

Urban Forest Project Protocol Version 2.0

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I think that cities with recent 100% street/park tree inventories are most likely to put their toe in the water and start an urban forest management project. The costs and risks are relatively low because:

- 1) They have clear ownership of the carbon in public trees
- 2) They have a complete inventory in-hand
- 3) They need new revenue streams to help pay for management of their trees

CAL FIRE has funded about 50-60 municipal inventories over the past few years, and many cities across the US have computerized tree inventories. The urban forest management protocol needs to provide these cities with a simple and inexpensive way to begin management projects that produce credits that are real, additional, quantifiable and permanent. Ideally, to contain up-front costs the baseline calculation would involve no remote sensing and no additional field work. The baseline is simply backcast from the current 100% inventory. To reduce monitoring costs, a combination of remote sensing and field measurements could be used.

If cities find that urban forest management projects are doable for the trees they own, they will be more likely to take on the challenge of initiating projects that include trees on private property.

Best Regards,

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