

Plantation

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We the SYA Members are proud of the thousands of trees we have been responsible for planting through donations. Here's a look at why we think that trees are important at Clean Air Gardening, and why we'll continue planting more of them. Planting trees in your neighborhood really is one of the best things you can do for the local environment and for the planet. It's no secret that trees help the environment, but you may be surprised by all the benefits that planting trees can provide. Besides producing oxygen and removing carbon dioxide and contaminants from the air, trees have many other social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Â **Environmental Benefits of Planting Trees** Trees are like the lungs of the planet. They breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. Additionally, they provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. But that's not all trees do for us! To see just how much trees are essential to the planet and to humans, let's look at the following statistics: CO2 is one of the major contributing elements to the greenhouse effect. Trees trap CO2 from the atmosphere and make carbohydrates that are used for plant growth. They give us oxygen in return. The tree in turn releases enough oxygen to sustain two human beings. Trees also absorb sound and reduce noise pollution. This is especially important for people who live near freeways. In some cases, a well planted group of trees can reduce noise pollution by up to 10 decibels. Additionally, trees shade asphalt and trees, reducing what is known as the "Heat Island" effect. The EPA has some great information on how planting trees and other vegetation can help to reduce the urban heat island effect.

Â **How Trees Help to Save Energy** Planting trees can also help cool your home in the summer. In the winter, trees can act as windbreaks for your home and will help you save on heating costs. Trees shade buildings, streets, and homes. If enough trees are planted in cities, the overall microclimate improves and total energy use for heating and cooling is reduced.

Â **Social and Economic Benefits of Planting Trees** Just being around trees makes you feel good. Can you imagine your community without trees? Trees, especially in urban areas, have numerous social benefits. For example, the addition of trees to a neighborhood or a business district can greatly improve the mental and physical health of residents and workers. As you can see, it's clear that trees are essential to our life on the planet. The great thing is that we as humans can play an active role in planting trees to help offset deforestation and urbanization.Â