

# Your Tree's Environmental Impact

We all know that Vermont Arbor Day is a holiday to promote the planting, care and celebration of trees. But did you also know that tree planting can help slow climate change?

Climate change represents a transformation in long-term weather patterns. A warming climate has the ability to drastically alter rainfall, cause severe weather events, and affect temperatures, food crops and more. Trees act as “carbon sinks” and absorb carbon out of the air and convert it into plant material. Trees store carbon in roots, trunks, stems and leaves while they grow, and, in wood products, after they are harvested. That means planting trees, whether in a rural or urban setting, helps reduce carbon in the atmosphere. As you celebrate Vermont Arbor Day on the first Friday of May, know that the trees you plant will have beneficial environmental impacts for years to come! Learn more about tree planting at: [www.vtcommunityforestry.org](http://www.vtcommunityforestry.org).

Directions: Discover the benefits of a tree around your home and in your community. Choose a tree near your home or school. Identify the tree, measure the diameter of the tree, and then go to the website [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) and search for the “Tree Benefits Calculator.” Enter your tree’s information into the “Tree Benefits Calculator” and click through all the pages about your tree to answer the following:

## Questions

Tree type: \_\_\_\_\_

Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Overall benefit of your tree per year: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Storm water runoff intercepted by your tree this year: \_\_\_\_\_ gallons

Your tree will raise your property values by this much this year: \$\_\_\_\_\_

This year, your tree will increase its Leaf Surface Area (LSA) by: \_\_\_\_\_ square feet

Your tree will conserve this much electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ kW/hours

This year, your tree will reduce atmospheric carbon by: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds



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