# THE MULTIPLE VALUE OF TREES FOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

Increasing greenspace and tree numbers is likely to remain one of the most effective tools for making urban areas more convivial:

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| **Climate change contributions** | Countering climate change | • Trees remove $CO_2$ to create a carbon sink<br>• Trees provide significant low-carbon options for building and energy |
| | Tempering severe weather | • The capacity of trees to attenuate heavy rains and floodwater slows run-off and renders Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems more effective |
| | Moderating temperatures | • The ability of trees to evaporate water, reflect sunlight and provide shade combine to cut the 'urban heat-island' effect |
| **Environment advantages** | Valuable aesthetic contributions | • More attractive landscape   • Eye-sores hidden   • Greener more natural<br>• Linking town to country |
| | Cutting soil erosion | • Preserves the valuable soil resource and keeps carbon locked in |
| | Positive impact on water quality | • Trees act as natural filters |
| | Contributing to wildlife | • Increased biodiversity as countryside becomes more porous with extra links<br>• Brings wildlife closer to people |
| **Economic dividends** | Providing profitable by-products | • Firewood/woodchip   • Compost/leaf litter mulch<br>• Renewable fuel – via coppicing   • Timber   • Fruit – community orchards |
| | Reducing greenspace maintenance costs | • Trees are much less maintenance intensive |
| | Contributing indirectly to local economies | • People more productive   • Job satisfaction increased   • Jobs created<br>• Inward investment encouraged   • Retail areas with trees perform better<br>• Increased property values   • Adds tourism and recreational revenue |
| **Social benefits** | Delivering a range of health benefits | • Cleaner air means less asthma   • Lower risk of skin cancer<br>• Quicker patient recovery times   • Reduced stress<br>• Positive impact on mental health and wellbeing<br>• Encourages exercise that can counteract heart disease and Type 2 Diabetes |
| | Assisting urban living | • Improves buildings' energy efficiency and can help alleviate fuel poverty<br>• Improved protection in winter   • Increased pedestrian safety   • Baffles noise<br>• Moderated micro-climate   • Increased $CO_2$ absorption   • Reduced crime levels |
| | Adding to social values | • More harmonious environments   • Heightened sense of pride in place<br>• Greater community cohesion |
| | Offering spiritual value | • Heightened self esteem<br>• Puts people more in touch with Nature and the seasons<br>• Symptoms of anxiety, depression and insomnia alleviated |
| | Benefiting education | • Concentration increases in 'natural' classrooms<br>• Better learning outcomes |