

UtiliTree Carbon Company

The nonprofit UtiliTree Carbon Company consists of 40 utilities sponsoring a portfolio of forestry projects that manage greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Properly implemented, forestry projects are proven technically and can offset a large amount of CO₂. Forestry programs often have secondary environmental and social benefits, including restoration of degraded lands, wildlife habitat protection, and protection of biodiversity. Forest carbon management opportunities can be among the most economical ways to address CO₂ emissions. Joint implementation of international projects with developing nations is an especially promising arena for forestry programs.

The UtiliTree Carbon Company's nine projects—most of which were initially identified by the Utility Forest Carbon Management Program (see box on reverse)—consist of a diverse mix of rural tree planting, forest preservation, forest management, and research efforts at both domestic (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oregon) and international (Belize and Malaysia) sites. The UtiliTree Carbon Company has committed about \$3 million to reduce about 3 million tons of CO₂ through these projects.

Bottomland Hardwood Forest Restoration in the Upper Ouachita River Valley

This project will reestablish hardwood forests on a 1,000-acre site in Morehead Parish, Louisiana, on land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Benefits are expected to exceed 600,000 tons of CO₂ over 70 years.

Rio Bravo Carbon Sequestration Project

This project consists of two components. Component A includes the purchase of a 14,400-acre parcel of endangered forest land in the northwest corner of Belize. Component B establishes a sustainable forestry management program at the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area, a 120,000-acre area. Anticipated CO₂ benefits are over 1 million tons over 40 years.

Reduced Impact Logging of Natural Forests in Sabah, Malaysia

This project involves implementation of techniques to reduce the release of sequestered CO₂ associated with uncontrolled logging of natural tropical forests. The anticipated greenhouse gas benefits are 147,000 tons of CO₂ by the year 2000 and 379,000 tons of CO₂ over the project's 40-year life.

Utility Forest Carbon Management Program

UFCMP is an initiative developed by the Edison Electric Institute — with support from 55 electric utilities — to expand electric utility industry efforts to manage CO₂ via forestry projects, both domestic and international. The goals of the program are to advance the state of knowledge regarding options for managing greenhouse gases via forestry; to establish low-cost forestry options; to implement projects; and to promote environmental stewardship by the electric utility industry.

Western Oregon Carbon Sequestration Project

This project sequesters carbon by planting trees on over 300 acres of unforested, non-industrial timberland in western Oregon that otherwise would not be replanted. Anticipated CO₂ benefits are more than 200,000 tons over 65 years.

Mississippi River Valley Bottomland Hardwood Forest Restoration Project

This project investigates the feasibility of using hardwood forest restoration on marginal farmland on a 80-acre site in the Mississippi River Valley as a means of sequestering atmospheric carbon. The anticipated CO₂ benefits are about 50,000 tons over 70 years.

St. Catherine Creek Bottomland Hardwood Forest Restoration Projects

These projects reestablish the bottomland hardwood forest of the St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Mississippi. The first project, in conjunction with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is on 600 acres with benefits expected to exceed 360,000 tons of CO₂ over 70 years. A second project, with Environmental Synergy, Inc. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is on 500 acres, and is expected to produce CO₂ benefits equaling 200,000 tons over 70 years.

Bayou Cocodrie Bottomland Hardwood Forest Restoration Project

The project reestablishes the bottomland hardwood forest on 400 acres of the Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge in east central Louisiana, in conjunction with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Benefits are expected to exceed 240,000 tons of CO₂ over 70 years.

Overflow Bottomland Hardwood Forest Restoration Project

The project reestablishes bottomland hardwood forest on 400 acres of the Overflow National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas, in conjunction with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Benefits are expected to exceed 240,000 tons of CO₂ over 70 years.

For Further Information

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