From Tragedy to Triumph
An Ash Tree Success Story
Pearson Eco-Business Zone

Initiated by:

Vision:
An internationally recognized community known for its competitive, high performance and eco-friendly business climate.

The LARGEST in the world!

Coverage: Mississauga, Brampton, Toronto

+14,000 hectares
+12,500 businesses
+350,000 employees

Largest Eco-Business Zone in the World
Focus on 4 Performance Areas

- Energy Performance
- Water Stewardship
- Waste Management
- Stakeholder Engagement

Driving sustainable action & innovation
Strong Leadership

Executive Committee

Building a community
Growing Support

650 Businesses
“We are committed to making recycling and waste management accessible and engaging for everyone. We are really pushing the boundaries and finding innovative solutions that will inspire others to take action.” — Michelle Brown, V-P Property Management, Bentall Kennedy (Canada)

Driving Sustainability through Innovation
Our Work Begins

6 City Roundtable in November 2013

Partners in Project Green organized a roundtable to
• share plans for emerald ash borer mitigation,
• discuss wood waste disposal challenges,
• and identify opportunities to collaborate on solutions.

Findings
• Municipalities not responsible for final disposal of all trees
• Current diversion including mulch, firewood.
• Quite possible that trees are being landfilled, as final disposition is not clearly documented for all municipal trees and for private trees
The Challenges

• The lack of a solution that can address massive volumes
• Transportation and logistics, as most municipalities don’t operate woodlots
• Costs
• Changing diversion methods, due to amount of stakeholders need to adopt buy-in for change
The Solution

Portable Sawmilling – Repurposing trees into lumber & other wood by-products

Benefits included
• Transportation eliminated
• More valuable product (lumber) meant more value that could be distributed to reduce overall costs
• Costs reduced to near zero
• More environmental value
• A great story that spreads awareness
Live Edge
Benches
Containers

[Image of a crate with the words "Toronto Beer Week" and another image of a wooden bottle holder with bottles inside.]
Sticks and Bats
Much, Firewood, and Sawdust
Partnership Model

Municipalities, Sawmill, Lumber Companies, Local Nonprofits

See Video Story [https://youtu.be/VxPloZEwrzw](https://youtu.be/VxPloZEwrzw)
Challenges and New Solutions

Continued Challenges

• No woodlot means transportation because not always possible to mill on-site
• Municipalities are not always responsible for final disposition, so don’t necessarily have control over all their removed trees.

New Solution - Develop a Wood Center

• Businesses, Municipalities, Arborists and Contractors: to divert their trees
• Furniture Makers, Artisans, Schools, Non-profits, Lumber Companies, and Biomass companies: to procure reclaimed lumber and wood by-products.
A Wood Center to be launched in winter 2015 bordering Mississauga and Toronto. Center to be operated by Sawmill Sid, in partnership with TRCA.
Sawmilling will not solve the entire challenge of dealing with our trees.
- It's part of the solution.
- It helps to generate interest and awareness

A strategy can be developed that ensures we treat ‘wastewood” as a valuable resource and maximizes production along the recycling hierarchy so that high value wood is re-purposed, and low value wood then gets diverted.

1. Lumber, live edge, wood products
2. By-products: Firewood, Mulch, sawdust
3. Renewable Energy
Contact for Opportunities

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