

Advocate For A Tiny Forest Near You

Background

Carbon Positive Australia aims to collaborate with state governments, local governments, and private entities to develop and promote Miyawaki forest initiatives to complement existing urban forest strategies. This information pack will provide you with key talking points, enabling you to effectively advocate for the establishment of a tiny forest near you.

Miyawaki Forests, also known as 'pocket' or 'tiny' forests, have great potential in Australia's urban environments. These forests can make a significant contribution to climate resilience, serve as a mitigation strategy for urban tree canopy loss, and significantly enhance biodiversity values. Through strong partnerships with scientists, researchers, advocates, and community-based organisations, Carbon Positive Australia has successfully supported the establishment of 14 Tiny Forests across Australia.

Community forests



Miyawaki Method and Tiny Forests

Tiny forests offer a transformative solution to pressing urban challenges across Australia. With rising temperatures and dwindling green spaces, the need for innovative approaches to urban greening has never been more urgent. Tiny forests, densely populated with native flora, present a promising opportunity to mitigate urban heat island effects, enhance biodiversity, and foster community resilience.

Developed by Professor Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist and forest ecologist, the Miyawaki method of afforestation offers a ground breaking approach to small-scale forest regeneration. The process involves native species selection, specific soil preparation, dense planting, high species diversity, and community involvement. The resulting 'tiny' or 'pocket' forests are dense, biodiverse mini-ecosystems that are ideal for urban environments.

Case study: Poseidon Primary School, WA



in just 1 year!

Small-scale native forests grown using the Miyawaki method have the following advantages:

- In urban areas, they can be **as small as 3m²** or up to the size of a small tennis court;
- These **high-density plantings** offer greater potential for carbon sequestration per square meter compared to traditional forests;
- They foster up to **18 times greater biodiversity** levels compared to traditional planting methods;
- They require **little to no maintenance** after their first 2-3 years from planting.



Why You Need A Tiny Forest Near You:

- 1. Heat Mitigation:** These compact green areas can regulate temperatures by providing shade, evaporative cooling, and reduced ambient temperatures (1). Strategically placing these in urban areas creates microclimates that can alleviate extreme heat and mitigate the risk and impacts of heat waves.
- 2. Biodiversity Enhancement:** These high-density plantings host a diverse range of native plants, establishing wildlife habitat, creating ecological corridors and ultimately, enhancing urban biodiversity. Additionally, they offer ecosystem services such as pollination, water purification (2), and air quality improvement (3). These services are fundamental for maintaining ecological balance and promoting urban sustainability.
- 3. Carbon Sequestration:** Tiny forests play a crucial role in sequestering carbon dioxide, helping mitigate climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (4).
- 4. Stormwater Management:** The dense vegetation of tiny forests helps absorb and filter rainwater, reducing stormwater runoff (5) and mitigating flood risk in urban areas.
- 5. Community Engagement:** Tiny forests can strengthen social cohesion and equity by providing spaces for community interaction, education, cultural expression, and engagement, ultimately promoting inclusivity within neighbourhoods (6).
- 6. Health and Well-being:** Access to green spaces has proven benefits for mental health, reducing stress, improving mood, and fostering a sense of well-being among residents (7). Tiny forests offer opportunities for recreation and leisure, encouraging physical activity and reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases.
- 7. Cost savings:** Leveraging these rapidly growing forests to mitigate the urban heat island effect brings about favourable economic outcomes for local residents, such as reduced energy costs (8). Furthermore, their low long-term maintenance demands provide a water-efficient substitute for traditional lawns.



Lets chat!

Thank you for your interest and engagement. The prospect of having a tiny forest near you is truly exciting!

Please feel free to reach out if you require additional support or information.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue working together towards a more sustainable future.

For the health of the Planet,

Stephanie Poly on behalf of the Carbon Positive Australia team.

Contact: stephy@carbonpositiveaustralia.org.au

Office: 08 9200 2981

Address: Suite 1A, 50 Harvey Street, Mosman Park 6012



Carbon Positive Australia acknowledges and pays its respects to the traditional custodians of the land throughout Western Australia. We recognise their ongoing connection to the land, sea, culture and community and honour Elders past, present and leaders emerging.



Further information

- [What's so great about Miyawaki pocket forests?](#)
- [About Miyawaki pocket forests and WA case studies.](#)
- [Pocket Forests WA science program.](#)
- [Transforming urban landscapes: the Miyawaki forest program.](#)



References

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