

The loss of forests and other land use changes contribute about one-fifth of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) released into Earth's atmosphere each year. Restoration is a necessary and important part of any comprehensive approach to decreasing atmospheric CO₂ levels and reducing the impacts of climate change.



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Restoring Forests to Reduce Global Warming

BAYOU PIERRE FLOODPLAIN PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Location: Red River Valley, Louisiana, United States

Size: 500 acres

Emissions Impact: Absorption of 200,000 metric tons of CO₂ over 100 years

Conservation Impact: Restoration of wildlife corridors and habitat

Community Impact: Improved natural flood storage and environmental security

Partners: PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC (investor), Environmental Synergy Inc. (tree planting and carbon monitoring)

The Bayou Pierre Floodplain Climate Action Project has helped restore 500 acres of critical bottomland hardwood forests in northwest Louisiana, one of several reforestation projects that will make up a broader one-million acre effort to restore this important ecosystem. Since 2005, native species including sweet gum, bald cypress, tupelo, green ash, willow, overcup, cherrybark and nuttall oaks have been planted. PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC, the investor in the project, estimates that the project will absorb and store 200,000 metric tons CO₂ from the atmosphere over its 100 year lifetime.

Through scientific measurement, quantification and monitoring, Bayou Pierre demonstrates that forest restoration can achieve verifiable emissions reductions by storing carbon in the living biomass of forests and below ground in soils. In addition to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the reforestation of this former agricultural land:

- Protects regional biodiversity by restoring habitats critical to migratory birds, waterfowl, and protected species such as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and the Louisiana black bear.
- Establishes wildlife corridors by connecting fragmented habitats.
- Decreases soil and nutrient inputs to river waters, reducing the runoff that creates the Gulf of Mexico “dead” zone where lack of oxygen eliminates much fish life.
- Helps federal and state agencies achieve long-term goals for the environmental security of the region including habitat reforestation, soil protection and flood protection.

Validating Emissions Reductions from Bayou Pierre

In 2005, more than 150,000 nursery-raised seedlings of native species were planted at the project site. Follow-on assessments in the fourth growing season will be conducted to ensure trees are established by determining survivorship and replanting where necessary. Environmental Synergy, Inc. has been retained by PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC to periodically measure and monitor the carbon stored in the growing trees.

Additionality: Almost the entire baseline reforestation in the region in the last 17 years has been attributable to government funded incentives, such as funding provided to lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. Little reforestation has occurred in the region without government incentive payments. If it were not for the funding provided by PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC, the Bayou Pierre Floodplain Climate Action Project would not have been implemented.

Permanence: The Nature Conservancy will ensure that the property is protected in the long-term during the project's 100-year life. The Conservancy intends to transfer the property to a public agency with protection of the forest embedded in the sale.

Monitoring: Periodic monitoring of the project area will be undertaken by Environmental Synergy Inc. Monitoring and quantification will follow peer-reviewed methodologies developed by Winrock International to measure the above-ground, below-ground, and soil carbon pools.

VALIDATING FOREST CARBON PROJECTS

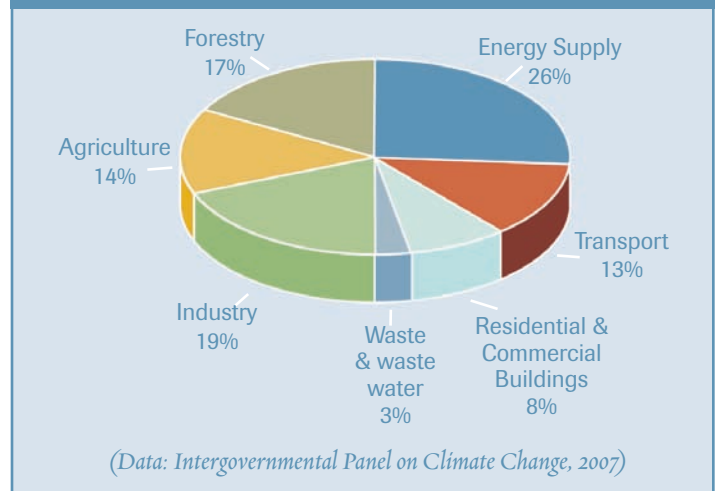
Additionality: Refers to the amount of carbon dioxide captured, stored or prevented from reaching the atmosphere compared to what would happen under business as usual practices.

Permanence: Refers to how robust the project is to potential changes that could allow the stored carbon to be emitted, as well as to the ability of the project to offset any emissions associated with such changes. The most desirable carbon sequestration projects are those where the protected land is likely to remain intact indefinitely.

Carbon inventories and monitoring: Refers to the periodic assessment of the net difference between carbon stored with the project activities and the carbon that would have been stored without the project activities. The difference, when extrapolated across the project area and adjusted for leakage, represents the greenhouse gas benefit of a project.

Verification: Occurs throughout the life of a project to ensure it meets its intended goals of carbon sequestration, increased biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY SECTOR IN 2004



Allocation of Carbon Credits

PowerTree Carbon Company, LLC will retain the reporting rights to all emission reductions associated with the project and will distribute the reporting rights among its 25 member companies.

Forest Carbon:

A Credible and Critical Climate Change Solution

Forest carbon projects, such as Bayou Pierre, demonstrate that forest carbon is an effective and feasible part of an overall solution to climate change. The Nature Conservancy believes that effective international and U.S. climate change policy frameworks must achieve significant reductions in emissions from all major sources, create incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and to absorb carbon from the atmosphere by restoring forests, and support adaptation strategies that help the natural world cope with the impacts of climate change.



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