

RESCAPE CALIFORNIA: SEQUESTER CARBON

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.



The principle of **Sequester Carbon** recognizes that healthy vegetation works together with soil rich in organic matter and beneficial microorganisms to remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it as soil carbon, an important strategy for addressing climate change. As the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reaches new highs, solutions to the climate change crisis must come from all of us. ReScape's regenerative landscaping practices can help capture and sequester carbon.

SIMPLE STEPS TO SEQUESTER CARBON

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

- 1. Apply compost and feed the soil food web.** Compost improves conditions for the beneficial bacteria, fungi and microorganisms that help to absorb carbon and keep it locked in the soil.
- 2. Add organic mulch to bare soil.** A 3-inch layer of mulch helps soil retain moisture, encourages microbial activity and prevents erosion.
- 3. Limit soil compaction and minimize disturbance.** Rototilling destroys the microorganisms and fungi that bind up carbon in the soil. Sheet mulch instead when preparing garden beds.
- 4. Reduce synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.** Synthetic inputs negatively impact the macro and microorganisms that keep carbon locked up in your soil. When synthetic fertilizers are exposed to water the reaction produces nitrous oxide, a harmful greenhouse gas.
- 5. Protect mature trees and plant large stature trees.** Through photosynthesis, trees draw CO₂ out of the air. They use some of that carbon for growth and exude some of it through their roots to feed soil organisms.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROTECTS OUR WATERSHED

- Using compost and mulch increases a landscape's permeability and water-holding capacity. This means water can penetrate and soak into previously compacted soils.
- Planting and protecting trees stabilizes the soil and reduces erosion from winter rains that can lead to sedimentation in local creeks and rivers.
- Creating a diverse soil food web and healthy soils helps filter contaminants.



More information, including how-to guides: www.rescapeca.org

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