

As forests grow, they naturally capture carbon, which helps slow climate change.

To build on the power of U.S. forests to slow climate change, we need to **manage** and **restore** our forests to help them stay healthy in a rapidly changing climate and increase natural carbon capture by **planting** and **maintaining** more trees.

Forests already offset **14.88%** of yearly CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuels in the U.S.

Large-scale tree planting alone has the potential to increase forest carbon capture by more than **40%**.

Urban forests provide **17%** of the total carbon capture in U.S. forests and reduce energy use for heating and cooling by at least **7.2%**.

Learn more about American Forests' work at americanforests.org.



AMERICAN FORESTS

American Forests in action on climate change...

CONSERVING A KEY SPECIES

We're assessing the best places to plant whitebark pine seedlings — a keystone species at high elevations in the West — and planting these trees where they'll be able to survive in future climate conditions.



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

We're developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies in California to make these uniquely carbon-rich forests more healthy and resilient.



ENHANCING URBAN FORESTS AND CREATING TREE EQUITY

We're helping develop financing tools, like City Forest Credits, and supporting new tree nurseries in Detroit, and other cities, to increase tree cover in underserved neighborhoods and create urban forestry jobs.



RESTORING A BIODIVERSITY HAVEN

We're using drought-resilient tree planting techniques to restore valuable Texas Thornscrub habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and provide a safe place for wildlife in a changing climate.



PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

We're developing next-generation tools to optimize urban tree planting across Rhode Island to counteract the negative public health impacts of climate change.



DEVELOPING AN URBAN WOOD ECONOMY

Through the Baltimore Wood Project, we are helping turn previously neglected urban wood into innovative products that naturally store carbon while creating jobs and workforce training opportunities for local residents.



INFLUENCING POLICY

We helped craft the Climate Stewardship Act of 2019, which plans to invest billions of dollars to plant 16 billion trees across America.



PLANTING FOR RESILIENCE

We're helping Miami-Dade County increase its capacity to plant and maintain trees in one of the most climate-vulnerable cities in the country.



Forests shown in green
U.S. Climate Alliance states shown in gray

Sources: Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA; Esri, USGS, NOAA