



Rosendale Woodbank

Free firewood for neighbors in need

The Problem

A lot of households in our area heat with wood — and a full winter's supply of seasoned hardwood costs **\$1,000 to \$1,600** at current prices. For families already stretched thin, that's an impossible number. New York's HEAP heating assistance covers a portion, but not enough for a full season. Every winter, people in our community go cold.

The Idea

A woodbank works like a food pantry, but for firewood. Volunteers collect, split, season, and distribute free cordwood to households that can't afford to heat their homes. There are over 200 woodbanks operating across the country, many of them small, volunteer-run operations. The concept is straightforward: source wood that would otherwise go to waste — storm damage, tree service removals, hazard trees, land clearing — and turn it into split, seasoned firewood for people who need it.

What We Have

A chainsaw, a hydraulic splitter, a truck to haul with, and a small group of people willing to put in the work. Federal grant funding exists specifically for woodbank startups through the USDA Forest Service's Firewood Bank Assistance Program.

What We Need



A Processing Site

A flat, truck-accessible area — ideally in or near Rosendale — where we can store logs, run a splitter, and stack wood to dry. A corner of a farm, municipal yard, church property, or unused lot would work.



Volunteers

Processing days — likely weekend mornings — where people show up, split and stack wood, and go home knowing they helped a neighbor stay warm. No experience necessary.



Wood

Downed or hazard trees, tree service logs — hardwood only. Oak, maple, ash, hickory, cherry, beech, birch, and locust are all excellent.



Community Input

If you heat with wood and have struggled with costs, or have thoughts on how a program like this should work in Rosendale, we want to hear from you.

Get Involved

We're in the early stages and looking for all kinds of support — a place to work, people to work with, wood to work on, and ideas to work from.

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