

A Survey on Household Recycling and Reuse of Wood from Neighborhood Trees

This survey was developed by Dr. Mikaela Schmitt-Harsh at James Madison University and Dr. Eric Wiseman at Virginia Tech, with input provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry and the cities where the survey is being administered.

Below is an outline of your rights as a study participant.

Research Procedures

This survey is being sent to a sample of households in the cities of Harrisonburg and Lynchburg. The survey asks questions related to your household recycling practices and your opinions about wood products from recycled neighborhood trees.

Time Required

Participation in this study will require approximately 10 to 15 minutes of your time.

Risks

There are no risks beyond the risks associated with everyday life.

Benefits

There is no direct benefit to you as a participant of this study; however, **your participation will be beneficial to the success of this project**. We will analyze and summarize survey responses in a report to city staff. These study findings will also be shared with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to help in their education assistance efforts.

Confidentiality

Results of this study will be included in a summary report that will be distributed to cities and other stakeholder groups. All individual survey responses will be combined and no personally identifiable information will be included in the summary report. All data will be stored in a secure location accessible only to the researchers. The researchers retain the right to use and publish non-identifiable data.

Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You are free to choose not to participate. Should you choose to participate, you can withdraw at any time without consequences.

Questions about the Study

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Questions about Your Rights as a Study Participant

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Giving of Consent

I have read this cover letter and I understand what is being requested of me as a participant in this study. I freely consent to participate. I am at least 18 years of age.

By selecting "yes", I give consent to my participation in this survey.

☐ yes ☐ no

My unique 5-digit access code for this survey is:

(Note: this code is printed on either the letter or postcard you received.)

Section 1. Background Property Information.

This section asks questions about the property to which this survey was mailed (from this point forward referred to as "this property").

1. For this property, I am the:

- ☐ Owner
☐ Renter
☐ Other, please specify: _____

2. When was this property developed or the house built?

- ☐ I don't know
☐ Before 1950s
☐ 1950s
☐ 1960s
☐ 1970s
☐ 1980s
☐ 1990s
☐ 2000s
☐ 2010s

3. How long have you lived at this property?

- ☐ < 1 year
☐ 1 - 5 years
☐ 6 - 10 years
☐ 11 - 15 years
☐ 16 - 20 years
☐ 21 - 25 years
☐ > 25 years
☐ Do not wish to disclose

Section 2. Household Recycling.

This section asks about your participation in, and thoughts about, general household recycling.

4. Thinking of all the materials that can be recycled in your community, how would you generally characterize your participation in recycling of household items?

- ☐ Always
☐ Often
☐ Sometimes
☐ Rarely
☐ Never

5. How often does your household recycle the following items, either on this property or at a recycling center?

	Always	Often	Some- times	Rarely	Never: Didn't know was possible	Never: Cost prohibitive	Never: Not interested
Paper (magazines, white and colored paper, junk mail, newspapers, paper bags)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cardboard boxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic containers and bottles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plastic bags	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aluminum/steel/tin cans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Glass bottles and jars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Batteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Old or unused electronics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food waste	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grass clippings (mulched or composted)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leaves (mulched or composted)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wood from tree trunks and branches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. If you recycle household items, how do you recycle them? *Please mark all that apply.*

- ☐ I do not recycle.
- ☐ I pay a recycling company to pick up materials for recycling.
- ☐ The municipality picks up materials for recycling along with my household trash.
- ☐ I take materials to a municipal drop-off location for recycling (central landfill, recycling dumpster, etc.).
- ☐ I take materials to a commercial drop-off location for recycling (Home Depot, Best Buy, Target, etc.).
- ☐ I take materials to a non-profit drop-off location for recycling (Goodwill, religious facility, etc.).
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

7. Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about household recycling and recycling in your community.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Recycling is good for the environment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling is good for the economy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling is important to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling is important to my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling is important to my friends.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to me to purchase recycled products.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is important to me that my municipality has a recycling program.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with the current recycling program provided by my municipality.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. How often does your household purchase the following items?

	Always	Often	Some-times	Rarely	Never: Unfamiliar with item	Never: Item is too costly	Never: Not interested in item
Paper from recycled materials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cleaning supplies that are ecofriendly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food that is organically sourced	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second-hand furniture (tables, couches)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second-hand clothing and footwear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second-hand electronics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scrap lumber	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 3. Yard and Woodlot Trees.

This section asks about existing trees on this property, and instances where trees have been removed and recycled in the past.

9. Are there existing trees on this property?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (If you select No, please skip to question 12)

10. Please estimate the number of existing yard and woodlot trees on this property. (Note: For our purposes, yard trees are those that are in maintained portions of the landscape. Woodlot trees are a clump of trees growing wild away from the dwelling.)

	0 trees	1 to 5	6 to 10	> 10	I don't know
Yard trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Woodlot trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Having trees on this property influenced my decision to live here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I care about the well-being of the trees on this property.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I invest time to maintain trees on this property.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I invest money to maintain trees on this property.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. During your time living here, have trees been removed from this property?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (**If you select No, please skip to question 21**)
- ☐ I don't know (**If you select I don't know, please skip to question 21**)

13. Please estimate the number and kind of trees that have been removed from this property during your time residing there.

	0 trees	1 to 5 trees	6 or more trees	I don't recall if these were removed
Hardwood trees (oak, maple, ash, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Evergreen trees (pine, spruce, cedar, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fruit or ornamental trees (cherry, dogwood, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other types of trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Why have trees been removed from this property?

Please mark all that apply.

- ☐ Trees were undesirable due to effects on property (unwanted litter, shade, branches, roots, etc.)
- ☐ Trees had a disease or pest
- ☐ Trees were dead
- ☐ Trees were storm damaged
- ☐ Trees were dangerous
- ☐ Trees were invasive

15. How have trees been removed from this property?

Please mark all that apply.

- ☐ You or the landowner removed the tree(s)
- ☐ A contractor was hired to remove the tree(s)
- ☐ A friend/neighbor removed the tree(s)
- ☐ The municipality or VDOF removed the tree(s) along the street right-of-way
- ☐ A utility company removed the tree(s) along a utility right-of-way
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

16. What typically has been done with the wood from trees removed from this property?

	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Discarded on property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burned on-site to dispose of it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Firewood for heating on-site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chipped and used as mulch on-site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Used as lumber on-site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hauled to landfill by you or a friend	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree removal contractor hauled it away	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Logger or woodworker hauled it away	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Municipality hauled it away	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. When trees were most recently removed from this property, how much consideration did you give to the following factors in deciding what to do with the wood?

	Definitely considered	Somewhat considered	Did not consider	I don't recall
Income potential	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of disposal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Convenience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Space to stockpile wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Means to handle or transport wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of the wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal interest in wood use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of a logger or woodworker to process wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recycling options of the municipality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. At the time that trees were removed from this property, did you consider recycling the wood?

- ☐ Definitely considered
- ☐ Somewhat considered
- ☐ Did not consider (**If you select Did not consider, please skip to question 21**)
- ☐ I don't recall (**If you select I don't recall, please skip to question 21**)

19. If you considered recycling the wood from trees removed from this property, where did you seek information or assistance in making your decision about what to do with the wood? *Please mark all that apply.*

- ☐ I did not seek information or assistance
- ☐ The municipality
- ☐ A logger, woodworker, or other business entity
- ☐ The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
- ☐ The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) service
- ☐ Friends or family
- ☐ The internet
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____

20. How satisfied were you with your options to recycle wood from trees removed from this property?

- ☐ Very satisfied ☐ Somewhat satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied ☐ Very unsatisfied

21. If there were trees on this property that needed to be removed in the future, how likely would you be to seek out recycling of the wood?

- ☐ Very likely ☐ Somewhat likely ☐ Uncertain ☐ Somewhat unlikely ☐ Very unlikely

22. If there were trees on this property that needed to be removed in the future, how important would each of the following factors be to you in seeking out recycling of the wood?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
Timely removal of the wood from this property	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Free curbside pick-up of the wood by the municipality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduced disposal cost at the landfill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A contact list for local businesses that haul or mill wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting paid for the wood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting a share of the wood products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting the local wood craft industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping wood out of the landfill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guidance from the municipality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guidance from the state forestry department and/or extension service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to information about wood recycling on the internet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Section 4. Municipal Tree Recycling.

This section asks about your household's use of products recycled from trees, and your interest in potential wood recycling programs in your municipality.

23. Indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

"Wood from street trees, park trees, and other neighborhood trees should be recycled into products rather than disposed of in a landfill."

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

24. How often does your household use products that have been made from recycled trees originating in your community?

	Several times per year	Once a year	Once every few years	Once	Never
Firewood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mulch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lumber	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cabinetry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Furniture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Artisanal items (frames, bowls, sculptures, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25. If the following products made from recycled trees originating in your community were available, how likely would you be to purchase them?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Unsure	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely
Firewood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mulch	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lumber	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cabinetry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Furniture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Artisanal items (frames, bowls, sculptures, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

26. If you wish, please share additional thoughts below about your personal experience with recycling wood from neighborhood trees and/or your interest in wood recycling programs in your municipality.

Otherwise, proceed to Section 5.

Section 5. Participant Information.

This final section asks for general demographic information to better understand our survey participants. No personally identifiable information is collected here. Only aggregated results will be presented in our final summary report.

27. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

28. How many in your household are under the age of 18?

29. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 25
- ☐ 26 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 or older
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

30. Which gender do you most identify with?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

31. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

32. Which of the following describes your race?
Select all that apply.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other, please specify: _____
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

33. Is English your first language?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

34. What is the highest level of education you have had the opportunity to complete?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school graduate
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ 2-year degree
- ☐ 4-year degree
- ☐ Graduate/Professional degree
- ☐ Doctorate
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

35. What was your household's annual income in 2017 from all earners and all sources, before taxes?

- ☐ \$15,000 or less
- ☐ \$15,001 - \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,001 - \$35,000
- ☐ \$35,001 - \$50,000
- ☐ \$50,001 - \$75,000
- ☐ \$75,001 - \$100,000
- ☐ \$100,001 - \$150,000
- ☐ Greater than \$150,000
- ☐ Do not wish to disclose

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. A summary of the survey data will be shared with the municipality and other stakeholders. All survey responses will be aggregated in the analysis with no identifying information present in the summary report.