

SAMPLE NOMINATION

GREEN COTTAGER AWARDS – Doug Ingram

✓ General:

I built a woodshed made out of a recycled fence. It was designed to keep wood dry and improve the seasoning process of the firewood. The look of the structure was important, and we wanted something that was simple to execute.

✓ Motivation:

Our woodpile covered with a tarp was a mess. We needed a cleaner look and, especially after getting a high-efficiency woodstove, we wanted a woodpile that would help us properly dry and store the wood for clean burning. Moisture can wick up from the ground into firewood that is just stored under a tarp, causing increased moisture content of the wood and rot (not to mention bugs that can be brought into the cottage). We had a load of old fence boards that we figured we could use for the project, keeping them from going to the landfill—and at the same time saving a tree.

✓ Participants and timing:

I designed my wood shed at work, and it took about an hour total. The actual drawing was quick, and was not to scale. I did everything myself from designing, to building, to painting. It took roughly 12 hours start to finish, and I built it at home on the driveway during my days off. The painting was done at the cottage, and I had three helpers move it into position on some small flat rocks, which helped keep the wood from touching the ground and causing rot.

✓ Impact:

The project not only reduced landfill waste, but also improved the effectiveness of the fuel used in the woodstove for heating. Drier, more seasoned firewood means less smoke and creosote up the chimney. The design allows the wood to be kept off the ground and covered, and lets air circulate around the wood to help dry it. Keeping wood dry and clean, and allowing it to season properly helps us reduce our air pollution. Also, we used recycled paint from the paint store for the project.

✓ Inspiration:

The design caught the eye of a cottage neighbour, so much so that he has used my leftover fence boards to make a shed of his own! It's a simple, useful project that could be of use to most cottagers.

✓ Other comments:

I've included some photos of the project.