



Urban & Community Forestry at a Glance

It's more than trees...Urban Forestry has some BIG impacts

Economic Impacts on California in 2009 (Urban Forestry Products and Services)

- Supported 60,067 jobs resulting in \$3.3 billion individual income.
- Resulted in \$826 million of Local, State, and Federal taxes.
- Direct sales totaled \$3 billion, double the early 1990's sales.
- Added \$3.6 billion in value to the state's economy.
- Since 1990's value added increased 40%, individual income 39%.
- Enhances aesthetic value of urban landscapes and quality of life (adds to property value).

Environmental Impacts

- Reduces runoff of polluted storm water
- Filter air pollutants, including ozone and particulates
- Reduces CO2 by sequestration and lowered cooling/heating needs
- Provides urban habitat for birds, animals, and insects
- Mitigates heat island effects by providing shade
- Reduces energy use, by reducing heat transfer to surrounding air
- Helps reduce noise, and acts a windbreak



Urban Forestry

Urban Forest Data for California

Urban Population.....	31,989,663
Percent Urban Population Change from 1990.....	16.0%
Percent Total State Population.....	94.4%
Percent Urban Land of State Land Area.....	5.1%
Percent Urban Land Change from 1990.....	0.4%
Urban Population Density (people/land area km2).....	1,559.5
Percent Urban Population Density Change from 1990.....	15.6%
Percent Urban & Community Tree Canopy Cover.....	11.4%
Tree Canopy Cover per Capita (square meters/person).....	43.1
Urban Carbon Storage (metric tons).....	12,500,000
Urban Carbon Storage Value (\$).....	\$285,000,000
Urban Carbon Sequestration of Urban Trees (metric tons/year).....	414,000
Urban Carbon Sequestration Value of Urban Trees (\$/year)	\$9,439,000
Total Air Pollution Removal (CO, NO2, SO2, PM10 in metric tons/year).....	16,840
Total Air Pollution Removal Value from Urban Trees (4/year).....	\$136,800,000

Data Source: <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/data/urban/state/?state=CA> Population changes from 1990 to 2000 and population density are detailed based on U.S. Census data (U.S. Census Bureau 2007).

How You Can Help Improve Your Urban Forests

The economic benefits of a healthy urban and community forest are not always considered when development decisions are made. Unfortunately, efforts to keep development costs down by eliminating trees, landscaping, and open space may actually result in disadvantaged communities, social ills, and overall higher costs because of a lack of ecosystem services realized and single-solution mitigation measures as proposed resolutions. We must learn from these mistakes of the past.

The ultimate goal is to have communities that can sustain themselves environmentally, socially, and economically. Sustainable communities use land and infrastructure resources efficiently. These kinds of decisions should focus on multi-benefit solutions that include urban forests and green spaces. Such efforts to make our cities and towns better places to live, work, and play enhance local economies by creating and supporting a spectrum of green collar jobs that are non-exportable.

Community involvement and continued support is imperative to sustain healthy urban forests. Participation in opportunities that monitor, maintain, expand, and enhance the urban forest will raise awareness and increase knowledge. To get involved in your community, please visit California ReLeaf at www.californiareleaf.org or the California Urban Forests Council at www.caufc.org.

Urban and Community Forestry Program

The purpose of the Urban and Community Forestry Program is to create and maintain sustainable urban forests to help improve the quality of urban environments and the quality of life of urban citizens.

Our Regional Field Specialists can provide information, education, and assistance that help to advance urban forestry per the Urban Forestry Act of 1978. Call us for more information at (916) 651-6423. Visit our website at: www.fire.ca.gov.

*"Trees make our communities cleaner, cooler, and more comfortable.
They leave a legacy for future generations."*

