

RESCAPE CALIFORNIA: PROTECT WATER & AIR

ReScape California is a non-profit organization that educates about and advocates for a whole-systems approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment. ReScape's landscaping practices are based on 8 regenerative principles which foster soil health, sequester carbon, conserve water and protect habitat and valuable resources while reducing waste and preventing pollution in our communities and watersheds.



Our **Protect Water and Air Quality** principle recognizes that landscaping practices impact the environment both near and far. Sacramento's bowl-shaped valley naturally traps air pollution. Conventional gardening practices that rely heavily on gas-powered tools and hauling materials off-site contribute to poor air quality. These same practices can impact water quality by increasing pollutants in stormwater runoff. ReScape practices can enhance water and air quality by minimizing contaminants in urban runoff, reducing emissions and absorbing air pollutants.

SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT WATER & AIR QUALITY

- 1. Manage pests naturally.** Plant a mix of flowering plants to attract beneficial insects that feed on pests. Choose organic, non-synthetic products to control outbreaks—look for the Our Water Our World symbol at local nurseries for eco-friendly products.
- 2. Keep soil covered.** Use a 3 inch layer of mulch. Reapply as needed; mulch will slowly decompose and add organic matter to the soil.
- 3. Design a rain garden to capture water.** A rain garden is a shallow depression designed and planted to slow runoff and hold water until it soaks into the soil.
- 4. Minimize impervious surfaces like concrete and asphalt.** Impervious surfaces don't allow water to soak into the ground. Choose permeable materials instead for any hardscaping like patios and paths.
- 5. Plant trees.** Sacramento's air quality is rated as one of the worst in the nation—planting more trees can help clean our air. Select trees that match your microclimate and space.

PROTECTING WATER & AIR QUALITY PROTECTS OUR WATERSHED

- Increasing permeable surfaces decreases runoff, protects the biology of the watershed and contributes to the restoration of local streams, creeks and wetlands.
- Planting trees decreases runoff and absorbs air pollutants.
- Covering the soil with mulch prevents erosion and sedimentation in waterways.

Need Help?
Hire a landscape professional trained in ReScape's 8 Principles. Visit our ReScape Qualified Landscape Professional Directory at www.rescapeca.org

Join ReScape!
Be a part of California's regenerative landscape community by becoming a ReScape member. More details at www.rescapeca.org



Resources:

California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers Directory. www.cangc.org
Our Water Our World Eco-Friendly Product Locator. www.ourwaterourworld.org
Sacramento Tree Foundation. www.sactree.com
Regional Water Authority. www.bewatersmart.info



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