

Developing a GHG protocol for Forests and Trees

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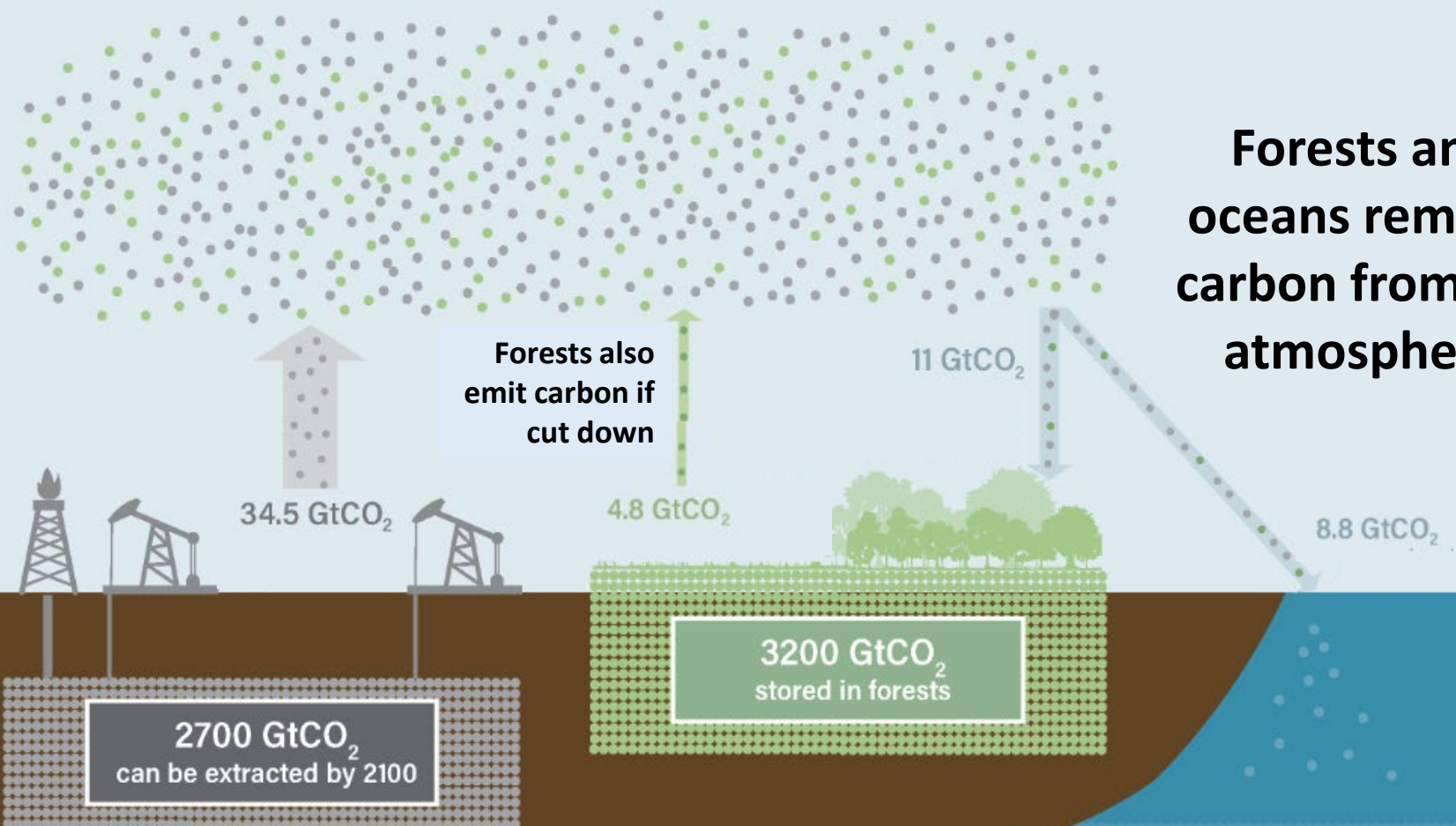
July 2019



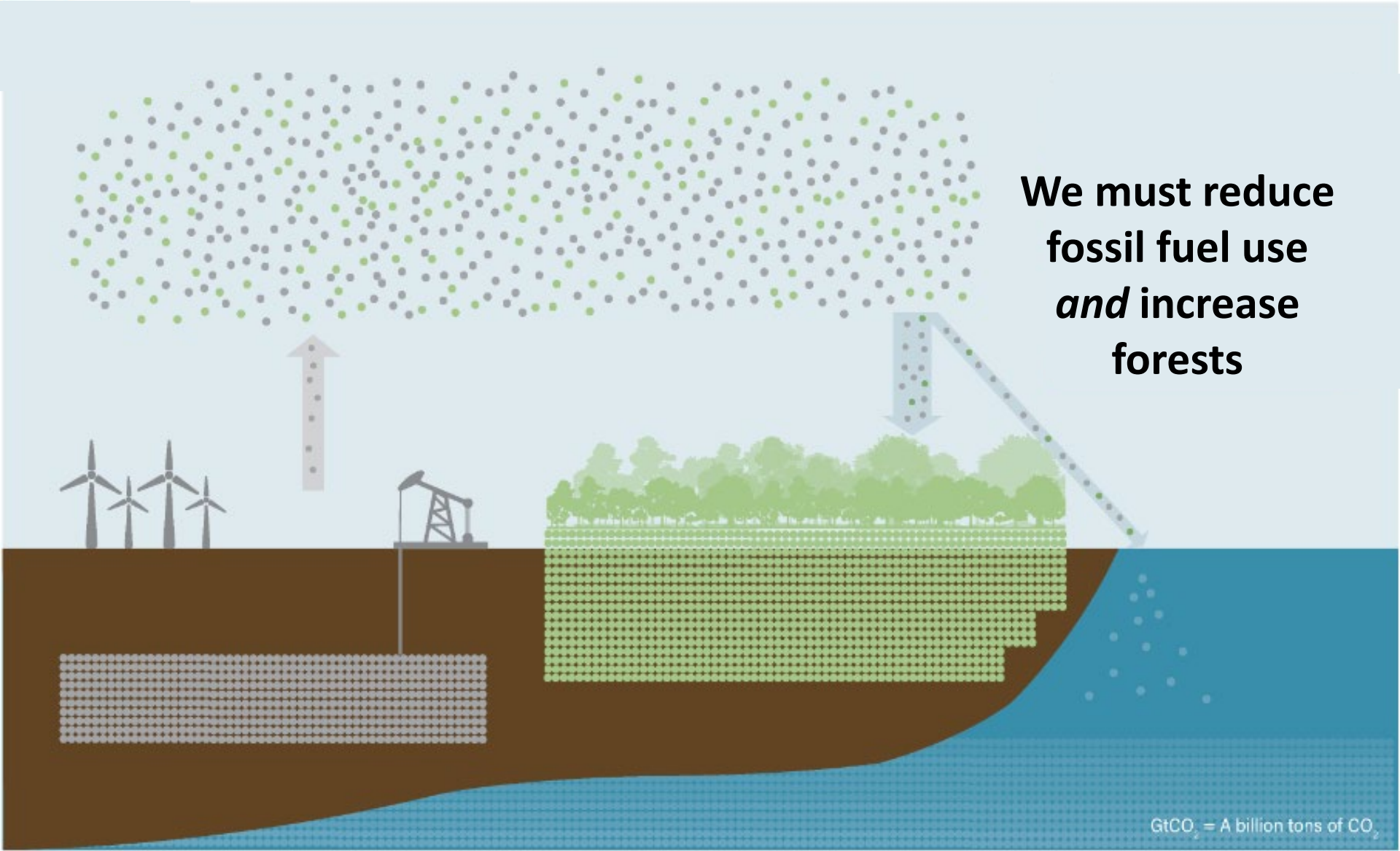
There is more carbon stored in forests than extractable fossil fuel deposits



Forests and oceans remove carbon from the atmosphere



GtCO₂ = A billion tons of CO₂



We must reduce fossil fuel use *and* increase forests

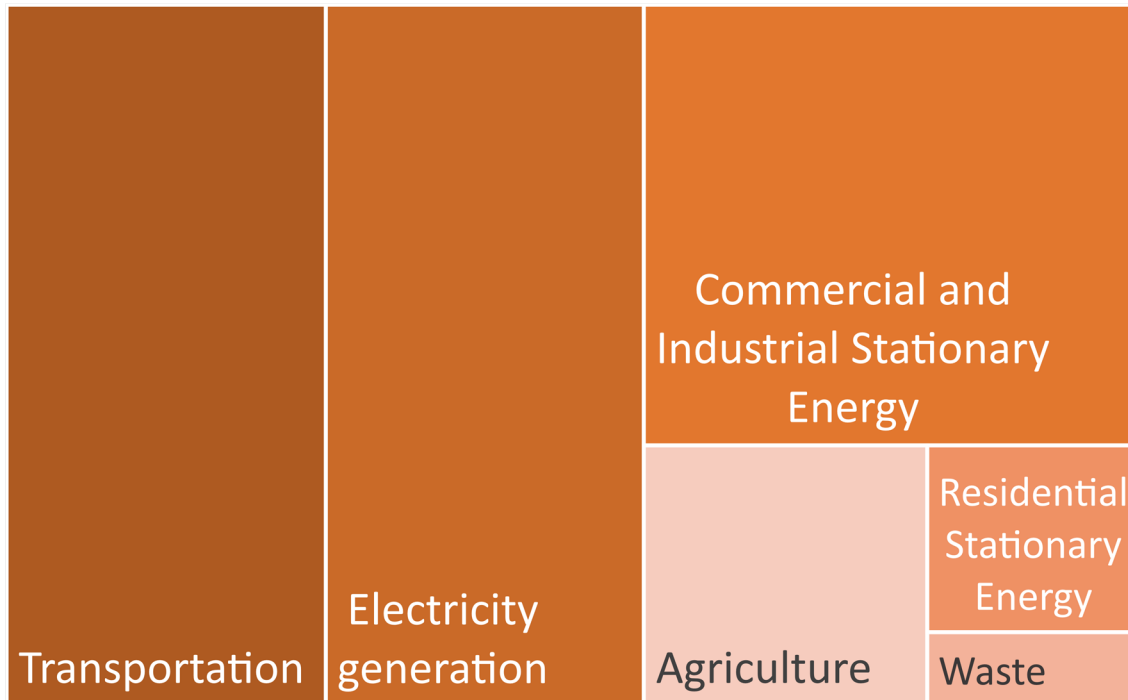
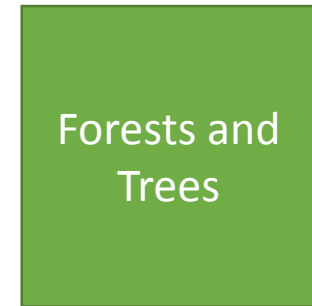
GtCO₂ = A billion tons of CO₂

United States GHG inventory

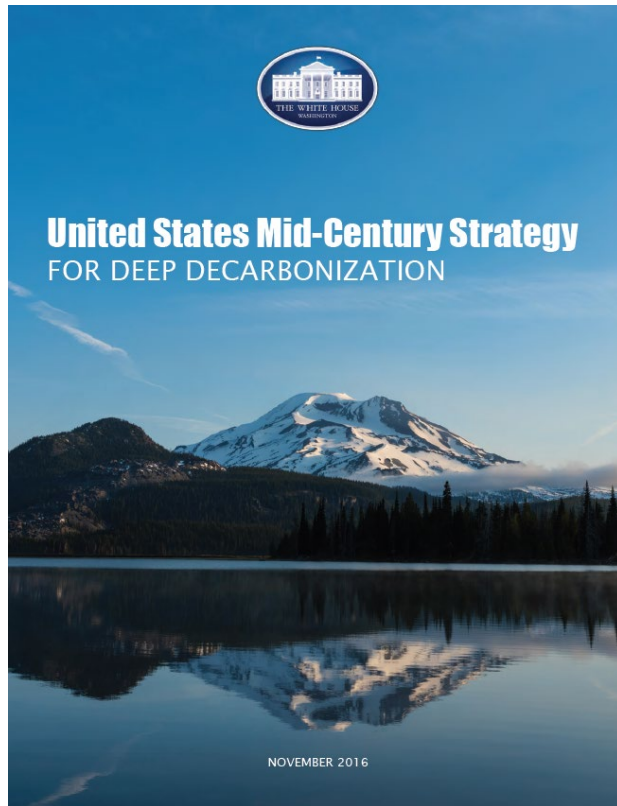
We emit 6.5 billion tCO₂e/yr



Forests and urban trees sequester around 13% of our emissions
(866 million tCO₂e/yr)



US mid-century strategy



- **Avoid** 13 million acres of forest loss from reducing land development (urban expansion)
- **Restore** forests after harvest or disturbance
- **Expand** forest area by 40-50 million acres

The same can be said for urban trees:

Avoid Loss, Restore, and Expand...

U.S. Cities Lose Tree Cover Just When They Need It Most

Urbanization is on the rise; so is the urban heat island effect—a situation that is worsening with the decline of tree cover in U.S. metropolitan areas

Between 2009 and 2014, urban areas lost approximately **36 million trees** or 175,000 acres of tree cover annually.

Urban trees:

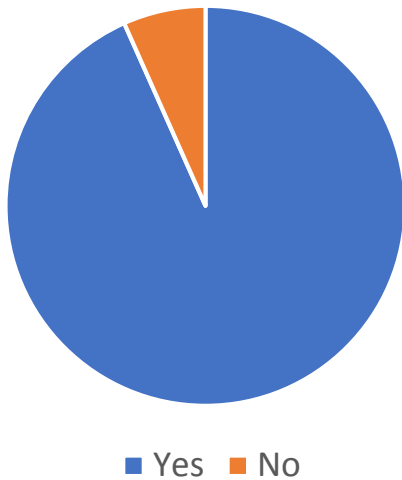
- Reduce energy use
- Improve air quality and reduce noise
- Provide clean water and reduce storm water run-off
- Improve health and well-being of urban populations

The Project

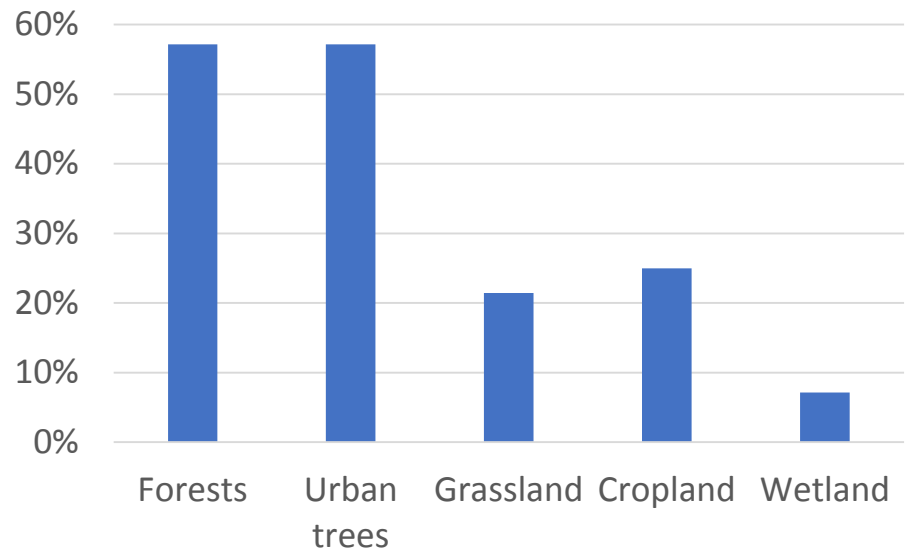
Objective

To enable communities to include forests and trees in their climate action plans through development of GHG estimates.

Do you want to include land?

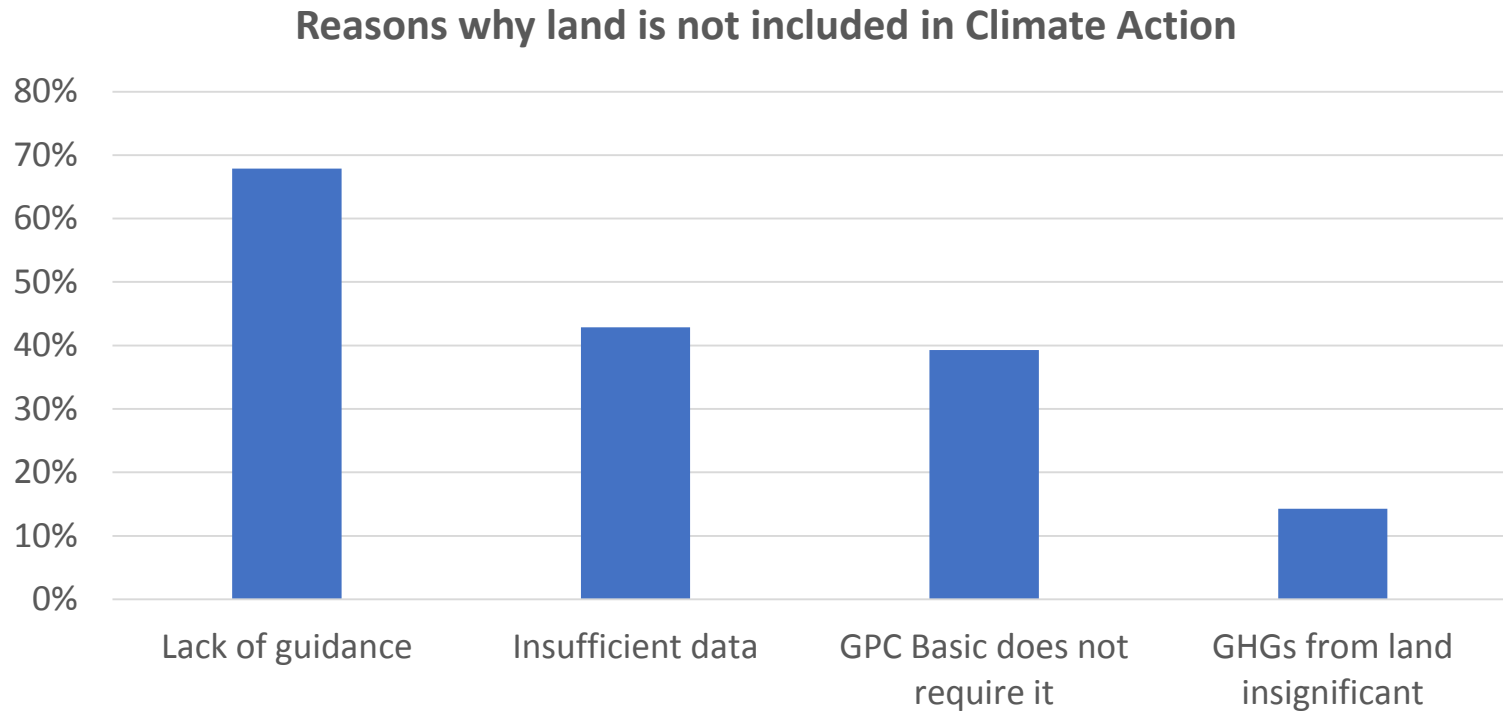


Land type of highest interest



Goal

Develop guidance that communities can use to estimate GHGs from forests & trees.



ICLEI's US Community-scale Protocol: New Appendix on Forests & "Trees Outside Forests"

To inform the development of the protocol, we selected three "pilot" communities...



To be launched soon: ICLEI-USA protocol for forests & trees...

Greenhouse Gas Protocols

ICLEI's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocols provide authoritative guidance for communities to account for carbon pollution accurately and consistently.



...and revisions to the Global Protocol



*Global Protocol for
Community-Scale Greenhouse
Gas Emission Inventories*

An Accounting and Reporting Standard for Cities

GHG Protocol for Forests and Trees in Montgomery County

- Adds to our understanding of GHG emissions and sequestration
- Facilitates conversations with neighboring jurisdictions
- Helps with developing policies and programs to meet GHG goals



GHG Protocol for Forests and Trees in Montgomery County

Follow up by exploring
the impacts:

- Reducing the loss of forest and trees during development;
- Accounting for the lost potential when forest and trees are removed;
- Supporting forest and tree planting programs; and
- Improving sustainable agriculture and landscaping.

