



Countryside to Community

Sustainable Farms, Forests and Communities

sponsored by:

USDA Council on Sustainable Development

Connecting Countryside to Community

Sustainability links people and places across rural and urban America. From farms and forests to communities and consumers, sustainable approaches to agriculture, forest management, and community development provide a viable, affordable food supply; more healthy and nutritious diets; and better management practices for growing, harvesting, and processing food and fiber. Working together, United States Department of Agriculture agencies work to create opportunities and promote choices for present and future generations.

USDA Council on Sustainable Development

The USDA Council on Sustainable Development is a forum for integrating environmental, social, and economic issues related to farms, forests, and communities. The Council connects researchers, technical assistance, education, and financial assistance.

Sustainability is the foundation of modern approaches to agriculture, forest management, and community development. Our best management practices come from the environment. USDA is helping producers access, benefit from, and enhance natural resources needed to grow food, keep our soil and water clean, and protect our forests for the future.

Council Members:

Agricultural Marketing Service, Agricultural Research Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, Economic Research Service, Forest Service, Food and Nutrition Assistance, Foreign Agricultural Service, Forest Service, National Agricultural Library, National Resources Conservation Service, Forest Service, Risk Management Agency, and Rural Development.

The Council is currently planning to sponsor this exhibit. Please visit us at www.usda.gov



Linking Forests to the Faucet

The water many of us drink and use is a direct and immediate connection to forests and watersheds. Do you realize that the water coming from your faucet is connected to trees and forested areas?

More than 52 million people in the northeastern part of the USA depend on forest lands as the source of their drinking water. Trees and forests absorb, filter, store, and release water - thereby bringing clean water to your faucet.

Decisions we individually and collectively make every day about where and how we live, work, and play affects the availability and condition of our water. Retaining and managing forests is one of the best ways to protect our drinking water resources and to reduce the costs of water treatment over the long term.

forest to the faucet

Geographic Information System - USDA Forest Service
 Prepared by the National Agricultural Library, Forest Service, and National Resources Conservation Service



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Advancing Science for Sustainability
Our nation's future depends on generating and applying science-based knowledge to sustain food, fiber, and fuel production, developing practices and technologies that conserve, restore, and enhance landscapes, and using a future workforce that understands the interaction between profitable, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainability. Some of the benefits of science for sustainability include:

Soil:
As the foundation of life, scientists are studying the properties and functions of soil to maximize and restore our nation's capacity to provide clean water, clean air, and productive lands for food, fiber and energy.

Safe and Healthy Food:
Agricultural and food scientists help our farmers, ranchers, and food industry supply communities here and around the world with the healthy, safe and nutritious foods they desire.

Bio-fuels:
Switchgrass can yield about twice as much ethanol as corn. Breeding and genetic research is underway to improve switchgrass yield and its ability to recycle carbon.

Bio-based Products:
Cornstarch, a yellow-flowered member of the mustard family, has numerous potential for oils, gums and resins. In addition to the American foodchain, its superior quality oil might soon be found in coat hangers, plastics, papers, liquids, shampoos and even frozen foods!

Inventory and Monitoring:
Scientists collect field data, by monitoring and assessing the health of our natural resources.



Supporting Our Environment
Our nation's future depends on generating and applying science-based knowledge to sustain food, fiber, and fuel production, developing practices and technologies that conserve, restore, and enhance landscapes, and using a future workforce that understands the interaction between profitable, environmental, and social dimensions of sustainability. Some of the benefits of science for sustainability include:

Water Resources:
Scientists are studying the properties and functions of soil to maximize and restore our nation's capacity to provide clean water, clean air, and productive lands for food, fiber and energy.

Energy:
Switchgrass can yield about twice as much ethanol as corn. Breeding and genetic research is underway to improve switchgrass yield and its ability to recycle carbon.

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