Forests Help Massachusetts Reduce Carbon Emissions

Illustration of cumulative carbon removal over time

Forests naturally remove CO_2 from the atmosphere, storing carbon as they grow and reducing global warming.

Massachusetts forests store ~2 billion metric tons of CO_2 and are expected to capture and store an additional ~200-300 million metrics tons of CO_2 through 2100.

Forests also provide habitat, air quality, economic and recreational benefits and reduce the impacts of floods and droughts.

2025   2050   2075   2100

Massachusetts forests are important to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050

Annual CO_2 emissions

Annual CO_2 removals

0

2050

Expected level of CO_2 emissions remaining after deep building, transportation, and electric generation emissions reductions

Annual CO_2 removal by MA forests varies depending on major disturbances and levels of land use conversion

CO_2 removal by MA forests could reach up to 6.5 million metric tons in 2050

Potential level of CO_2 removal by forests and other natural & working lands

Additional CO_2 removals likely needed to achieve net zero emissions