrbanWood Triconomy™ (CUT Model™), a municipal wood recycling program. This initiative prioritizes the local economy and resources, reduces municipal costs and landfill waste, increases carbon sequestration, while creating career and business opportunities for our formerly incarcerated individuals and our justice-impacted youth.

After 17 years helping to establish all corners of the urban wood industry, Paul Hickman, founder of Urban Ashes, introduces the Urban Ashes hyper-local municipal wood recycling program in partnership with Ann Arbor. The CUT Model™ is a pioneering public/private business framework aligned with the triple bottom line concept of People, Planet, and Profit. It promotes environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic diversity by optimizing the utilization of urban wood waste.

Urban wood refers to any wood sourced from trees removed for reasons other than their wood value, such as storm damage, disease, or age. These trees, typically chipped, can be found in urban, suburban, or rural areas. Annually, America fails to capitalize on over 46 million metric tonnes of potential furniture-grade urban lumber, with most municipalities chipping or burning this valuable resource.

Ann Arbor is now set to sequester between 20 and 40 metric tonnes of carbon, which historically would have been released as 73 to 146 metric tonnes of CO₂e. This carbon sequestration and CO₂e emission reduction is equivalent to planting between 1,207 and 2,414 saplings and growing them for 10 years. This initiative more than doubles the impact of Ann Arbor's annual planting of 1,000 saplings.

Urban Ashes is changing the status quo with over 25 cities (and growing) across the U.S. engaged in establishing the CUT Model. Ann Arbor is setting the foundation for future municipal wood recycling programs nationwide.

About Urban Ashes: Urban Ashes leverages decades of experience in the urban wood industry to forge public-private partnerships with communities nationwide, driving sustainable solutions that transform our fallen trees—typically destined for the chipper, firewood pile, or landfill—into high-quality urban wood products with economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Through their Circular UrbanWood Triconomy™ (CUT Model™), they create scalable systems while supporting small local mills, manufacturers, and communities that form the foundation of the urban wood industry. By using the latest tracking software and adhering to the highest industry standards, they maximize urban wood utilization, contribute to carbon sequestration, reduce CO₂e emissions, and create new markets, career paths, jobs, and business opportunities for our formerly incarcerated individuals and justice-impacted youth.

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