

# Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program Strategies – 2016 – 2017

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This document serves to summarize statewide program strategies, identify priorities, guide work planning, document planned program activities and inform interested parties (*e.g.* legislature, media, partners, stakeholders). Activities and strategies included in this document are high priority items for the Wisconsin Cooperative EAB Program in 2016.

The Cooperative EAB Program highlights the following strategies incorporated into this document:

- The DNR forest health program will implement operational biocontrol releases in targeted Wisconsin populations of EAB and will involve community forestry staff where appropriate.
- DATCP and DNR will promote buying local or certified firewood through cooperation with Firewood Scout, a non-profit website providing the public with listings of firewood vendors within selected distances of their destination.

## **EAB Program Goals: 2016 - 2017**

- Maintain a detection program as part of the national EAB survey, prioritizing efforts in areas considered high risk for introduction and establishment of EAB.
- Reduce the spread of EAB throughout Wisconsin.
- Reduce the impact of EAB and support recovery from losses due to EAB within quarantined areas.
- Pursue funding and partnerships to facilitate response activities.
- Provide outreach and education on prevention, preparedness, response and recovery options.

These goals will be pursued on a statewide basis through strategic planning and the implementation of actions in the following seven program areas:

- EAB and Ash Management
- Survey
- Regulation
- Communication & Outreach
- Utilization & Material Management
- Funding
- Research

### ***EAB and Ash Management:***

- The DNR forest health program will implement biocontrol releases in targeted Wisconsin populations of EAB and will involve community forestry staff where suitable release sites exist within communities and where local staff are interested.
- Promote the use of voluntary “Recommended Practices” for industry, local governments and private landowners to reduce EAB spread within existing quarantine zones.
- Promote the development, funding and implementation of EAB readiness and response plans in Wisconsin communities.

### ***Survey:***

- Continue cooperative partnerships among agencies and stakeholders to maintain the national and high-risk EAB survey of uninfested counties.
- Maintain a reporting tool for professionals and the public to report or get more information about suspect and confirmed EAB sightings for purposes of:
  - confirmation in non-quarantined counties and
  - recording confirmed finds in townships without a previous find
- Continue cooperation between APHIS PPQ and UWEx First Detectors program to conduct biosurveillance of *Agilus* species using *Cerceris fumipennis*.
- First Detectors will continue to work through existing reporting mechanisms to ensure communication of any new finds of EAB.

### ***Regulation:***

- Provide guidance to affected businesses that clarifies quarantine regulations and assists with compliance.
- APHIS, DATCP and DNR will coordinate regulatory work, State EAB quarantine enforcement efforts and interstate and intrastate regulatory activities.
- Maintain the certified firewood program.

### ***Communication and Outreach:***

- Use communication and education tools to facilitate connections between markets and suppliers.
- Persuade municipal administrators across the state to implement pro-active ash management.
- Promote buying local or certified firewood. Tools include but are not limited to:
  - Firewood Scout, a non-profit, national website with firewood availability by zip code
  - DATCP will maintain a list of certified dealers
  - DNR will maintain details about firewood available at state-managed campgrounds
- Shift focus of main messaging to one of slowing the spread in a mostly EAB-free Wisconsin and use an interactive, combined detection and quarantine map for illustration replacing a static quarantine map.
- Educate visitors at state campgrounds about the benefits of using certified or local wood and dangers of moving firewood from properties in quarantined counties.
- Continue to use information gathered in camper surveys to improve and target education efforts.
- Provide communities and industries with tested utilization options and assist with regulatory compliance.
- Continue to educate the industry on current and emerging regulation/compliance of wood movement in affected areas.

***Utilization and Material Management:***

- Provide market information on the highest value use of the urban ash resource through the Urban Wood Users Directory.
- Continue to work with urban municipalities on cost effective ways to harvest and market affected trees in non-traditional ways. I.e. mechanized harvesting in urban settings vs. traditional hand- felling and low value or no use of the resource.
- Provide marketing opportunities such as “sentimental wood” and local woodworking where these niche markets exists or could be created.
- Continue to examine the best ways to yard affected material.

***Funding:***

- Continue to pursue funding from USDA-APHIS, US Forest Service, the State of Wisconsin and from other sources for trapping and monitoring of EAB, readiness planning, management, reforestation, site restoration and other EAB mitigation efforts.
- Continue to advocate for federal funding for accelerated research on detection and survey tools, management and control options.
- Continue to emphasize planning for impacts of EAB and management of ash in DNR’s Urban Forestry Grant program.

***Research:***

- Evaluate and report the establishment of EAB biocontrol agents released in Wisconsin.
- Publish results of eight year study of effectiveness of a regulation and education campaign on firewood movement by the public.