



## News

**Trees make cities healthier**

There is a beautifully simple action that municipal leaders can take to reduce both extreme heat and air pollution: plant more trees. Last May, I had the dubious fortune of visiting Mumbai, India during the city's hottest month on record. Temperatures remained at over 40°C (104°F) for days at a time. The difference between standing in the shade of a tree and standing in full sunlight was like night and day. Such heat waves are not merely uncomfortable. They pose a serious health threat – one that is often overlooked when addressing extreme weather. In fact, heat waves account for more deaths than any other type of weather-related event, killing more than 12,000 people worldwide each year. The danger is particularly pronounced in cities, where the “urban heat island” effect results in temperatures as much as 12°C higher than in less-developed areas nearby. And the issue is not confined to tropical cities like Mumbai. In August 2003, a devastating heat wave across Europe killed more than 3,000 people in Paris alone.

[Read more...](#)**Date:** 03 November 2016**Source:** <http://www.myrepublica.com>**Why planting more trees is one of the best things a hot, polluted city can do**

Trees can make a city sidewalk prettier, sure. But that's not even their best trick. A growing pile of research suggests that planting more urban trees, if done right, could save tens of thousands of lives around the world each year — by soaking up pollution and cooling down deadly heat waves. In fact, as a fascinating new report from the Nature Conservancy details, a well-targeted tree campaign could be of the smartest investments a hot, polluted city can make. Which seems important, given that the world's cities will add about 2 billion people this century, and they're only getting hotter. “A lot of cities still think of trees as just ornamentation,” says Rob McDonald, the lead scientist for the Nature Conservancy's Global Cities program and a co-author of the report. “But they really do so much more than that. And the evidence suggests that we should start thinking of trees as a crucial part of our public-health infrastructure.”

[Read more...](#)**Date:** 04 November 2016**Source:** <http://www.vox.com>**Trees benefit India, Pakistan, Bangladesh most in air pollution reduction**

Kolkata: Cities in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan stand to benefit most from tree planting, in terms of both heat and particulate matter reduction, according to a study that identifies the potential return on investment (ROI) from tree planting in 245 global cities. The 'Planting Healthy Air: Global Return on Investment Rankings' study ranks all 245 cities for the potential per capita impact of planting trees, as defined by degrees of temperature reduction or the amount of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution that could be removed with a given investment. "Many cities in these countries have high return on investment from tree planting, in terms of both heat and PM reduction," said Rob McDonald, lead scientist for Global Cities initiative at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the study's primary author. TNC in collaboration with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group developed the study with the aim of providing urban leaders with the data they need to demonstrate that investments in tree planting can improve public health in their cities. "We focused our analysis on street trees, since our review of the scientific literature indicated that proximity between trees and people was needed to deliver meaningful reductions in PM or temperature," McDonald said.

[Read more..](#)**Date:** 07 November 2016**Source:** <http://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com>**Study Shows Urban Trees Could Help Heat, Pollution**

Enjoying cooler and cleaner air in Birmingham could come down to planting more urban trees. That's according to a new study from the Nature Conservancy. The organization released a study last week analyzing nearly 250 of the world's largest cities. They studied the impact trees have on mitigating heat and air pollution within the cities. The report finds planting more trees in cities like Birmingham could reduce temperatures by up to 4 degrees Fahrenheit in summer months. Additional trees could also cut down on air pollution from sources like car exhaust and power plants. Dr. Rob McDonald is the lead scientist from the Nature Conservancy study. He says one hurdle is city governments tend to think of trees strictly as ornamentation, and public health officials don't think of trees much at all. “One of our big hopes for this report is to start a dialogue between these two types of agencies, so that when urban forestry departments are prioritizing where to plant, they're thinking about public health as well.” McDonald says an interactive map at [nature.org](http://nature.org) shows the impact that additional trees could have in cutting down heat and pollution in specific Birmingham neighborhoods.

[Read more...](#)**Date:** 09 November 2016**Source:** <http://apr.org>**Plant trees to reduce pollution**

In its worst spell of importunate pollution in nearly two decades, the Delhi Capital's air quality slipped into the ‘hazardous’ level. It reveals that the levels of air pollution remained “severe”, the highest warning as per the National Air Quality Index. India comes just behind China – which witnessed an estimated 800,000 deaths – says the study, which relied on mathematical modelling to arrive at its figures. A number of occupational and environmental factors are also associated with an increased incidence of lung cancer. Emergency measures have to be put in place. People with heart or lung diseases, elderly persons, and children were advised to remain indoors. Vehicle density is too much in Delhi and the traffic jam is the main culprit for the ambient air quality deterioration. As far as addressing the issue of air pollution is concerned, the authorities are more at fault for not devising and implementing proper system for disposing off the waste generated. Everybody has a right to clean air. Planting trees in every corner is essential to improve the quality of the air. The strategy should focus on stop the pollution and improve the quality of air.

[Read more...](#)**Date:** 10 November 2016**Source:** <http://www.afternoonvoice.com>

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