



**CHICAGO
REGION
TREES
INITIATIVE**

Our Trees.
Our Communities.
Our Future.

Chicago Region Carbon Program

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative (CRTI) is facilitating a regional carbon program to generate new funding for urban forests—from communities to forest preserves. Landowners and managers may enroll planting and preservation projects into a program that generates carbon credits and revenue.

What is the Chicago Region Carbon Program?

The Chicago Region Carbon Program (CRCP) is a region-wide carbon crediting program for tree planting and forest preservation projects. The goal of the program is to improve the health and canopy of the urban forest in the Chicago region through increased tree planting or preservation, while also generating revenue that can be reinvested in the canopy through the sale of Carbon+ Credit™ sales.

Why participate in the Chicago Region Carbon Program?

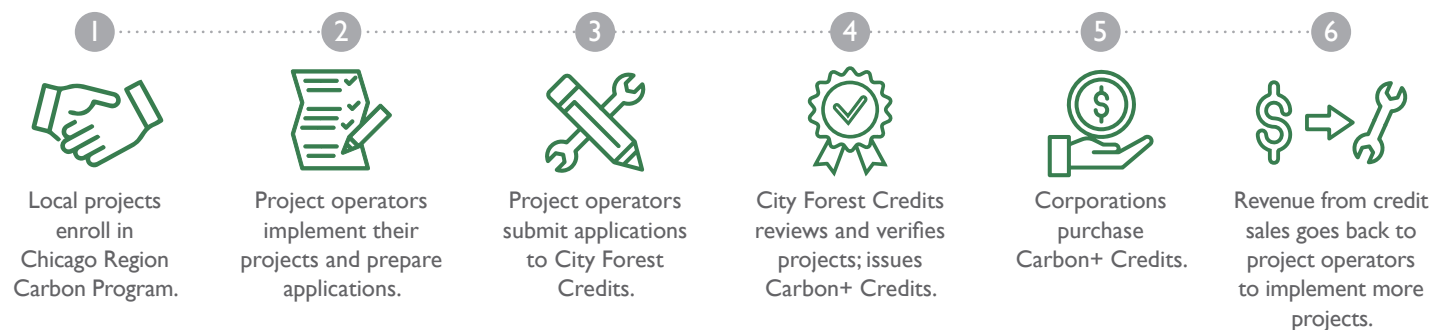
- This program offers an opportunity to leverage the carbon sequestration from the trees you plant and protect into funding for their care, maintenance, and continued work.
- There is a large and growing demand from companies for carbon credits, as they increasingly commit to carbon neutrality and net-zero. Through the sale of carbon credits, more funding is generated for urban forests.
- Traditional carbon credit projects take place in remote natural areas, both domestically and around the world. Chicago Region Carbon Program projects take place right here in the Chicago region, enabling companies to invest in carbon footprint reduction in the communities where they live and work.
- CRCP projects benefit the environment as well as quality of life. Whether through reducing heat islands, improving mental and physical health, or reducing air pollution, the trees planted and preserved through the CRCP make the benefits of a healthy tree canopy accessible for all of the region's residents.

Who is involved?

City Forest Credits is a nonprofit carbon registry that has established protocols for the development and implementation of urban forest carbon projects aimed at sequestering carbon and providing social impacts and ecosystem benefits in cities and towns. City Forest Credits issues carbon credits based on its protocols and tracks the issuance, transfer, and retirement of Carbon+ Credits in a secure database.

The Chicago Region Trees Initiative is a coalition of organizations led and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum, working together to improve the health of the urban forest. CRTI is partnering with City Forest Credits to facilitate a carbon credits program in the Chicago region that generates revenue from carbon credit sales to be put back into urban forestry projects, enabling landowners to expand the health of the urban forest and the quality of life for people in the communities where those projects take place.

CRCP Partners (Local Project Operators), including landowners or tree-related organizations who plant trees or preserve forested areas, can enroll tree projects in the CRCP to earn carbon credits and generate a new source of revenue. The intention of the partnership is to enable a range of local projects to participate through the CRCP collective partners—creating a scale of efficiencies and impacts that will attract more projects and more buyers to purchase the credits.



Where do we get more information about the program?

[ChicagoRTI.org/CarbonCredits](https://chicagoRTI.org/CarbonCredits)

Zach Wirtz, Community Manager, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
zwirtz@mortonarb.org