

IX. Funding²¹

The costs associated with EAB will primarily be the responsibility of individual municipalities. However, with proactive planning these costs can be reduced and distributed over multiple budget years. While there is currently some Federal and State assistance available with initial surveys and assessments when EAB is found in your local area, there is currently no funding available for recommended response options to an EAB find and/or implementation of local EAB Plans. It is unlikely that Federal and State funding assistance will become available in the future for EAB management, therefore Wisconsin is currently urging municipalities and residents to independently explore various potential funding options. Funding assistance for municipalities may be available through several sources listed below:

Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grants: At current funding levels, these grants are not available to provide funding for control efforts. They may provide funding for urban forest management and EAB readiness. This may include tree inventories, EAB response plans, reforestation efforts, writing of tree ordinances and contract specifications, and public awareness programs and materials. For more information, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/grants/>.

Community Development Block Grants: Some communities in other states are using this type of funding to help pay for EAB response and control measures.

Transportation funds: Some communities in infested states are using funds designated for their roads to help pay for EAB costs in their rights-of-way. Some are using federal Transportation Enhancement funds for replanting. Information on Wisconsin's TE program is available at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/te.htm>

Utility companies: Utility companies in Wisconsin may provide assistance with removing trees that are in conflict with power lines and replacing them with smaller trees. Some have programs to subsidize planting trees for energy conservation. Contacts for major local utility companies in Sheboygan County are:

We Energies - Call Center, 1-800-242-9137

Plymouth Utility - Customer service, 920-893-1471

Sheboygan Falls Utility - Customer service, 920-467-7900

Alliant Energy, Customer service - 1-800-862-6222, ask for Greg Pulver

American Transmission Company (ATC) - 262-506-6884, ask Chris Dailey

Revenue from wood waste: In areas where EAB is killing a lot of trees, communities have developed relationships with private businesses to turn removed ash trees into lumber, furniture, mulch, fuel pellets and other products. For more information on wood utilization refer to *Section III – EAB Community Response Plan Elements*

Community foundations and TreeBanks: Some communities have charitable foundations set up to fund a variety of community activities, including specific funds for tree related activities. TreeBank is a program that helps communities set up and market local "branches" to receive donations and provide funding for community tree planting, education and stewardship. For more information refer to: <http://www.itreebank.org/>

²¹ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Emerald Ash Borer Toolkit

Reallocating funds: Most communities are going to be faced with shifting funds from one part of a municipal budget to the departments responsible for public-owned trees to deal with EAB when it arrives. As part of your community's EAB readiness plan, it will need to be considered where these resources could best come from with the least impact on existing services. Increasing the amount of funding allocated to urban forestry activities will allow your community to prepare for EAB before it arrives, help enable long-term development of diverse urban forests, and help ensure your community is prepared to handle future storm and infestation events.

Taxes: While likely to be an unpopular solution, some communities have chosen to raise taxes in order to fund EAB management efforts.

Seek additional support: Enlist aid from elected state and federal officials for EAB funding.

Other possible sources:

- Grants Information Collection - UW Madison, <http://grants.library.wisc.edu>
- Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce, <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/>
- National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, <http://www.treelink.org/nucfac/>
- USDA grant and Partnership Programs, http://www.wssa.net/WSSA/Grants/USDA_Grants_Workbook_2007.pdf
- WDNR Forestry Publications Site, <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/relatedsites.htm>