

New Trees Help Offset Carbon Emissions

A local landscaping company plants 16 trees at the Corporate Center in Midland to help offset greenhouse gases released in to the environment

A long time partner of Dow Corning is putting its money where its mouth is. Cardinal Resources, a remediation, environmental assessment, water treatment and engineering services company, is planting over several dozen trees on Dow Corning properties in Midland, Michigan and Greensboro, North Carolina in an effort to offset carbon dioxide emissions that result from their company's travel to Dow Corning sites.



In 2007 Cardinal Resources visited Dow Corning facilities in Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Connecticut, Australia, China and Japan. Travel by air and automobile to these sites results in the generation of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion. "Conservation of fossil fuels through energy efficiency and carefully planning travel are the first steps in reducing greenhouse gas emissions," says Kevin Jones, president of Cardinal Resources. "When travel is necessary, one way to reduce its environmental impact is by planting trees, which take in carbon dioxide and convert it to wood through natural metabolism."



Groups such as the National Arbor Day Foundation, the CarbonNeutral Company and carbonfund.org have developed methods for estimating greenhouse gas emissions by miles driven or flown and carbon offsets per tree planted. Cardinal Resources used estimates from these sources to project their travel impact on behalf of Dow Corning for 2007, as well as the number of trees that would be necessary to offset the impact.

Cardinal Resources hired a local nursery to plant 16 trees at the Corporate Center in Midland September 26. The new trees were placed in a high grass area along the Salzburg Road entrance and include a mix of maple, burr, oak and hackberry.

"We are extremely pleased with Cardinal Resources' commitment to the environment," says Jim Mersereau-Kempf, Corporate Environmental. "These trees will have an immediate impact on the sustainability of the landscaping at the Corporate Center and in Greensboro."

Later this fall, the Greensboro facility together with Cardinal Resources will plant an additional 60 trees at the North Carolina plant. Those trees will serve three purposes: carbon offset, habitat creation and expansion of the existing phytoremediation plantation. Phytoremediation is the process of cleaning up soil or groundwater with plants.

In 2000, Cardinal Resources assisted Dow Corning in planning and installing nearly 100 different trees to control and treat groundwater conditions at the site. Dow Corning was proactive in using this sustainable biologic approach which eliminates the chemicals and energy that would be used in traditional approaches to remediation. The program, one of the first in the country, was done with oversight from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

