



GreenTip

How Do You Measure Up?

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint - Plant a Tree!

Trees are the climate moderators of our world. Like other plants that photosynthesize, they remove carbon dioxide from the air, store carbon in their pulp and in the soil and return clean oxygen to the air. One mature **tree** is capable of absorbing carbon dioxide at the rate of 48 pounds per year and releasing enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings. In effect, **trees** can be a powerful tool in mitigating greenhouse gases and fighting global warming. Active forests also stabilize soils and help to effectively distribute water and nutrients throughout their ecosystem. So **trees** also help in the management and conservation of soil and water.



How Do Trees Affect You?

While it is easy to see the global effect that forests have on our planet, the personal side of the story may not be so obvious. Here are some benefits that trees can provide to individual families and their households:

- Energy Savings:** according to the USDA Forest Service, by properly placing **trees** around buildings, energy use for cooling can be reduced by as much as 58% for a single family home and 65% for a mobile home. In addition, a household can realize energy savings between 20% and 50% for heating.
- Air Quality:** **trees** act as natural pollution filters, absorbing the oxides and toxic particles that are released into the air by gas-powered cars and trucks. A reduction of up to 60% in street level air pollution can be realized when **trees** are planted along roadways.
- Water Quality:** **trees** prevent harmful chemicals and pollutants in the soil, like the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium products we use as fertilizers, from reaching streams and waterways. **Trees** also prevent water runoff. This ensures that our ground water supplies are constantly being replenished.
- Property Value:** a mature **tree** can appraise at a value between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Some studies show that landscaping with **trees** can increase the value of a property by as much as 20%.

These are all great reasons to plant a tree, and now that spring has finally sprung, it's the ideal time to do it.

For More Information:

Check the Arbor Day Foundation's website to find out more about the benefits of **trees**, as well as information about choosing and planting **trees** – <http://www.arborday.org>



When it comes to taking care of our environment...
How do you MEASURE UP?