

Recycling Treelopping Waste

Hello my name is Phillip Sharp. I am 25 years old. 1 year ago I was unemployed and my job prospects were not good. I decided to do something about it. I figured out a way of turning someone else's waste, into 2 useable products. Timber and firewood.

When a treelopper chops down a tree, all the leaves and branches up to a certain diameter, are chipped into mulch. This leaves the main trunk and any large branches which are then disposed of at a landfill site, attracting a large dumping fee.

This is because there is no commonly known use. If more people were aware of a use for treelopping waste, more people would be willing to support these uses.

I (1 person) have been able to process 100 truckloads of treelopping waste from only 1 treelopper. These are perfectly good logs of varying species of timber. They come from trees grown in our city streets, parks, schools and homes.

I mill these good logs into useable timber, using cutting edge technology in the form of a horizontal bandsaw.

All the offcuts and everything else not suitable for milling, is processed into firewood which I sell to the public.

All the bark and sawdust is scraped into a pile and composted into beautiful soil which I use on my own gardens. This composting is achieved through organic means using worms, aeration and time.

All waste products from each process can be re-recycled into the next process.

By processing this waste into firewood, it instantly changes from waste to a useable product. It becomes an alternative energy source. Heat. This energy source gets wasted everyday whilst we still cut down our native forests for firewood.

By processing this waste into useable timber. I am value adding to the highest degree. I am able to manufacture products out of this timber. Street trees and privately planted trees are not restricted to Western Australian natives. This means I have access to and actually receive species of tree not commercially available. This means I have milled timber not normally available. I have pioneered milling and drying techniques for previously unused species.

I am in the process of manufacturing as many different items as possible from treelopping waste, just to prove that it can and should be done. These products range from simple furniture and wood turned items, to musical instruments, specialty items and a boat.

I have received a grant from the "Waste Management and Recycling Fund", through the Minister for the Environment, for \$5000, to help pay for the hire of the Horizontal Bandsaw. I was nominated in last years Young Australian of the Year Awards in the Environment Category. I was accepted onto the new Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) for my business idea.

Unfortunately the business did not return enough money straight away to keep me going so I accepted a job as a Lab Technician at Murdoch University.

I am now hoping for financial assistance or recognition for my efforts which will assist future generations.

Here are some of the main reasons why we should recycle tree-logging waste:

- Directly reduces the amount of waste going into landfills.
- Creates employment
- EcoEfficient, Resources Renewable, Sustainable Energy.
- Creates Alternative Energy Source. Eg. Firewood
- Recycles Waste and Value Adds
- Manufacturing from Value Added timber = more value adding
- Someone has to build it! Which creates more employment
- Finished product creates environmental awareness eg. Displays.
- Creates an income, cash flow, financial incentive
- Environmental Awareness = opportunity for public input, through sales.
- Awareness means the public and people in power eg Councils, Landscape Architects etc can participate by planting the correct “Timber tree”.
- Planting a tree recreates the need, at some point in time, for a tree-logger.

This completes the circle which is why this project is the epitome of sustainability as it is the simultaneous achievement of environmental, economic and social goals.

Applications

Urban tree planting can be a way that everyone can contribute to combating Salinity problems which can be caused, and consequences felt, due to the overuse of bores, within urban areas.

By planting a tree, Nature's natural filters, people can choose to contribute to an EcoEfficient, Sustainable, Environmentally aware, Waste Minimisation project.

By planting the correct tree, a supply of timber can be obtained. The opportunity exists to plant endangered species eg Red Tingle and Karri, outside of their natural habitat.

A revegetation project could become a timber plantation, applicable to: mine site rehabilitation, land rehabilitation, Landcare, streets, parks, schools and homes.

This project offers many opportunities including; waste minimisation, cleaner production, increased employment, increased environmental awareness, financial incentives, greenhouse gas reduction due to tree planting, carbon storage facilities, woodwork, carbon credits, reduced salinity due to tree planting, manufacturing capabilities, training potential, multitudes of products including; firewood, timber, charcoal, activated carbon and any other Native Forest Product eg posts and poles.