



# Survival Tool. Handle with care.

If we expect to address the complex issues of climate change, sustainability and environmental health in a meaningful way, we're going to need all the help we can get. And one of the most valuable tools in our arsenal is that marvel of environmental magic, the tree.

Through their natural processes, trees extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, release pure oxygen back into the air, and sequester carbon in the ground. They provide shade for people, habitat for wildlife, and help reduce noise and visual pollution. Trees add value to neighborhoods, mitigate water runoff and prevent soil erosion.

So we need to be careful about protecting the trees in our communities. While there may be select instances that justify removing trees, mass cutting for new development is something we need to prevent whenever possible. That's why a strong and vigorously enforced municipal tree protection policy is essential for every green community.

*For a sample policy, and to find out what you can do to help protect trees in your own town or city, visit the exciting and innovative new greenweb, **HowGreenIsMyTown.org**. You'll see how small actions at the local level can have a big impact on global issues!*



*"How Green Is My Town?" is a project of Grassroots Environmental Education, a non-profit organization.*

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*For more information, please visit our web site [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org).*