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NEWS RELEASE

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“Green” Grant Awarded to CPS, Partners by State ODNR Community Development Funding Will Expand Urban Timber Program

Ohio Lt. Governor Lee Fisher and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Sean Logan today awarded an \$80,000 state grant to Cincinnati Public Schools and its partners to greatly expand the urban timber program.

Through this program, urban wood waste – including ash trees threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle – are recycled into shelving, closets and flooring for new or renovated district schools being constructed throughout the district.

To date, 4,400 board feet of lumber has been milled and recycled as school book cases and closets through a collaboration involving CPS, the Hamilton County Solid Waste District and the Cincinnati Park Board.

With the state grant, the program will increase tenfold. The grant also will support educating students about the program and the importance of recycling according to the “highest and best” use.

The grant was announced at a news conference at Pleasant Ridge Montessori School, the first Ohio public elementary school to be built to LEED Silver sustainable design standards.

A photo of the “check” presentation is attached. Pictured (left to right) are Cincinnati Board of Education President Eileen Cooper Reed, Superintendent Mary Ronan, Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune, Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, Pleasant Ridge Montessori Principal Maria Lagdameo and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Sean Logan.

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