



Center for Urban Forest Research

U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

News Brief

Fall
2008

If you would like to receive our news briefs in the future, sign up [here](#).
This news brief can also be viewed online [here](#).

Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol

After a long 18 months of work, twelve drafts, and a lot of very helpful feedback from all of you, we are thrilled to announce that the Urban Forest Project Reporting Protocol has been unanimously approved by the California Climate Action Registry's Board of Directors. The protocol goes before the California Air Resources Board for adoption there as well on September 25.

You can view the final version of the protocol [here](#) and read a summary of the important points [here](#) [PDF 605 Kb]. Let the projects begin!

CUFR Tree Carbon Calculator

The calculations and projections required in the Urban Forest Protocol can be complicated. At CUFR, we're working on a tool to simplify, simplify, simplify! With generous grants from CalFire and the Forest Service's Washington Office, we're developing the CUFR Tree Carbon Calculator (CTCC)--an Excel-based program to tackle the hard parts for you.

The CTCC will calculate the amount of carbon your project trees are sequestering each year, tally the total amount stored in the trees, estimate the energy savings and reduced emissions associated with trees strategically planted to reduce energy use, and determine the aboveground biomass. The biomass value can be used to estimate the contribution tree waste can make to replacing emissions-heavy fuel sources and the amount of timber available for use in wood products.

Starting in the beginning of November, you will be able to download the program from the Forest Service's [Climate Change Resource Center](#). We'll announce the big day on our website, so keep checking in!

Sacramento Trees and Air Quality

Our assessment of the air quality impacts of planting millions of trees in the Sacramento region has moved into its second phase. In this phase, we'll use photochemical modelling to determine how different species mixes and tree numbers affect ozone levels. Dr. Haider Taha (Altostratus) leads our modelling effort, and UC Davis and CUFR scientists are working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to develop tree planting scenarios. Results from the simulations will help guide the Urban Forest Air Quality Control Measure, which was recently put together by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Management Control District and submitted to the U.S. EPA. You can read more about the project [here](#).



STRATUM Update

STRATUM version 3.4 is now available from i-Tree! In the new version, the Lower Midwest and Tropical regions have been activated, so users in those parts of the country can now learn much more about their urban forests. For those on the cutting edge of technology, STRATUM is also Vista compatible.

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:

- At the University of Hawaii, the campus landscape architect used data from STRATUM to demonstrate the value of trees slated for removal and to argue for substantial mitigation.
- Students at Virginia Tech have been studying the urban forest of Radford, Virginia. Each semester the urban forestry class samples a portion of the city's trees and analyzes their value using STRATUM. You can find this semester's summary [here](#) [PDF 800Kb]. Keep this great town/gown partnership in mind as a cost-effective solution!
- The city of Cambridge, Massachusetts is striving to increase their urban forest by 1–3% per year. A recent STRATUM analysis of the value of their existing forest, showing a per tree value of over \$200, should help them achieve that goal!

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.



Trees and engineered soil

Some preliminary data are available from Dr. Qingfu Xiao's engineered soil project and the results are striking! See the image [here](#) comparing trees grown in the UC Davis soil (treatment) with those grown in everyday soil (control). Even after only a few months, the trees in the structural soil are showing better condition and more growth. More testing is being done on the pollutant absorption capacity of the two soils; the results will be available in the final report. For more background on the project, see our [research summary](#) [PDF 1.6 MB].



Urban forestry position available

Kelaine, our urban ecologist, is leaving us soon to take a position in the private sector, and we'll be looking for someone to join the team! If you have a background in urban forestry or a related field and are interested in urban forest benefit-cost analysis, urban tree growth studies, and technology transfer and development, this could be the job for you! Strong applicants will have solid experience using office software applications, excellent writing and oral communications skills, and an interest in new urban forestry technology. If you're interested, send your resume or questions to Paula Peper (ppeper@fs.fed.us). The job will be posted on www.usajobs.gov this fall.

Links

News Brief online:

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

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/>

Sacramento Trees and Air Quality

<http://www.sactree.com/doc.aspx?82>

Radford Study

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

Engineered soil

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

http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr686_UCDParkingLot.pdf