CLIMATE CONSERVATION program

the Trust for Public Land
CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE
THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE
Global climate change poses profound threats to the environment and to The Trust for Public Land’s “Land for People” mission. Unabated climate change would damage America’s landscapes, waters, and way of life, severing important human connections to the land and threatening the safety of our communities. Experts agree that a comprehensive national response to climate change will require more than just changing our energy systems: America must also take steps to protect watersheds, preserve farms and forests, restore habitats, and create parks and greener neighborhoods. But we must act now.

TPL CAN DELIVER CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is uniquely positioned to lead land conservation efforts that address climate change. To maximize its impact, TPL has developed a Climate Conservation Program to complete land-protection projects that will absorb millions of tons of carbon from the atmosphere, protect our cities and towns from the effects of climate change, and create livable, “climate-smart” communities across America. With your support, TPL will apply four decades of experience in land protection, conservation finance, conservation planning, and community consensus-building to refine land conservation as a tool for addressing climate change.

Greenways and trails that support alternative transportation—such as this one that TPL is working to create in Cleveland—are one element of a climate-smart community.

Darcy Kiefel
CLIMATE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

To achieve the greatest impact, TPL is focusing its efforts into three targeted initiatives.

**mitigation**

InCREASE CARBON STORAGE BY PROTECTING AND RESTORING KEY FORESTS AND FARMS WITH HIGH POTENTIAL TO ABSORB CO₂

**adaptation**

CONSERVE LANDS THAT CAN PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM CLIMATE-DRIVEN THREATS, SUCH AS FIRE AND FLOODING, OR THAT SAFEGUARD CLEAN DRINKING WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

**climate-smart communities**

HELP BUILD LIVABLE, ATTRACTIVE, AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT CITIES BY CREATING COMPREHENSIVE NETWORKS OF PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND TRAILS THAT SUPPORT WALKING AND BIKING

Illustrations: Shirley Chambers
ClimaTe ConServ aTion STraTegy
TPL employs a four-part climate conservation strategy based on its extensive conservation knowledge and experience.

**Planning**—land protection plans from TPL’s Conservation Vision service using the latest climate science

**Partnerships**—with government agencies, businesses, and nonprofits around shared climate objectives

**Policy**—public funding through the work of TPL’s Federal Affairs and Conservation Finance services

**Projects**—from new city parks and greenways to protected wetlands, farms, and forests

In particular, TPL focuses its climate strategy across areas such as the Northern Rockies—large landscapes that can sustain humans and wildlife as climate changes. TPL employs GIS technology to prioritize collaborative conservation efforts that will most effectively sequester carbon, protect communities from climate impacts, and safeguard habitat for fish and wildlife.

TPL’s 300,000-acre Montana Legacy Project in partnership with The Nature Conservancy exemplifies climate conservation at the landscape scale.

**CLIMATE CONSERVATION STRATEGY**
TPL employs a four-part climate conservation strategy based on its extensive conservation knowledge and experience.
CLIMATE CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN ACTION: Climate Mitigation

In northeastern Louisiana, TPL is leading a climate partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Entergy Corporation to acquire and reforest more than 8,000 acres of a degraded ecosystem adjoining the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge. More than a million new trees will eventually sequester three million tons of carbon dioxide—equivalent to removing more than 500,000 cars from the road for one year. The restored native forest will also provide critical wildlife habitat in the area where the ivory-billed woodpecker was last known to nest.

Trees planted by TPL at Louisiana’s Tensas National Wildlife Refuge will eventually sequester three million tons of carbon dioxide.

America’s forests and farms absorb and store 15 percent of the nation’s carbon emissions each year—a key contribution to slowing climate change. That figure could be increased to 25 percent with conservation and appropriate land management.
Climate Adaptation
The Connecticut River watershed spans 7.2 million acres from Canada to Long Island Sound and provides for the daily water needs of 4.5 million people. The watershed also offers critical habitat for sensitive fish species such as eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon. TPL is working with Trout Unlimited and the Connecticut River Watershed Council to protect and restore lands across the watershed that can provide habitat for fish and supply water for people as climate changes.

Climate-Smart Communities
New York City’s PlaNYC, Chicago’s Climate Action Plan, and Los Angeles’s Green LA are nationally recognized efforts to help these cities reduce energy use and increase livability. TPL is helping New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and other leading cities across America to implement their climate change plans by increasing state and local conservation funding and creating new parks, trails, and other recreational land close to home.

The Trust for Public Land’s 2008 report, “Quantifying the Greenhouse Gas Benefits of Urban Parks” revealed that new parks and greenways generate climate benefits for cities through reduced transportation emissions, energy-saving climate regulation, and water management.
The Connecticut River watershed offers clean drinking water and supplies habitat for coldwater fish in the crowded Northeastern states. TPL is working to protect and restore lands that sustain these resources in a changing climate.
HOW YOU CAN HELP
Please help TPL’s Climate Conservation Program lead a national effort to meet the climate change challenge through land conservation. With your support, TPL will help utilize the potential of our lands to address this unprecedented threat. For more information, please contact:

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