

Ten Reasons Why We Need to Look After Our Trees

- 1. Trees save energy and money.** Just three trees strategically **planted around your home** can cut your air conditioning bill in half.
- 2. Trees save tax dollars.** Trees in a city slow **storm water runoff** and reduce the need for storm water drains. Tree shade also helps cool buildings, lowering electricity bills and saving greenhouse gases.
- 3. Trees cool our cities.** Urban "heat islands" are directly related to massive tree-cutting for development. Trees reduce the need for air conditioning.
- 4. Trees clean our water and air.** From low level ozone in our cities to pesticide and fertilizer runoff from our farms, trees absorb harmful pollutants.
- 5. Trees help community life.** Tree planting and community based forestry can add significantly to a local community's sustainable economy while restoring the environment.
- 6. Trees protect soil.** By holding soil in place with their root systems, by deflecting pounding rain with their canopies, and by adding nutrients with their dead leaves, trees are crucial to keeping and improving our soil.
- 7. Trees provide habitat for species of many kinds** – from insects to possums to birds, including endangered species.
- 8. Trees can pay your "carbon debt".** Planting just 30 trees will absorb the amount of **carbon dioxide** that is generated in the production of energy for the average Australian lifestyle each year.
- 9. Trees provide clean water and natural flood control.** Forests act as natural reservoirs, and they protect watersheds, providing clean water for cities, dams and rivers.
- 10. Trees are a beautiful part of our lives.** From striking individual trees that are of historic significance or are simply large and majestic, to a grove of trees in a city park, trees enrich our lives by simply being there. Trees are not just a key to the natural ecosystem - trees are an essential part of community life.