

Final Report
USDA Forest Service Grant No. 2009-DG-11062765-032

Period covered by this report: Through December 31, 2013

Project Name: Urban and Community Forestry Climate Preparedness and Response

Grant Awarded To:

King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks, King County GIS Center

Contact Person/Principal Investigator:

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Congressional District Number: WA-007

Date of Award: September 17, 2009

Grant Modification 1 (dated 12/15/2011)

Date of Expiration: December 31, 2013

Funding – Federal: \$135,229

Funding – Match: \$135,798

USFS Program Manager:

Through 2012:

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Abstract (as defined by initial proposal and grant award):

The "Urban and Community Forestry CPR - Climate Preparedness and Response" program will: 1) create improved tools and guidance on best climate change-related urban and community forest management practices; and 2) develop a model for incentivizing climate change mitigation and adaptation value of urban and community forests. The partners will adapt and disseminate the tools and model program to other urban communities and individuals across the United States.

Project purpose and public benefit:

The focus of the Urban and Community Forestry CPR Program is to identify, prioritize, measure, reveal, and reward the public benefits that climate-friendly urban and community forest management activities provide to society.

Project objectives:

Develop an urban forestry 'action menu' that guides homeowner/landowner practices toward carbon sequestration and increasing adaptive resiliency.

Develop a web-enabled GIS application that allows homeowner/landowners to pull up a view of their parcel, then identify, commit to, and be rewarded for forest management actions that are locally-calibrated based on their soils, canopy cover, elevation/slope, and proximity to migration corridors and ecological reserves.

Develop linkages to incentive programs that could promote climate response actions such as King County's Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs).

Outreach and tailoring of the tools (including via a national NWF/King County hosted webinar and participation in conferences and other venues), guidance, and model program/approach to communities across the United States.

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Objectives met successfully to date:

Product objectives:

The web-enabled GIS application evolved to provide more information and context about land characteristics related to climate change as opposed to directly informing recommended actions. Instead, the forest health assessment (survey) is used to customize and prioritize landowner recommended actions.

The interactive project website has been developed, tested, reviewed, updated and is online at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/ForestryCPR/>. It includes:

- Extensive background information about the connection between local forests and climate change impacts such as flooding, salmon, and biodiversity.
- An urban forestry action menu that guides homeowner/landowner practices toward carbon sequestration and increasing adaptive resiliency has been developed based on best available science. Included with the 13 recommended actions are local resources that can be used by landowners to accomplish the actions.
- Resources and guidance on how forests reduce local climate change impacts has been added to the General Guidance section.
- A web-enabled GIS application that allows homeowner/landowners to pull up an online view of their parcel, and learn about the characteristics of sites in King County has been developed and tested. The application allows users to learn about on the ground characteristics including carbon sequestered on site, development pressure, proximity to migration corridors and protected lands, and water resources.
- A simple and interactive forest health assessment survey that allows users to provide information about their site and receive a prioritized and customized list of recommended actions.
- Note that the NWF participated and supported development of the content and tools; NWF staff also beta-tested the GIS tool and developed a concept paper for including carbon in King County's Public Benefit Rating System program.

Outreach objectives:

NWF has lead outreach and sharing the project with others. The NWF portal for the project is: <https://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Energy-and-Climate/Climate-Smart-Conservation/Climate-Smart-Communities/NWF-Programs/King-County.aspx>. Details of objectives met and deliverables completed include:

Messaging Guide

- NWF developed a messaging guide on the Forestry CPR website and tool that is geared to messages to different audiences: (1) Landowners, (2) Local governments, (3) Habitat stewards and (4) Affiliates and Partner Organizations.

Online Training Module

- - Urban and Community Forestry CPR Online Training Course published and available
 - Wildlife University is an on-line portal that houses the National Wildlife Federation's educational training courses. It provides people with the opportunity to learn about wildlife and wild places and the issues that impact them.
 - The Forestry CPR training module contains the following:
 - Overview/background - Description of CPR Tool
 - Characteristics of a Healthy Forest
 - General adaptation recommendations for locations across the country
 - Examples of actions in urban regions

Guidebook

- NWF published the online guide "Growing Greener: Eco-Structure for Climate Resilience" focusing on the broaden the learning from the King County CPR pilot into the following set of climate-smart actions to protect and enhance the health of the urban forests. The complete pdf guide is also at this link. The document includes information targeted to several diverse regions across the country. The guide includes:
 - *Urban Forests & Climate Change*: Information about the ways in which climate change affects urban areas and how nature-based approaches, like enhancing and protecting the urban tree canopy and reducing impervious surfaces, can help communities build resilience to its impacts.
 - *Climate-Smart Actions to Protect and Enhance the Health of Urban Forests*: Recommendations for integrating climate change considerations into the planning for and management of urban forests.

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- *Case Study: Urban and Community Forestry—Climate Preparedness and Response (CPR):* A case study of the King County process and guidance for selecting data sources for the tool.
- *Threats to Tree Health—Managing For Pests:* Information and resources on common invasive species, pests, and diseases that threaten urban trees across the country.
- *NWF Programs for Resilient Communities:* Information about National Wildlife Federation programs and resources that are designed to build healthy, resilient communities, including NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat ® program.
- *Regional Resources for Improving Forest Health:* Regionally-specific resources and information to help enhance forestry health and subsequently increase the amount of carbon that urban trees are able to sequester.

Objectives not yet met:

- The project is now complete and successfully met its intent and commitments.

How will the results be disseminated to the public?

The products are online through the County's website. With support from the NWF, King County has developed print materials (one page advertisements) and larger printed posters that support outreach. King County has engaged partners to post the project website on their pages, and incorporated messaging about the site into existing outreach and public engagement efforts.

NWF's responsibilities have focused on sharing the product and related messages with the public and other partners. Additional outreach highlights are provided in this section:

Habitat Stewards

- NWF staff identified educational materials to support CPR related training for NWF Habitat Stewards including information about the website and tools.
- As part of the Habitat Stewards training, NWF is developing a series of webinars that reach across time zones to do a virtual training for all of NWF's Habitat Stewards.
- As of the end of the grant NWF Habitat Stewards completed over 1,000 service hours in outreach on the CPR program

Contest and Survey

- NWF developed outreach materials for King County residents that included an NWF sponsored promotional contest and follow up survey

General Outreach

- NWF prepared and launched a web page on its website focused on King County and the CPR tool <http://www.nwf.org/global-warming/climate-smart-conservation/climate-smart-communities/NWF-programs/king-county.aspx>
- NWF developed a flyer geared towards King County landowners and disseminated it to our members in King County via email.
- NWF also sent out emails to promote the website in WA – emails went to the NWF Habitat Stewards and the NWF Educator's list. NWF also promoted the recorded SUFC webinar to partner organizations.
- NWF has identified all state departments of forestry contacts as well as making connections with other partners such as Keep America Beautiful and TreeLink so that we will be able to start promoting the GIS tool and website as soon as the Guidebook is completed and available for download.
- NWF worked with its Communications department on a press release and press strategy around the website / tool. A copy of the blog post and accompanying media release can be found at: <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Global-Warming/2013/12-19-13-NWF-and-King-County-Present-Online-Tool-for-Landowners-Interested-in-Climate-Change.aspx>
- During the Fall of 2013 the Georgetown Climate Center featured the King County Forestry CPR website/program

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Examples of 2013 presentations:

- o March 2013: National Adaptation Forum - Climate Landowner Incentive Poster Presentation
- o Spring 2013 online archived webinar: Urban and Community Forestry CPR Webinar - This archived webinar introduces the tool and resources, explains the connection between healthy forests and climate change, and highlights available NWF resources.
- o November 2013: Partners in Community Forestry Conference (Pittsburgh, PA) – Forestry CPR Presentation
- o November 2013: Trees Virginia Conference – *Planning for Climate Resiliency in the Urban Forest*

Has the project met the projected timeline of accomplishments?

- The project requested and was granted a no-cost time extension thru 2013. The primary reason for this request is that several parts of the project proceeded slower than expected due to the multiple responsibilities of King County staff working on the project.

Additional items of importance:

In November 2013, project staff met with Kathy Sheehan, USFS Urban & Community Forestry – Acting Program Manager and the USFS project manager for this project. The team reviewed the project work and accomplishments to ensure that grant commitments were achieved. Based on positive feedback from Kathy, NWF and King County understood they were on track for a successful final conclusion to the project.

Financials:

The final reimbursement request and financial status report is being submitted to the Forest Service along with this report. The total grant amount available from the Forest Service was \$135,229. Of this amount, \$6,381.45 will not be requested for reimbursement. This amount represents a variety of budgeted travel, supplies, and labor costs for King County which were not required to meet the grant award goals and objectives.

The total budgeted match for this grant was \$136,783. The value of match eligible activities performed by King County and NWF exceeded this amount for a total of \$154,490.57.

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