As forests grow, they naturally slow climate change.

To build on the power of U.S. forests to slow climate change, we need to manage and restore our forests to help them stay healthy in a rapidly changing climate and increase natural carbon capture by planting and maintaining more trees.

**American Forests in action on climate change...**

**CONSERVING A KEY SPECIES**
We’re assessing the best places to plant whitebark pine seedlings — a keystone species at high elevations in the West — and planting these trees where they’ll be able to survive in future climate conditions.

**ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**
We’re developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies in California to make these uniquely carbon-rich forests more healthy and resilient.

**ENHANCING URBAN FORESTS AND CREATING TREE EQUITY**
We’re helping develop financing tools, like City Forest Credits, and supporting new tree nurseries in Detroit, and other cities, to increase tree cover in underserved neighborhoods and create urban forestry jobs.

**RESTORING A BIODIVERSITY HAVEN**
We’re using drought-resilient tree planting techniques to restore valuable Texas Thornscrub habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and provide a safe place for wildlife in a changing climate.

**PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH**
We’re developing next-generation tools to optimize urban tree planting across Rhode Island to counteract the negative public health impacts of climate change.

**DEVELOPING AN URBAN WOOD ECONOMY**
Through the Baltimore Wood Project, we are helping turn previously neglected urban wood into innovative products that naturally store carbon while creating jobs and workforce training opportunities for local residents.

**INFLUENCING POLICY**
We helped craft the Climate Stewardship Act of 2019, which plans to invest billions of dollars to plant 16 billion trees across America.

**PLANTING FOR RESILIENCE**
We’re helping Miami-Dade County increase its capacity to plant and maintain trees in one of the most climate-vulnerable cities in the country.

Forests already offset 14.88% of yearly CO₂ emissions from burning fossil fuels in the U.S.
Large-scale tree planting alone has the potential to increase forest carbon capture by more than 40%.
Urban forests provide 17% of the total carbon capture in U.S. forests and reduce energy use for heating and cooling by at least 7.2%.

Learn more about American Forests’ work at americanforests.org.

Forests shown in green
U.S. Climate Alliance states shown in gray

Sources: Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA; Esri, USGS, NOAA