Plant-a-Tree

Native trees and shrubs planted in Australia

carbonneutral

Carbon Neutral carries out large-scale revegetation of degraded farmlands. Our Plant-a-Tree Program allows organisations to actively support this vital work by funding the planting of mixed native species, most commonly in the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor.

Woodlands and forests play a fundamental role in providing clean and cool air. They act as natural water pumps to reduce soil salinity, reduce erosion, recycle nutrients and support habitat for wildlife.

Our Plant-a-Tree Program restores landscapes and natural ecosystems across large tracts of land.

So far, through the support of our Partners we have planted over 30 million trees, plants and shrubs and have restored more than 19,500 hectares of cleared land.

A GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* is, significantly, one of only 36 global biodiversity hotspots. These hotspots are regions with an exceptionally high number of endemic plant and animal species that are at extreme risk of habitat loss.

Successfully protecting these at-risk species can have a meaningful impact on safeguarding against further biodiversity loss.

- ✓ Restore native biodiversity
- ✓ Rejuvenate degraded landscapes
- ✓ Grow critical habitat for endangered wildlife





Call: **1300 851 211** | Email: **contactus@carbonneutral.com.au** | Visit: **carbonneutral.com.au**

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The majority of Carbon Neutral's planting efforts are at present concentrated in the *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor*. Once a thriving expanse of York and Salmon gum woodlands, over 90% of this vegetation has been cleared by Europeans since the early 1900s for farming purposes. Today, much of the landscape is unsuitable for traditional agriculture due to increasingly uneconomic soils in a warmer, drier climate.

Carbon Neutral's Plant-a-Tree Program envisions the creation of a continuous green corridor by linking small patches of remaining vegetation with the Southwest Australia Ecoregion's nature reserves, extending from the coast to the rangelands.



CREATING WILDLIFE HABITATS

In the small patches of vegetation that have survived the 20th century land clearing, an amazing richness and diversity of plant and animal species can be found. Wildlife survey monitoring has identified over 450 species of flora, insects and birds in the region.

Thirteen bird species of conservation significance have been identified, as well as threatened species such as Malleefowl, Bush Stone-curlew, Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, Western Spiny-tailed Skink and Woylie (Brush-tailed Bettong), as well as 30 species of conservation-significant native flora have also been identified.

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* is growing to become a 200km stretch of trees and other plant life, reconnecting coastal and drier inland habitats.



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A 2022 independent third-party report established that Carbon Neutral's plantings in the *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* directly contribute to seven of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

This Project is also Australia's largest biodiverse reforestation carbon sink and has been a past winner of the national Banksia Natural Capital Sustainability Award.



Contributing to the positive mental health and well-being of indigenous communities.



Providing job-specific training sessions and inductions for local employees.



Lowering of salinity in both ground and surface waters over the Project's life.



Over 80 businesses engaged and 55 Indigenous FTE jobs created since project inception.



Capturing 80-380 tonnes of CO_2-e per hectare over a 50-year span, varying with location.



Planting biodiverse native trees and shrubs including four species of conservation significance.



Partnering with 11 local and national organisations as a result of the Project.

PLANT-A-TREE IN MORE DETAIL

CHANGING CLIMATE

The *Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor* benefits from a Mediterranean climate with average annual rainfall of around 350mm. Though climate change means reduced rainfall, the Mid West region of Western Australia benefits from more valuable summer rainfall.

MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING FIRE

Carbon Neutral maintains overall management throughout the establishment phases of its projects. This includes health monitoring and preparation of fire control measures which supports successful establishment of trees, plants and shrubs.

LEGAL PROTECTION

Our plantings are legally protected for 100 years by a Carbon Right and a Carbon Covenant registered across each property's land title(s).

MONITORING & REPORTING

Our plantings are independently monitored for health and survival and reports are posted on Carbon Neutral's website. Each tree, plant and shrub sold is given a unique serial number which is recorded on the buyer's certificate.

PLANTING METHOD

Carbon Neutral has developed a pioneering approach to direct seeding and hand planting. Our methods encompass provenance seed collection, seed pre-treatment and equipment design and modification to control weeds and harvest water. All this significantly reduces planting establishment costs per stem, enables faster planting over larger areas, enabling greater diversity, survival and growth rates.

As a result, the scale of our biodiverse reforestation planting has grown substantially, and in some years we plant more than 70 native tree and shrub species. The resulting plant density is highly variable across sites. Due to a relatively high ratio of mixed species, the Plant-a-Tree Program applies a conservative maximum plant density allocation of 1,650 stems per hectare.

OUR COMMITMENT TO MAINTENANCE

Funding from Plant-a-Tree Program Partners goes towards the establishment and ongoing maintenance of native revegetation plantings. Carbon Neutral is committed to maintaining the properties that support our Plant-a-Tree Program, legally protected for 100 years.

Plant-a-Tree is not a carbon offset product; buyers cannot claim to be purchasing carbon credits, to be offsetting emissions or to be carbon neutral despite the trees and shrubs sequestering carbon.

Carbon Neutral will now retain the rights to the sequestered carbon. Formally registering the Plant-a-Tree areas as carbon projects enables us to generate future revenue in the form of carbon credits. This revenue will help us to significantly expand our biodiverse plantings and will contribute towards long-term land maintenance and ownership expenses.

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