

State Support Needed to Fight Emerald Ash Borer & Manage Wood Waste

Local governments face unfunded mandates to respond to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the growing volume of wood waste. The state must build on recently adopted financial and policy support to scale up solutions for EAB and wood waste management and broaden options for the best uses of diseased trees.

Wood waste from EAB has grown beyond current management capacity

EAB has spread to at least 53 Minnesota counties. This threatens one in five—**nearly 3 million—of our community trees**. The peak of ash tree loss in the seven-county metro area is still ahead of us, with waves to come after that in Greater Minnesota.

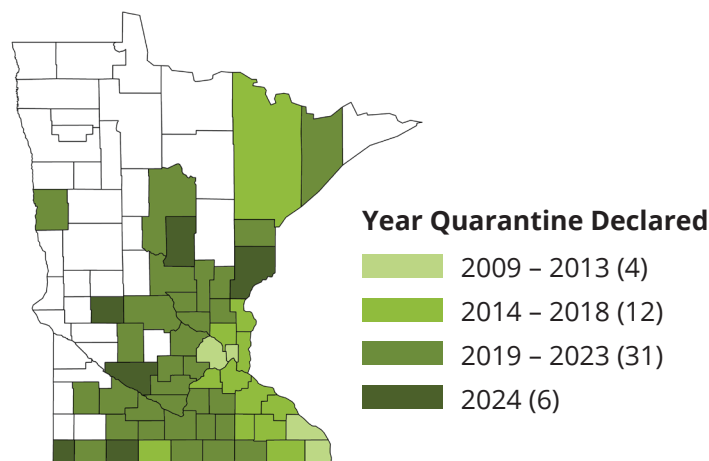
Current wood waste markets are saturated. Landfilling and stockpiling are not viable options. Open burning poses a serious threat to public health and the environment.

State policy support and funding is needed to maintain and expand markets for renewable biomass energy, innovative technologies and other beneficial uses of both harvestable wood and wood waste.

Local governments need state partnership to succeed

The cost of the EAB response is growing exponentially. Communities are struggling to respond to a challenge beyond what any one community can address. Statewide solutions are needed now.

- Sustainable funding to manage the spread of EAB and address tree replacement.
- A state-led, coordinated approach to develop a strategic, sound and lasting wood waste management infrastructure consistent with the waste management hierarchy.
- Support for local governments unable to cover wood waste management costs that are tripling—or worse—in some communities.



Need more information?

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The Partnership on Waste and Energy—a collaboration between Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties—seeks to end waste, promote renewable energy and enhance the health and resiliency of communities we serve while advancing equity and responding to the challenges of a changing climate.