

From: [Nancy Morris](#)
To: [City Council](#); [agenda comments](#)
Cc: [Cameron Reed](#); [Alisa Nguyen](#); [Elise Keim](#); [Catherine Lee](#); [Rachael Markle](#); [Constance Perenyi](#); [Keith Scully](#); [Chris Roberts](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Eben Pobee](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Laura Mork](#); [John Ramsdell](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Need for "Established Trees" to be included in the Climate Emergency Resolution 494 -- Agenda item 8a
Date: Monday, August 1, 2022 7:28:50 PM
Importance: High

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Please add to the document library for August 1, 2022 City Council meeting regarding Agenda item 8a.

Attention Council and colleagues:

Below is the written comment regarding my verbal comment presented tonight with references at end of the email.

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline, WA

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“The August 1st Staff study for Climate Emergency Resolution 494 repeatedly cites “science-based information”. The staff response in public comment states “...we cannot rely on sequestration to reach our 2030 science-based target.” Staff continues on to confirm “...taking action to significantly reduce emissions to meet science based targets before accounting for the impact of *passive carbon sinks* is consistent with regional and international best practices.”

I have made numerous comments before Council regarding the importance of tree preservation during this climate emergency. These comments are backed by “science-based information” which cannot be discounted.

Many scientists from around the world and some from our own University of Washington continually repeat that established trees along with saving our major forests and saving urban forests are vitally important to mitigate this climate emergency. (*Reference 1, 2, 3 and 4*).

There are numerous reasons why established trees in Shoreline neighborhoods are critical to preserve. Established trees already provide many benefits including storing carbon, cleaning our air, and cooling sidewalks and buildings. Established trees are a cost-effective solution. Trees are not “passive carbon sinks”. They are part of the solution in this climate emergency plan. No one stipulated they were the only solution to reducing Carbon Dioxide and pollution.

Staff does mention the upcoming Climate Action Plan to be presented in September will include the importance of the tree canopy but it is *concerning* that there is a first tier approach for 2030, and a second tier approach for 2050. Established trees are part of the solution now, for the next 30 years, and beyond. Newly planted trees will not help us as only about 30 - 50% survive based on city wide observations (*Reference 6, 6a*), but could help by 2050. We need to change our thinking about the tree canopy, change our tree codes, and preserve and protect as many trees as we can. I ask you to include “established trees” in Climate Emergency Resolution 494. Thank you.”

REFERENCES

- 1. SAVING FORESTS: THEY’RE KEY TO PROTECTING THE PLANET; NOW THEY NEED OUR HELP** <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/issue/may-2022>
National Geographic Magazine, May 2022 Special issue. “Why forests are our best chance for survival in a warming world. Trees provide habitats, resources, and refuge, and they help absorb fossil fuels’ carbon emissions. They are also at profound risk, but there's still time to act.”
- 2. Letter from 134 Scientists Conserve Mature Forests and Large Trees (PDF)** Reference source: **Climate Forests:** <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/climate-forests#undefined> . . . On the importance of conserving mature forests and large trees. All forest canopy is so vitally important now in our urban environments. The letter has signatures from some scientists at our own University of Washington.
- 3. “Learn About Heat Islands,” EPA report** <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands/learn-about-heat-islands>
3(a). “Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect,” EPA Report - <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/reduce-urban-heat-island-effect>).
- 4. "What Technology Could Reduce Heat Deaths? Trees. At a time when climate change is making heat waves more frequent and more severe, trees are stationary superheroes: They can lower urban temperatures 10 lifesaving degrees, scientists say."** *New York Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>

5. **“Trees save lives in heat, so why aren’t we saving trees?”** *Seattle Times*, (same as above under title as published in New York Times July 2, 2021)
<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/trees-save-lives-in-heat-s-so-why-arent-we-saving-trees/>

6. **“ECC: Planting Trees & carbon sequestration.”** See paragraph 3 of
<https://forterra.org/our-work/programs/evergreen-carbon-capture/science-behind-ecc/>
6(a). Item 8(a) Comments from Claudia Turner
<https://www.shorelinewa.gov/government/document-library/-folder-6442>