

CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry

Greg Dion, Inland Empire Regional Urban Forester – Resource Protection and Improvement



CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments Grant Programs

- **Urban and Community Forestry Grants**
 - *Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement*
 - *Urban Forest Management Activities*
 - *Urban Forest and Workforce Development*
 - *Schoolyard Greening*
 - *Urban Forestry Regional or Statewide Impact Project*
 - *Urban Wood Biomass Utilization*
 - *Regional or Statewide Education and Outreach*



CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program

The mission of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Program is to lead the effort to advance the development of sustainable urban and community forests in California. Trees provide energy conservation, reduction of storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, improve public health, provide wildlife habitat and increase property values. In short, they improve the quality of life in our urban environments which, increasingly, are where Californians live, work, and play. The program also administers State and Federal grants throughout California communities to advance urban forestry efforts.

- **Technical assistance and advice**
- **Public and professional education**
- **Public events**
- **Local and regional advocacy**
- **Networking and partnerships**
- **Technology transfer**
- **Grants**
- **Conduit to national programs**



Program Highlights

- Staff of 11, seven field specialists, one environmental scientist (education and outreach specialist), one program manager, and two supervisors
- Grant Programs (FY 2022-23 total of \$167 million, with \$117 million for school greening and \$50 million for other urban forestry grant types [Urban and Community Forestry Grant Programs \(ca.gov\)](https://www.ca.gov/urban-forestry-grant-programs))

Urban Forest Benefits

- GHG storage and avoided emissions
- Energy Conservation
- Air Quality
- Conserving Runoff
- Water quality improvement
- Economic (property value +)
- Public Health
- Jobs
- Much more.....



Focus on the benefits gained from implementing a systematic approach of using vegetation to solve problems in urban areas.

Types of Urban Forestry Grant Projects

- **Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement**
 - ☐ Urban tree planting projects and associated costs
 - ☐ Purchase and improve unused neighborhood parcels
- **Urban Forest Management Activities**
 - ☐ Urban forest management plans
 - ☐ Tree or urban forest related policies and ordinances
 - ☐ Urban tree inventories
 - ☐ Urban forest mapping and analysis
- **Urban Forestry Education and Workforce Development**
 - ☐ Educate, train, and employ people in urban forestry or a closely related profession.
 - ☐ Equip and develop local people to improve their urban forest and associated ecosystems

Types of Urban Forestry Grant Projects (continued)

- **School Greening**

- ☐ Development and implementation of projects on that use natural systems or systems that mimic natural systems to achieve multiple benefits and improve the immediate environment and learning opportunities for students at public schools. Project will plant trees and other vegetation to provide shade and reduce ambient temperature, provide hands-on learning opportunities, and optimize co-benefits to school children and surrounding residents. Projects should be child centered and primarily focus on child-accessible spaces.

Types of Urban Forestry Grant Projects (continued)

- Urban Forestry Regional or Statewide Impact Project
 - ❑ Improvement, expansion, and coordination of urban forestry programs throughout a large geographic area or statewide. An established organization will serve as a convener to complementary initiatives, a sponsor for local champions, an incubator to assist small or new organizations or groups, and a champion for engaging underserved areas and populations. Organizations must employ multiple strategies and corresponding actions.
- Urban Wood Biomass Utilization
 - ❑ Creation, development, and implementation of projects to better utilize trees and/or other vegetation from urban forests to reduce GHG emissions. The trees that are utilized must not have been removed solely to be utilized; there must be another valid management objective behind the removal of the trees. Projects will use urban woody biomass for its highest and best use, thus diverting it from the urban waste stream. Projects must show that the removed trees were replaced with a tree of similar or improved long term carbon and co-benefits.

Types of Urban Forestry Grant Projects (continued)

- Regional or Statewide Education and Outreach
 - ❑ For the creation, development, and implementation of innovative education and outreach campaigns or programs that focus on urban and community forestry and/or environmental literacy related to the urban environment. There should be a strong focus on the stewardship of California's urban forests to address community needs related to extreme heat, air and water quality, public health, environmental and climate justice, or a closely related field. Preference will be given to projects with diverse, effective partnerships, inclusive messaging, and maximum impact statewide or regionally.

U&CF Program history and forecast

- Foundational services
 - Grants
 - Technical Assistance
 - Education and outreach
- Focus issues forecast
 - Canopy cover distribution and density
 - Equity
 - Green schoolyards
 - Increasing resilience to extreme heat, climate change, air quality, health impacts, and other issues





Thank You!

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