

**“Hello down there!  
I’m busy making  
oxygen for you.**

**What are YOU  
up to?”**



**Care for a tree. It cares for you.**  
**Find out more today! [MyTreeOurForest.org](http://MyTreeOurForest.org)**



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE FORESTERS





# Trees Make Oxygen for You

Trees improve air quality in more way than one. As they grow, trees actively remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the air and transform it into their roots, trunk, branches, and leaves. For each pound of new wood that grows, the tree removes about 1.8 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and produces 1.3 pounds of oxygen. A single tree removes several tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gasses over its lifetime. And even modest increases in tree canopy have reduced peak ozone levels in Los Angeles and cities along the East Coast from Baltimore to Boston. Want clean air? Plant a tree!

## And that's not all!

- **Trees save you money:** Trees add value to your home and property, help cool your home and neighborhood, and break the cold winds to lower your heating costs.
- **Trees keep your drinking water clean:** Trees reduce stormwater runoff and act as a natural filter to prevent accumulated pollutants on paved surfaces from washing into waterways.
- **Trees make useful things for you:** From pencils and paper, to lumber and other sustainably grown products, trees provide shelter, furniture, and countless supplies for school, office, and home.
- **Trees make city life fun:** From outdoor festivals and nature walks to increased social interaction, urban trees promote activities that lead to happier, healthier lives.
- **Trees keep city streets safer:** By calming tempers, slowing down cars, reducing noise pollution, promoting pedestrian traffic, and fostering community interaction, trees keep street safe.

## How to Use This Tag

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# Trees Make Useful Things for You

From paper products such as cereal boxes and toilet paper, to lumber used for homes and furniture, trees provide items we use everyday. The forest products industry contributes billions of dollars to the United States economy annually. Industry shipments of the forest, paper, and packaging industry amounted to \$239 billion in 2010 alone. And trees are renewable resources when managed properly. As trees are harvested, new trees are planted to begin the next generation of the forest.

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# Trees Keep Your Streets Safe

Evidence suggests that tree cover may be linked to lower levels of crime in residential neighborhoods. They reduce crime in two ways: by lowering outbursts of anger and drawing more people to use the outdoor spaces. Tree-lined roads also make for calmer commuters and less aggressive driving. The presence of trees along the sidewalk reduces traffic speeds and also serves as a protective barrier between cars and pedestrians. Tall and closely spaced trees actually give the perception of greater speed, and they provide sightlines that warn drivers of approaching curves. And a healthy urban forest serves as an effective noise buffer, reducing noise pollution by up to 50 percent.

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# Trees Make City Life Fun

When people live in neighborhoods with trees, studies show they tend to be friendlier and socialize more with their neighbors. Tree-lined streets are more walkable, encouraging people to walk more during their day-to-day activities and to walk farther. City parks serve as ideal settings for outdoor fun, such as special events, festivals, and other gatherings. Urban forests and trails also provide opportunities for reflective thought, creative thinking, and recreation. Studies show that when people spend time outdoors with trees, they have more focus and they're happier and healthier!

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# Trees Keep Your Drinking Water Clean

Trees reduce stormwater runoff and protect water quality, countering the negative impact of paved areas. These impervious surfaces increase the amount of runoff, and the rain washes accumulated surface pollutants like motor oil, gasoline, heavy metals, and pesticides into nearby waterways. Trees also function as natural filters by retaining sediment and organic matter from overland flow. Increased tree cover greatly reduces water pollution during small storms, which are responsible for the highest percentage of annual pollutants. As a result, drinking water becomes easier and less expensive to reclaim.

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# Trees Save You Money

Trees keep you cool in the summer, warm in the winter! By blocking cold winds in the winter and providing shade in the summer, trees can reduce the amount of energy required to heat and cool buildings. The net cooling effect of a young healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours per day. Trees not only save you money on energy, but also can make you money by increasing property value. Research shows that the presence of street trees in a neighborhood increases the sale prices of houses by an average of \$8,870.

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