



Midlands Highway Alliance Plus
MHA, MSIG, WMHA: Moving Forwards Together

Carbon Reduction and Value

Wednesday 22 June 2022

Trees and Verges

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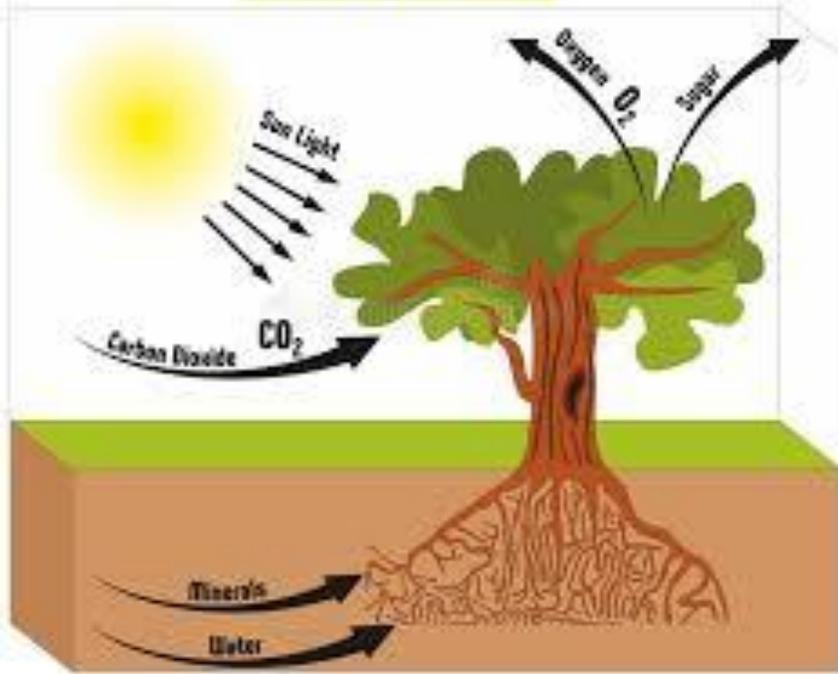
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Trees and Verges

- Tree planting challenge
 - Business case for a tree nursery
 - Verge maintenance policies
-



Photosynthesis



- Trees capture and store carbon through photosynthesis
- Trees can lock carbon away for generations (as long as they aren't used for firewood!)
- A tree needs to grow for 5 years before it really starts to be meaningful in sequestering carbon and reaches its peak at around 10 years.
- Planting trees now will mean that by 2040 when removing carbon from the atmosphere is critical they will be hitting their peak performance
- Lots of authorities making pledges to plant trees as part of Climate Change Emergency action plans



- WCC climate pledge to plant 566,000 trees by 2030
 - Some will be planted by D&B's
 - Some by residents and volunteers
 - Some will be granted or sponsorship funded
 - But it is likely that we will be the source of most of the trees required
- That's 90,000 trees a year
- This year we planted ~3,000 trees
- Planting will be done as a mixture of whips and standard trees.
- On average, a whip costs £1.73 and a standard tree costs £108 from external suppliers.



Tree prices set to rise

- Most local authorities making significant commitments
- Businesses looking for ways to off-set carbon emissions
- Cheap imports from the EU are no longer available
- Disease and pest control measures are making the transport of trees more difficult and costly
- Transporting trees over long distances imbeds carbon into the process
- Inflationary pressures in the wider economy will increase transport costs



Growing our own stacks up

- Limited number of tree nurseries in the UK
- Halve the cost of trees depending on volume produced
- Growing specific species indigenous to the local area
- Selecting species that are disease and pest resistant
- Almost eliminates transport costs reducing embedded carbon
- Steady income stream from sale of trees to other LA's and businesses looking to offset
- Development of apprentices – Arbs schools seeking opportunities



Minimal start up costs

- Use of existing small holding - no additional planning required
- Minimal equipment (poly tunnels, compost etc....)
- Staffing expertise in-house WCC Forestry Team
- Risk of failure are low, and exit costs are low
- Grant application for 50% funding available





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	2022-23	2023-4	Total
Equipment	£25,900		£25,900
Employee and premises costs during initial setting up period	£42,278	£61,775	£104,053
Total	£68,178	£61,775	£129,953
Total including Contingency/Inflation (25%)	£85,000	£77,000	£162,000

Expenditure	
Direct Employees	£47,600
Premises	£19,197
Equipment Replacement	£5,180
Management & Overheads	£12,802
Total Annual Expenditure	£84,779
Income from Provision of Standard Trees for BAU	
WCC Standard Trees	-£31,850
Warwick District Standard Trees	-£9,100
Rugby DC Standard Trees	-£5,915
North Warwickshire DC Standard Trees	-£1,820
Total income from Standard Trees	-£48,685
Residual Cost after income from Standard Trees	£36,094

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Tree planting



- We can't plant 566,000 trees in our verges!
- Land is key issue
- Right resources, equipment and skills - Difference between planting 10 a day or 100 a day
 - Coordination officer role
- Forestry Commission and Defra grants
 - Woodland Creation grants
 - Natural capital Investment grant (EA & Defra)
 - FC Local Authority Tree Scape Fund
 - Woodland creation accelerator £7.8m fund

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Verge Maintenance & Biodiversity

- New policy – follows Plantlife publication
- Specific areas – cutting only once a year and removing clippings
- Provision for parishes, TC's and community groups adopt sections of verge
- Wild flower verges – not cheap option.....
- Yellow rattle trials





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Questions

