

One Easy Way to Change the World:

Tree Planting Programs

Think about the answers to these questions before reading the text.

- 1 Tree-planting programs are popular in many countries.
Can you name two advantages of these programs?
- 2 What would you like to know about these programs?
Find two questions.

Every year, some 500 million trees are planted in Canada to establish new forests. Paper companies plant them in big forests but people like you also plant them in cities.

Tree-planting programs help improve the air quality in your city and at the same time make the **landscape** more beautiful. In these programs, residents are encouraged to plant trees and shrubs in their community and in their **backyards**.

Why plant trees?

- Planting trees and shrubs is a healthy start to improving the air quality.
- Plants fill our air with the oxygen we need. They also take in carbon dioxide (CO₂), the key **compound** associated with global climate change. Cutting CO₂ emissions will reduce climate change effects, but will also help improve our local air quality.
- Every time you plant a tree, you are doing your part to improve the environment. It takes sixty trees to replace the oxygen used by each of us in our lifetime. In addition, trees also have other advantages: they shade your home in the summer and protect it from cold and wind in the winter, so you will be reducing your energy consumption.

Smart

Words

landscape =
the look of an
outdoor area

backyard =
an area behind
the house

compound =
element

fence =
a barrier

soil =
brown earth

Here are some tips if you want to get started in your backyard.

Easy steps to plant a tree:

- 1 Select the correct tree for your yard. Check the light, soil and moisture of your yard to make sure you have the right tree.
- 2 Select the location carefully: Shrubs need at least one square metre of soft surface (grass, garden, etc.). Plant each tree at least three metres away from existing trees, buildings, patios or paved surfaces, **fences** and property lines. Trees require at least three square metres of soft surface.
- 3 Prepare the hole. It should be two to three times as wide, and the same depth as the roots of the tree.
- 4 Place the tree in the hole.
- 5 Apply some natural fertilizer or compost on the soil surface.
- 6 Water slowly and deeply after planting and as needed. The **soil** should always feel a little humid. Check soil moisture frequently for the first two years after planting.