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CUFR Tree Carbon Calculator

The CUFR Tree Carbon Calculator (CTCC) is now available online, easing the way for new carbon projects by simplifying complicated carbon and biomass calculations. The only tool approved by the California Climate Action Registry's Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol for quantifying carbon dioxide sequestration from tree planting projects, the CTCC is free and programmed in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet providing carbon-related information for a single tree in one of six California climate zones.

You can learn more or download the program from the Forest Service's [Climate Change Resource Center](#). This Excel application represents the first generation of the CTCC to be developed by the Center in partnership with CalFIRE. Future versions will provide carbon information for all 16 U.S. climate zones included in i-Tree STRATUM.

Agencies Adopt the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol

- As a step toward achieving California's goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2020, the California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol. ARB continues working to determine how emission reductions from early voluntary actions, including any from urban forest projects, could eventually be used officially for compliance purposes as part of the state's implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32). Read the press release on the adoption [here](#).
 - Through the adoption of the SoCal Climate Solutions Exchange, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is establishing an air quality investment program where the AQMD could collect funds from parties that need certified emission reductions, pool those funds and use them to reduce greenhouse gases. The SoCal Climate Solutions Exchange is a voluntary program to help combat global warming by producing high-quality greenhouse gas emission reductions. Initial protocols currently approved for the program include the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol. Read more about the AQMD's new program [here](#).
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Trees and engineered soil

Results of the second phase of Dr. Qingfu Xiao's study to determine the ability of three engineered soils to capture pollutants and store rainwater are now available. Results show that 29% to 84% of the pollutants were removed, depending upon type and size of the rainfall event, soil type, and pollutant concentration. View the complete report [here](#) [PDF 1.2 MB].

Tropical Community Tree Guide

The Tropical Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting is now available. Numbering 14th in our continuing Tree Guide series, the new guide is available [here](#) [PDF 4.3 MB]. The Tropical climate zone is now also included with latest i-Tree STRATUM update, allowing communities in Southern Florida and Hawaii to obtain extensive information on the benefits and costs associated with their street tree populations. You can find more information on the i-Tree STRATUM program, and updates [here](#).

STRATUM Update

We continue to hear great stories from cities and others who are using STRATUM to calculate the ecosystem services their trees are providing and to better understand the structure, function, and value of their urban forest:

- The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association of Pittsburgh, PA used STRATUM to assess the benefits and costs associated with trees planted in the watershed. Residents inventoried trees and Carnegie Mellon University produced a final report from STRATUM showing significant benefits in reduction of stormwater runoff and other ecosystem services associated with the trees. The full report is available [here](#) [PDF 390 KB].
- The local road transportation department in Boise, Idaho recently proposed changing policy to increase 40-ft sight clearance triangles at intersections to 50-ft and include trees. The policy change would result in the removal of 630 existing trees. Brian Jorgenson, city forester, used STRATUM data to show that the loss in service provided by those trees would amount to approximately \$1.1 million over 40 years. The Boise Parks & Recreation Commissioners voted against adopting the new policy.
- Working to meet New York City's long term planning and sustainability goals (PlaNYC), the city's Department of Parks and Recreation is using STRATUM data to estimate stormwater runoff reductions associated with planting additional street trees along city watersheds. One of the goals of PlaNYC is to reduce water pollution and the city is looking at increasing canopy cover as part of the solution. Read more about the plan to make New York City a model of sustainability for the 21st century [here](#).

Are you using STRATUM to study your city's urban forest? We would love to hear from you! If you have a STRATUM story, contact us at ppeper@fs.fed.us. If you would like to use STRATUM to analyze your urban forest, you can download it without cost at www.itreetools.org.



Recent Honors

October -- Greg attended the 44th Annual Society of Municipal Foresters Conference in San Diego. Much to his surprise he was honored with the Society's Award of Achievement for "research and modeling of the benefits and value of the urban forest through STRATUM, aerial imagery, and i-Tree." He generously attributed his successes to all of us at the Center. See photos of the event and Greg [here](#).

December -- The i-Tree Development and Implementation Team received the U.S. Forest Service 2008 Chief's Honor Award for Engaging Urban America. Team members named as recipients included our own Greg McPherson plus Keith Cline, David Nowak, David Bloniarz, Gregory Ina, Scott Maco, Dan Lambe, Jerri La Haie, and Jim Skiera. Thanks also goes to the many others--those who currently provide technical support and resources to users and those who have worked years collecting data and conducting extensive research that forms the substance of STRATUM, UFORE and other i-Tree tools.



Greg on Sabbatical

It appears all those honors are exhausting, gauging by Greg's imminent—and temporary—departure! Thanks to support from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station, Greg will be leaving on sabbatical from January through June 2009. His plans include some travel, the completion of several scientific papers, and time to think about best positioning the Center for Urban Forest Research to serve our clients better over the next 5-10 years.

During Greg's absence, Dr. Jim Simpson will serve as Acting Project Leader and Director for the Center. Along with Paula Peper, Jim will be ready to provide any assistance you need. Please contact Jim at (530) 759-1724 or jrsimpson@fs.fed.us; contact Paula at (530) 759-1725 or ppeper@fs.fed.us.

Links

News Brief online:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/briefs.php>

<http://www.treelink.org/ufr/>

Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol:

<http://www.climateregistry.org/tools/protocols/project-protocols/urban-forest.html>

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr695_GHG_protocols_summary.pdf

Climate Change Resource Center

<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/>

Air Resources Board

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/nr092508b.htm>

South Coast Air Quality Management District

http://www.aqmd.gov/news1/2008/12_05_08socialclimate.html

Trees and Engineered Soil

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr754_StructSoilsReportFinal.pdf

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