



News

New York City's Street Tree Map Proves Ecological, Economic Benefits of Urban Greenery

The value of ecosystem services has, up until recently, gone largely unrecognized by governments and corporations. While nature is inherently valuable for a variety of obvious reasons, putting a price tag on it isn't exactly a straightforward process. Companies such as **Kering** and **Dow** have begun to incorporate natural capital accounting into their practices, an intelligent move that offers a number of benefits across the board in terms of long-term sustainability — both economically and environmentally speaking. But what can local governments do to account for the value of nature in the urban environment? **New York City's Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks)**, the branch of local government responsible for the city's public spaces, squares and parks, has found a way to calculate the ecological and economic benefits of the most basic of urban features: street trees. In recent years, the agency has been responsible for creating new programs to help children, youth and adults be aware of the importance of caring for their urban landscape. **TreesCount!** is one such program. In 2015, NYC Parks gathered 2,300 volunteers to teach them about the trees in their environment, their characteristics, condition, care requirements, measurements and how they benefit the surrounding community. [Read more...](#)

Date: 01 December 2016**Source:** <http://www.sustainablebrands.com>**Can Indoor Plants Really Curb Air Pollution?**

An ongoing research is focusing on how effective indoor plants are in curbing air pollution. The News-Gazette reported that University of Illinois Professor Chris Enroth wrote an article regarding the inevitable presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in almost everything inside people's homes. From inks to oils, to plastics, to rubbers, to detergents, to nail polish removers, there are actually up to 180 different airborne compounds present in households. According to Minnesota Department of Health, these VOCs could cause eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, nausea/vomiting, dizziness, worsening of asthma symptoms or even serious diseases such as cancer, liver and kidney damage, and central nervous system damage. But Enroth says there is something people could do in preventing these VOCs to accumulate and cause sickness: indoor plants. "It is believed that most of these air pollutants are filtered out as part of the plant's photosynthesis activities. The air-cleansing process is ongoing, so long as the plant is growing and healthy," she said. [Read more...](#)

Date: 06 December 2016**Source:** <http://www.scienceworldreport.com>**Now Even TREES Are Blamed for Pollution**

That's right -- according to a British health watchdog, trees can actually increase pollution in a city, worsening the air people breathe. According to Britain's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (with the Orwellian acronym NICE, as in C.S. Lewis' *That Hideous Strength*), streets with leafy trees could actually contribute to pollution, rather than decreasing it. "Street trees were unlikely to reduce air pollution in most street designs and could worsen it in some cases," NICE reported in a 60-page document issued last week. "Leaves and branches slow air currents, causing pollutants to settle out," rather than dispersing into the general atmosphere. These findings are not unique to Britain, however. In 2012, Belgian researchers modeled a variety of real-life roadside urban vegetation to see whether the addition of greenery improved air quality. Their study concluded that trees on city streets could reduce ventilation, increasing dangerous pollution. This should not necessarily be news. Humans have long known that there are hundreds of different types of trees, and that they can have very different effects in their environment. For example, cedar, eucalyptus, and pine woodland trees give off volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which, in the presence of sunlight, react with the nitrogen oxide in car emissions, producing ozone. At the ground level, ozone can cause various diseases. [Read more..](#)

Date: 07 December 2016**Source:** <https://pjmedia.com>**The Many Health Benefits of Trees**

Heat-stroke protection, cleaner air, better breathing, sounder sleep, stress relief, disease prevention and defense from depression -- trees and greenery offer a host of health advantages. Planting more trees beautifies urban neighborhoods while helping residents feel better. It's not just about city spaces, however. Even in highly wooded areas, tree loss is tied to a rise in disease and higher mortality. Below, experts make the case for investing in trees for health's sake. **Trees cool down neighborhoods.** Trees in U.S. cities play an important role in keeping temperatures down, says Rob McDonald, lead scientist for global cities at the Nature Conservancy. "The average reduction is 2 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer," McDonald says. In a heat wave, he says, that can make the difference between people, particularly the elderly, staying healthy or risking heat stroke. Trees form a canopy that shades sidewalks and pavement to keep them from getting too hot. [Read more...](#)

Date: 09 December 2016**Source:** <https://www.yahoo.com>**Pollution in Nikel on increase, but new technology underway**

Sergey Donskoy, Russia's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, had dinner with his Norwegian colleague in Oslo on Sunday. Pollution from Nikel, the long-lasting pain in bilateral environmental relations between the two countries was a natural talking point while the ministers were eating. Minister Vidar Helgesen says to the Barents Observer that Donskoy informed him about Russia's plans to demand best available technology (BAT) at the country's industry. Kola Mining and Metallurgical Company is among the 300 most polluting companies in Russia that will be pilots for introduction of BAT. They have now been ordered to have a plan for this ready by 2019,» Vidar Helgesen says. [Read more...](#)

Date: 13 December 2016**Source:** <https://www.google.co.in>

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