

How Trees and Plants Help to Address Climate Change

PLANT NATIVE TREES

Trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide, a key cause of global warming, from the air and store it. Native trees do double duty. They absorb carbon dioxide and provide food for bees, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. Also, all trees help cool urban areas experiencing extreme heat.

AVOID CUTTING DOWN TREES

The larger the tree, the more carbon dioxide it removes.

MANAGE YARD WASTE

In landfills, tree limbs, clippings, and leaves produce methane, which, in the short term, is worse than carbon dioxide. Instead, use leaves for mulch, limbs for brush piles, and clippings for compost.

MAKE YOUR YARD/GARDEN PART OF THE SOLUTION

Native perennials store more carbon dioxide than annuals. Flowering and fruiting native trees provide food for local species.

DON'T USE COMBUSTION ENGINES

Mow yards with push or electric mowers. Rake leaves, don't blow them.

BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Collect data for scientists engaged in studies like:

1. Budburst/Chicago Botanic Garden
2. Audubon Climate Watch
3. Caterpillars Count
4. Monarch Model Validation Project
5. Monarch Watch

TO LEARN MORE



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