The Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants Program
Application Instructions

The Connecticut Urban Forest Council is pleased to announce the Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants Program. We are excited, as this is an opportunity to increase awareness of the role urban forestry can play in connection with climate change and environmental justice. This is a welcome opportunity to engage with the ideas and insights of others who work closely with these wider issues. We encourage that urban forestry itself be seen as a tool, one that widens the framework within which these larger social issues are being addressed. Trees should have a place along the path that leads to the greater good for all in our society.

Attached are the Application Instructions. Please take a couple of minutes to review these materials. Feel free to ask any questions that you might have through the grant web page (described below).

These are among the important details to know:

- Applicants should first be familiar with the **Request for Proposals** for this grant. This document provides the details regarding the purpose of the grant, who may apply and the basis upon which applications will be scored. These and other items of interest on the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page – www.cturbanforestcouncil.org/grants/climate-change-grants.

- **Projects are to take place within the State of Connecticut**.

- **Connecticut municipalities and 501(c)3 non-profits are eligible** for these grants.

- **There are two application periods for this grant**. The first round of applications is due by November 3, 2021. The second round will be due February 2, 2022.

- **The maximum amount for any individual grant application is $37,000**. However, applications may be for amounts less than that.

If you have any questions regarding the grants program, please visit the Climate Change Grants Page. You will see a link to a form that allows you to submit questions. We will make every effort to answer them as quickly as we can.

Thank you very much for your interest. We look forward to the many excellent grant applications that we know that we will receive.

Sincerely,

Heather Dionne
Chair
The Connecticut Urban Forest Council

What is Included in these Application Instructions

The Completed Application – Summary Details

The application itself, when ready, is submitted through the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page.[1] Details for submitting the complete application is covered on the following pages. A completed application must include each of the following items:

- ✓ A **Cover Letter.** It is recommended that this letter provides an introduction to the organization, including a description of its mission and of its notable accomplishments.

- ✓ The **Main Application Form**. This is available on the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page.

- ✓ A **Work Plan.** The purpose of the Work Plan is to describe in detail the work proposed within the grant.

- ✓ A **Project Budget.** This form is available on the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page.

- ✓ A **Site Map** or geographic summary as to where the work will occur. If tree plantings are to be involved, the Site Map must show the location of these trees.

- ✓ A **List of the Tools and Supplies** needed for the project. This should include any list of trees to be planted. Please reference these as needed within the Project Budget.

- ✓ An **Urban Forestry Goals Statement**.

- ✓ A **Climate Change Goals Statement**.

- ✓ An **Equity and Environmental Justice Goals Statement**.

- ✓ A **Statement as to how Community Involvement, Communications Efforts and Ongoing Stewardship** will be included in the project.

Letters of Support are not required but are welcome, as is any additional information that might help with the review of the organization's application. Please include these materials with your application.

After all applications have been submitted, each project will be given a Feasibility Review. Projects that pass that review will then be scored based upon their Urban Forestry, Climate Change, Equity and Environmental Justice, and Community Involvement, Communications Efforts and Ongoing Stewardship statements.

---

[1] The Urban Forestry Climate Change Grants Program – Connecticut Urban Forest Council (cturbanforestcouncil.org) - https://cturbanforestcouncil.org/grants/climate-change-grants/

How to Prepare Your Materials Before You Submit Your Application

- Your application should not be submitted until you have all 10 of the required files and any of the optional materials ready for submission. The application should be submitted as one complete packet. However, we do allow for applications to be updated later if necessary.

- The Main Application Form and the Budget Form are available on the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page. Each is a fillable PDF form. Please download these forms and fill them out. Be sure to then save each with a name that will be unique to your group (see below). You may substitute an excel spreadsheet for the Budget Form.

- When submitting your documents, we strongly encourage that you use the following naming convention for your files. This will be of great help in keeping these documents in order:
    - Name each document so that if follows this pattern:
      (YourGroup'sAbbreviatedName)-(FileSubject).(FileType)"
    - For example, if CUFC were to apply for one of these grants, we would recommend that the Main Application file be called "CUFC-MainApp.pdf". (Of course, CUFC would not be applying for one of its own grants.)
    - Similarly, the Budget Form may be submitted as a PDF (using the fillable PDF version) or as an Excel file. In our example, the budget file would be called "CUFC-Budget.pdf" or "CUFC-Budget.xls"
    - The Work Plan, Tools and Supply Lists and the Individual Target Area Statements may be submitted as PDF's or as Word documents. The Site Plan may be submitted as a PDF or in any of the common graphic file formats, such JPG. A JPG inserted into a Word doc also works.
    - Continuing our example, these files would be named as follows:
        - "CUFC-WorkPlan.pdf" or "CUFC-WorkPlan.doc" for the Work Plan document
        - "CUFC-SitePlan.pdf" or "CUFC-SitePlan.jpg" for the Site Plan document
        - "CUFC-SupList.pdf" or "CUFC-SupList.doc" for the Tools and Supply Lists
        - "CUFC-UFState.pdf" or "CUFC- UFState.doc" for the Urban Forestry Statement
        - "CUFC-CCState.pdf" or "CUFC-CCState.doc" for the Climate Change Statement
        - "CUFC-EEJState.pdf" or "CUFC-EEJState.doc" for the Equity and Environmental Justice Statement
        - "CUFC-StewState.pdf" or "CUFC-StewState.doc" for the Community, Communications and ongoing-Stewardship Statement
        - Other documents, such as letters of support, are welcome. They should also be named in a similar fashion, beginning with your abbreviated group name.

- With the exception of the Main Application form, please be sure to put the Applicant's name as well as the Project's name at the top the first page within each document.

- Due to the limitations of the form submission software that we are using, documents need to be limited in size. Partly for this reason, and partly because we are encouraging that submitted files be clear, direct and concise, we are asking that the text of the Work Plan and each of the Goals Statements be no more than 2 pages in length. Photos may be attached, but photos also tend to expand file size rapidly. The file size limits are listed on the following page.

File Size Limits for Application Files:

- Cover Letter - 1 MB
- Main Application Form - 500 KB
- Work Plan - 3 MB
- Project Budget - 500 KB
- Site Map - 5 MB
- List of the Tools and Supplies - 1 MB
- Urban Forestry Goals Statement - 2 MB
- Climate Change Goals Statement - 2 MB
- Equity and Environmental Justice Goals Statement - 2 MB
- Community Involvement, Communications and Ongoing Stewardship Statement - 2 MB
- First Letter of Support or Additional Documentation - 2 MB
- Next Letter of Support or Additional Documentation - 1 MB
- Next Letter of Support or Additional Documentation - 1 MB
- Next Letter of Support or Additional Documentation - 1 MB
- Next Letter of Support or Additional Documentation - 1 MB

If the files you seek to submit are larger than this, please contact us through the Climate Change Grants page and we will consider alternate ways your files may be submitted.

How to Submit Your Application for Review

- Once all of the documents listed on the previous page are ready for submission, please visit the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page. At the bottom of the web page, there is a link that reads "Submit Your Application – Begin Here". Click on that link.
- The link will bring you to a form that will ask you for some basic contact information. This is also the information we will use to keep track of your application and to get in touch with you as needs be. Please fill it out carefully.
- At the bottom of that form is a series of buttons that are to be used to submit each of the documents that you have prepared. Take your time and be sure to attach the fully-saved, final version of each document. Try to attach each file to the correct button, but the more important thing is to have all of the right files submitted. If you attach the wrong file to a button, before submission, go ahead and re-attach to that button the correct file. The new file will replace the old, incorrect file.
- When you are ready to submit your information and your files, simply hit 'Submit' at the bottom of this, the application page.
- Once you have submitted your files, you will get an email sent back to the contact email you have given us. This email provides acknowledgement that we have received your application. It also gives you an opportunity to check one more time that you have submitted the correct files.
- You should have noticed that one option on the form asks if this is an initial application or an update. If you need to re-submit a file for any reason, you may do so. Simply return to the CUFC Climate Change Grants web page, hit the Submit Your Application button again at the bottom of the Climate Change Grants page, fill the form out with all of the same contact information, let us know that this is an 'update' and the attach your replacement files using the appropriate buttons at the bottom of the page. Submit this updated application as before. You do not need to submit all files with an updated application. For each required file, we will use the most recently version of that file when we do our review.
- For the first round of grants, all application materials, including all updated files, must be received by the close of business (5 pm) on November 3, 2021. These files will not be reviewed before this date. We expect to notify all applicants as to the success of their application by mid-December.

The Review Process

After the November 3rd deadline, we will begin the review process. Each application will first be assessed as to feasibility. Applications considered to be infeasible will be returned to the applicants with an explanation as to why. An applicant may submit an updated version of this project in a later round. Also, if there are funds available after all applications have been considered in the current round, the applicant may be allowed to submit an updated grant application for reconsideration in this round. This reconsideration will be at the discretion of the Review Committee.

Once an application has passed the Feasibility Review, the proposal is assessed and rated in terms of each of the four defined focus areas of the grant. During this step, the Review Team will assign up to 25 points for each Goals Statement. The sum of these points will form the basis of the Review Team's recommendation to the CUFC as a whole as to which grant proposals to provide funding.

The Review Process is described in more detail below and on the following pages. There is also a great deal of information regarding the Review Process in the Request for Proposals (RFP). Please note how the items required for a completed application relate to the steps in the Review Process.

The Feasibility Review. This review is based largely on the **Work Plan** that each applicant is required to submit. CUFC suggests that the Work Plan be no more than 2 pages in length. In addition to this Work Plan, each applicant is requested to submit a **List of Tools and Materials** needed for the project and **Site Plan** or description of the geographic setting for the project.

In connection with this Feasibility Review, each applicant must also submit a **Project Budget**. The reviewers will consider whether the costs are reasonable, sufficient and whether or not they are excessive with respect to the project described.

Further details regarding the Feasibility Review are included within the on-line RFP document, as well as further on within this document.

Please note – it is **not** the primary goal of the Feasibility Review to determine whether a proposed project is apt to be effective in achieving the goals outlined in the Goal Statements for each of the 4 focus areas.

Assessment of the Four Focus Areas. The four focus areas for the grant are:
- **Urban Forestry Goals**
- **Climate Change Goals**
- **Equity and Environmental Justice Goals**
- **Community Involvement, Communications Efforts and Ongoing Stewardship**

As part of the application process, each applicant is required to submit a <u>separate</u> statement as to the goals the applicant has set in each of these 4 focus areas and how completing the project will lead towards achievement of these goals. The applicant should relate the goals they describe in each of these focus areas to elements of the Work Plan, so that reviewers can see how the work to be done relates to the goals to be accomplished. Each statement will be assigned a value, up to 25 points each, by the Review Committee.

In addition to considering whether the work proposed is likely to result in the achievement of the goals described, the reviewers will also consider such factors as how effectively the funding is to be used and what additional resources will be brought to bear towards these goals.

There will also be a consideration as how well the specific goals cited in each Statement relate to the purpose of the Grant Program as outlined in the RFP. Do the targets in this grant proposal fit with what the RFP describes? Applicants are encouraged to state clearly what their targets are – what their intended results are – with regards to each of these four focus areas.

CUFC suggests that the text of each of these Focus Area Statements be no more than 2 pages in length. Supplemental materials such as charts showing tree benefits or presentations such as tree equity scores may be included. If so, they should be clearly referenced.

Final Rankings. Once the projects have been scored, they will be ranked. The Review Committee will then compile a final listing of the project proposals and their scores. Based on these scores, the Committee will make a recommendation to the Council as a whole (CUFC) as to which projects to fund. It will be the responsibility of the Review Committee to break any ties in the ranking, should that be necessary, before submitting the final list to the Council. The final decision as to which grants to fund is the responsibility of the Council as a whole.[2]

An Example of How the Assessment Process Will Work. As an example, let us say that an applicant proposes a project that centers around tree planting and at-risk youth. In the Feasibility Review, the reviewers will largely consider whether the project will succeed as a tree planting project. Are the trees the right kind of trees, planted in the right place, using the correct tree planting techniques and with a clear post-planting maintenance plan? Also, is sufficient funding allocated to pay for the trees and will there be training given to those who will be doing the planting? If the reviewers agree that the proposal meets these standards, the application then will move on to the next stage.

The reviewers will then assess the project in terms of the four focus areas. Keeping with this example, let us look closer at the at-risk youth aspect of the project. Based on what is written in the Equity and Environmental Justice Goals Statement, the reviewers will consider what benefits these youth will draw from this project, as well as how this will benefit the community in which they live. The reviewers will also consider the extent to which this need exists within this community. In this case, it would help if the applicant were to provide a target as to number of youth participants expected in this program.

By and large, these considerations will be based on the information the applicant provides. That is why being clear as to need as well as to intended result will be helpful. As stated in the RFP, priority will be given to projects based in distressed communities. However, all applicants are encouraged to describe how a given effort is important to their community, in terms of the local situation and the potential outcomes.

The Equity and Environmental Justice focus is only one of the 4 focus areas. Since outcomes might cross over several focus areas, it would be helpful to cite those crossovers when they occur. Again, in our example, while the most direct benefit of the project to at-risk youth might be the development of job skills, this project is also likely to benefit the community in terms of local reduction of the urban heat island effect. It would be expected that the heat island effect would be outlined in details in the statement on Climate Change. However, it would be helpful to reviewers to also mention this benefit in the Equity and Environmental Justice Statement. That way, reviewers are more likely to give this outcome consideration in both contexts.

---

[2] CUFC has a strict Conflict of Interest policy. Any member of the Council who has a direct affiliation to any organization that is applying for one of these grants will not be allowed to participate in the Review Process and will abstain from voting on any final recommendations.

All proposed projects must pass a Feasibility Review before they will be considered further for funding. This feasibility review will include a review of the project description – the Work Plan – and a review of the Project Budget. The Site Plan and the List of Tools and Supplies will also be considered.

The Work Plan:

Among the items relating to feasibility that the reviewers will consider when reviewing the Work Plan are:

- Is the project well-defined and presented in a manner that can be readily understood and assessed?
- Can the project be accomplished in the time and manner being proposed? Is there a clear timeline associated with the project?
- Is the work force for this project clearly defined and adequate?
- Are the individuals responsible for seeing the project through to completion clearly defined, in a way that establishes leadership and responsibility for each stage of the project as well as for the project as a whole?
- Is the budget appropriate for this project? Is the match clearly stated?
- Are the standards to be used to guide how the work is to be done specified? Are they the appropriate standards[3] for this work? Is there allowance for proper after-care where needed?
- Are the end products and expected outcomes of the grant clearly stated, in simple and straightforward terms?

The grant applicant must indicate what permissions will be needed in order to conduct this project and how those permissions will be obtained. For example, if a tree planting project is to be done on municipal land by a non-profit organization, the grant applicant must describe how permission from the municipality will be obtained. It is not necessary that this permission be obtained prior to the grant being awarded, but these permissions must be obtained before work on the grant will be allowed to begin.

In situations in which the grant application is not acceptable in terms of feasibility, the CUFC will return these applications to the applicants with an explanation as to why. If there is an opportunity for reconsideration of this application, in the next grant round or, in the case where there are still funds available, the current round, then the applicant may submit an updated grant application for re-consideration. Such re-consideration should not be construed in any way as prior approval of this project.

Applications which the reviewers judge as being essentially feasible but in need of minor adjustments may be conditionally approved pending these minor changes. It shall be up to the judgment of the reviewers as to what constitutes a minor adjustment and whether these minor adjustments may be made as part of the review process.

---

[3] Grant recipients will be expected to use accepted professional standards and guidelines wherever appropriate. For example, tree planting projects should adhere to the guidelines presented in the Connecticut Tree Owners Manual, which can be found on the DEEP Forestry web site. Where appropriate, the grant applicants should state the guidelines that will be followed.

Urban Forestry Goals Statement – 25 points

The urban forestry statement should largely focus on the trees that will be a part of this project. It will be expected that there will be some description of the conditions relating to these trees prior to the project, what changes are proposed to occur through this project and what will be the intended outcomes once these changes have been made.

The trees taken together are often called the urban forest. Urban forests are often considered in terms of their structural condition and in terms of their functional contributions. The structural condition of the urban forest refers to such factors as number of trees, degree of canopy cover, condition of the individual trees (health and maintenance needs), age and diversity of the trees, and so on. The functional contributions of the urban forest often includes a discussion of what the trees contribute to people and the environment, and so includes such considerations as the tree's role in cleaning the air and the water, shading and cooling, contributions to sense of place and community and the role these trees play in public health and quality of life.

That said, the Urban Forestry Goals Statement does not need to be a lengthy and detailed report on the structural and functional status of the trees that currently exist or what the status will be once of the project is completed. Applicants are encouraged to focus on the following questions:

- What urban forestry concerns are being addressed?
- In what way will be the local urban forest canopy be increased and improved and/or how will the benefits to be obtained from these local trees be increased?

Applicants are encouraged to be specific as to how the project's activities will lead to the intended urban forestry results. Stating the intended benefits, either from changes to the urban forest or changes in access to or understanding of the urban forest, will be important.

It is likely that there will be overlap between this statement and other goals statements. In general, it is best to mention the outcomes in each of the statements where they are relevant, including in the urban forestry goals statement, although a more detailed description can be reserved for one statement.

In reviewing this statement, the reviewers will be considering:

- Does this project have the potential to achieve these urban forest structural and functional goals effectively?
- If these goals are achieved, what near-term and long-term improvements in the urban forest will this lead to?
- If this is a project that involves tree planting, are the tree species chosen appropriate? Is adequate consideration given the planting site? Does the project provide for the longer-term care and maintenance of these trees? Is there someone designated as being responsible for the care of these trees?
- If the project involves tree maintenance and management, is a Connecticut licensed arborist involved? Is safety given full consideration within this project?
- Are community members to be involved in the planning, planting and/or management of this project? If so, how will they be trained? Who will be responsible for the ongoing care of the project once the grant has concluded?

The use of software tools such as those in i-Tree (www.itreetools.org) and/or of Geographic Information System analyses may be helpful in telling this story. Please see the **Helpful References** section in this document.

Climate Change Goals Statement – 25 points

The climate is changing and these changes are having effects at the local level, creating many issues of significant concern locally. Funding projects that involve the use of trees and the urban forest in dealing with these local effects of climate change is a main purpose of this grant effort.

Applicants are encouraged to identify what the local effects of climate change are that are of concern within this project and how the use of the trees and the urban forest will be helpful in dealing with these effects of climate change. Examples might include are increased summertime heat stress, the increased intensity of the urban island heat effect and the greater potential for local flooding. The likelihood of increased energy consumption due to a greater need for air conditioning and the ability to counteract that need through trees and urban forests might also be considered.

A related discussion is that of the vulnerability of individuals and groups to the effects of climate change. The Forest Sub-Group Report to the Governor's Council on Climate Change describes vulnerability to climate change as "some combination of exposure, sensitivity and ability to respond, or adaptive capacity.[4]" Populations that are elderly, less mobile, more crowded and with fewer resources are often cited as being more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, as are those who live in locations where the effects of climate change are expected to be more directly felt, such as low-lying and coastal areas.

In many ways, climate change is a public health issue. The public health benefits of trees can be considered as relevant to the climate change effects of urban forestry.

Among the specific questions likely to be considered by the reviewers are:

- What climate change issues are identified as being addressed within this project proposal? Are these issues of local concern? How will these issues be addressed?
- Does this project have the potential to effectively address these issues? How will these issues be addressed at the local level?
- If the project is successful in achieving these goals, are those goals of sufficient value to the community to justify the grant?
- Is this project based upon community engagement and does it have community support?
- Will these efforts to address climate change concerns continue to have an effect beyond the life of this project?

---

[4] "Vulnerability to Climate Change is often described as some combination of exposure, sensitivity and ability to respond, or adaptive capacity." Forests Sub-Group Final Report (ct.gov) page 35. (https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/climatechange/GC3/GC3-working-group-reports/GC3_WNL_Forests_Final_Report_110620.pdf)

Equity and Environmental Justice are issues that extend beyond urban forestry and environmental conditions in general, but that are none-the-less wrapped up in any discussion involving urban forestry and urban environments. This is because of the abiding role that past decisions, including past social decisions, continue to play in present conditions. This is a comment made in the spirit of hope, as today's decisions, including or, perhaps, especially those that relate to urban forestry and the environment, will continue to be influential far into the future.

The Equity and Environmental Goals Statement allows the applicant to draw attention to local equity and environmental justice concerns and to indicate how this project might assist in addressing aspects of these concerns. These issues may be directly tree-related, or they may be issues incidental to trees but in which trees and the urban forest play a part. Examples of the sorts of issues range all the way from employment potential in urban forestry and the importance of trees to neighborhoods to those relating to public health and the encouragement of outdoor recreation.

Among the equity and environmental justice concerns that the applicant might wish to discuss are:

- Matters relating to population density, access to trees generally and the general ability of people in the geographic vicinity of the project to access green spaces.

- Increased exposure to environmental contaminants such as air pollution or water pollution and the roles trees may play in alleviating air or water pollution. This alleviation could be the result of reduced contamination of air and/or water at the source or from improvements to air or water that has become polluted.

- Lack of opportunity to recreate outdoors, among trees.

- Lack of shading or cooling from trees on buildings and over outdoor open areas and gathering spaces and/or the increased exposure to winter cold from unblocked winds.

In reviewing this statement, the reviewers will be considering:

- Are the equity issues and environmental justice goals clearly stated?
- Is the community an environmental justice or distressed community as listed by CT DEEP and CT DECD?[5]
- Will the project take place in or, benefit communities that are primarily low-income and/or minority residents? If the community is not listed by DEEP and DECD, or there equity and environmental justice considerations that the reviewers should be aware of?
- If tree planting is proposed, does the proposed planting area have low existing canopy cover (as compared with surrounding areas/municipalities)?
- Will these efforts to address equity and environmental justice issues continue to have an effect beyond the life of this project?

Applicants may want to consider such useful tools as the American Forest's Tree Equity Score[6] and the federal Environmental Protection Agency's EJ Screen[7] for identifying this information. Additional tools and sources of information are included in the **Helpful References** section at the end of this document.

---

[5] https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Communities. Listed on this page are both distressed municipalities and defined census blocks within other towns
[6] https://www.treeequityscore.org/
[7] https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/

Community Involvement, Communications Efforts and Ongoing Stewardship – 25 points

The purpose of the Community Involvement, Communications Efforts and Ongoing Stewardship Goals Statement is to allow the applicant to highlight those aspects of their proposal that relate to each of these three topics.   Since each of these three is slightly different, each concept should be given separate consideration in the statement.

Among the community involvement goals that the applicant might wish to discuss are:

- the ways in which the local community and/or the audience for this effort will be involved in the project, both as the project is implemented and afterwards.
- the extent of community involvement in the development and planning of this project.
- if the project involves more than one community, please describe the various communities involved.

Among the communications efforts associated with this project that might be cited are:

- What are the key audiences relative to this project?
- Will the applicant be providing updates throughout the life of this project and helping to publicize the results of this project when it concludes? What media will be used?
- Is the applicant willing to work with CUFC and DEEP, during the project and after the project, in the collection of the data that will be helpful in determining the effectiveness of the project?

Since the completion of the initial project is really only the beginning of any urban forestry project, it is important for the reviewers to be able to assess what will happen with this project in the future. In particular, it is important to ask whether this project has instilled a sense of stewardship in the community towards the urban forest that will help this project being carried forward, producing positive outcomes on into the future.

Among the stewardship goals that the applicant might wish to describe are:

- The extent to which the project encourages an understanding of the value and importance of trees, especially trees in urban areas, to the local community.
- Does this project provide its audience with knowledge regarding trees and of their need for care? Is this likely to result in on-going care for the urban forest? Will there be opportunities for involvement with trees once the project concludes?
- Does the project convey a sense of responsibility and a recognition of need for continued involvement, if this project is going to continue to provide benefits on into the future?

The following is a list of web sites, software tools and publications that applicants may wish to consider in assembling their proposals. The list is not exclusive nor it is intended to imply required references. Our aim is to help applicants develop their projects that combine climate change mitigation, environmental justice, and urban forestry. These are offered towards helping all to reach to that goal.

- **iTree Tools (www.itreetools.org)**
  The iTree tools are a set of freely-available software tools developed by the US Forest Service to aid in the assessment and management of urban trees and forests. There are several tools within this suite. The following individual tools may be especially helpful to applicants who wish to provide additional details:

  - **iTree Landscape** is a wide-ranging tool that can be used to provide details regarding tree canopy cover, extent of impervious surface, and socio-economic conditions down to the census block level. There is also a Quick Guide to iTree Landscape available.[8]
  - **iTree Design** allows users to develop information on benefits provided by an individual tree or group of trees. Benefits assessed include air pollution removed, storm water diverted, energy use reduction and carbon stored. The tree or trees can be actual trees or trees yet to be planted, with the potential to extend calculations out over the life of the tree.
  - **iTree Canopy** is a tool that allows a user to assess the surface cover of a geographic area, such as a city block or a school grounds, as to extent of tree canopy cover, impervious surface, building footprint, and more. It is essentially a sampling tool that places random points over an on-line image, which the user then interprets.

- **The Urban and Community Forests of New England (https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/9199)** by David Nowak and Erik Greenfield
  A report detailing land cover and urbanization within the New England states. The report summarizes, by state, county and local political unit (city or town), population characteristics and trends, changes in urban and community lands, tree canopy and impervious surface cover characteristics, distribution of land-cover classes, a relative comparison of urban and community forests among local government types, determination of priority areas for tree planting, and a summary of urban tree benefits. It also discusses one approach to a tree planting priority index. In addition to the highly information text, the website also gives access to detailed Excel spreadsheets by state.

- **The Tree Equity Score Tool (https://www.treeequityscore.org/)**
  This is a mapping tool put together by American Forests that allows the user to select geographic areas at the census block group level in order to determine an 'equity score' based on various demographic and environmental characteristics. Equity scores are determined at the census block level within an individual city or town – which means that they are highly useful for comparing census blocks within a city or town but are less useful for comparing census blocks in other towns, even nearby towns. However, as an illustration as to how to determine "tree equity", this tool is excellent and will be informative to any user.

---

[8] https://cturbanforestcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/iTree-Landscape-Quick-Start-Guide.pdf

- **EPA's EJMapping Tool (https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/)**
  A highly versatile but somewhat complicated tool that allows one to view various environmental and demographic features at a variety of levels, from the census block group through to the county level. This tool allows the user to draw together all of the various socio-economic, demographic and environmental factors that could be used describe the equity and environmental justice considerations of interest for a community.

- **CT DECD Census Data Web Page (https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/About_DECD/Research-and-Publications/01_Access-Research/Census-Data)**
  This web page includes links to additional useful web pages such as the page for current **US Census Bureau data**, **UConn Data Center**, and the **Advance CT Town Demographic Profiles.**

- **The Demographic Statistical Atlas of the United States (https://statisticalatlas.com/United-States/Overview)**
  A very easy to use website for viewing a wide variety of demographic data down to the town and, in the larger cities and towns, neighborhood level**.**

- **US Forest Service Climate Change Pressure in the 21st Century (https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=96088b1c086a4b39b3a75d0fd97a4c40)**
  A story map type approach that provides a good introduction into the anticipated effects of climate change on growing degree days, plant hardiness zones and heat zones. Additional helpful information may be found on the US Forest Service Climate Atlas page (https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/atlas)

- **Resilient Connecticut Web Site (https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/)**
  This website has links to a variety of resources and tools that might be useful in documenting potential local environmental impacts due to climate change. In particular, the Climate Change Vulnerability Indices for Heat and for Flooding could be very helpful.

- **CT DEEP Environmental Justice Program (https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice-Program-Overview)**
  CT DEEP has a very active environmental justice program that has been very informative with respect to the direction of the CUFC's grant program. The above link is to the overview page for the program. Additional links provide further details regarding environmental justice and equity efforts within DEEP and the State of Connecticut. This includes the link to the **Environmental Justice Communities** that has been cited within the RFP for this grant.