

Firewood Use in Virginia: Survey Overview

This factsheet is part of a series based on findings from *Household Firewood Use in Virginia and North Carolina: A Survey of Consumer Opinions and Activities*

1: SURVEY OVERVIEW · 2: CURRENT FIREWOOD USE · 3: FIREWOOD USE PERCEPTIONS · 4: FUTURE FIREWOOD USE

Households were surveyed to:

- 1 Characterize firewood use in the home, outside the home, and away from home
- 2 Determine practices for obtaining, seasoning and burning firewood **Factsheet 2 Current Use**
- 3 Quantify the amount of firewood consumed annually
- 4 Identify benefits and challenges of firewood use **Factsheet 3 Perceptions**
- 5 Describe consumer attitudes and beliefs about firewood
- 6 Assess future firewood use and purchases **Factsheet 4 Future Use**

Why is this information important?

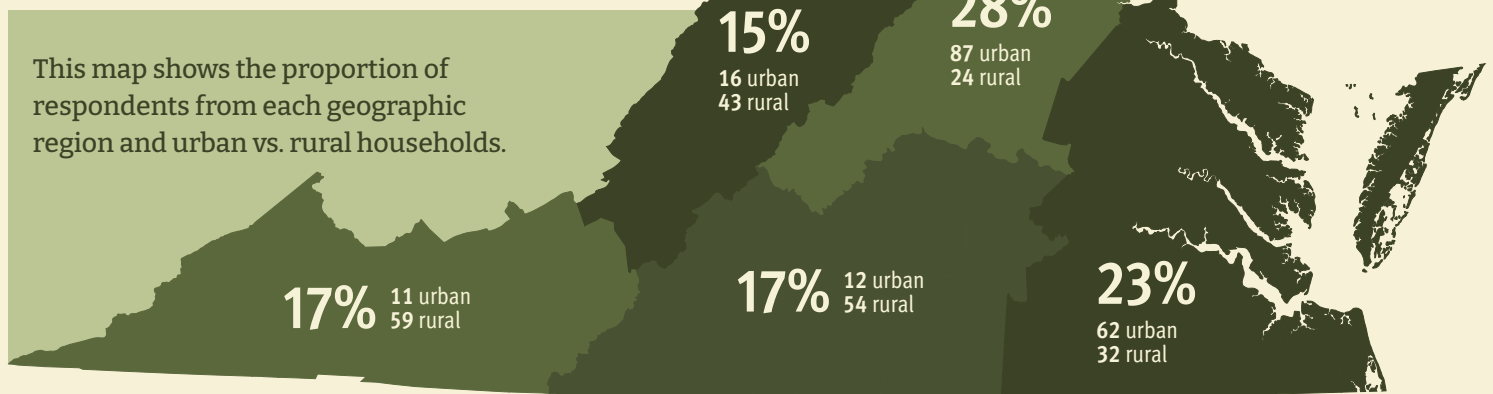
Understanding current and future firewood use patterns can help resource managers, firewood producers, and sellers recognize trends and find new opportunities to satisfy demand.

As land becomes more developed and urbanized, traditional forests are becoming fragmented and part of the urban/municipal forest. Biomass from municipalities is often underutilized and could be a valuable source of local firewood. In addition, sourcing firewood locally reduces the spread of tree pests and improves the local economy.

Survey Information

- This survey occurred from January 2021 to April 2021.
- Of the 2,500 surveys sent out, we received 400 responses.

We aimed to have representation from all of Virginia's geographical regions and distinguished between *rural* and *urban* households.



Who Participated

Respondent demographics depend on the sampling scheme and who decides to respond to the survey. We had control over the sampling scheme and limited our demographics to *single-family owner-occupied homes* due to budget and research constraints. We did not have control over who decided to respond to a survey. We recognize that people tend to respond to surveys on topics

that are familiar to them, interesting to them, or align in some way with their beliefs or values. Therefore it's possible that our survey respondents are predominantly firewood users and that the survey doesn't adequately represent viewpoints of people who are indifferent or do not use firewood. More information on survey demographics is available at firewood.frec.vt.edu.