

At its core, TREE Power, a Snohomish County PUD program, provides funding support for tree planting in parks, green spaces and urban areas promoting energy efficiency by reducing the heat retention of buildings and pavement and mitigating AC loads. This program supports tree plantings by providing grants to government, quasi-government entities and non-profit organizations for tree-related expenses within Snohomish County PUD territory.

Trees can reduce the ambient temperature of an area by 2-9 degrees Fahrenheit due to the shade they create.¹ Well-placed trees will shade a building from direct sun during the summer, which can lower air conditioning costs by up to 35 percent.²

Who should apply: Government, quasi-government entities and non-profit organizations.

Sites: Grant funds may be used for public land urban forestry projects that are publicly accessible within Snohomish County PUD territory. Examples are public parks, public building courtyards, community gardens, or school grounds.

**Areas under power lines are not eligible for this program.*

Our priorities: TREE Power grants support diverse community projects aimed at planting trees in designated areas, optimizing green spaces, and reducing energy usage. Priority is given to projects that:

- **Combat heat island effect:** Hard, dry surfaces such as pavement, concrete, buildings, and rooftops absorb the sun's rays then re-emit them producing heat. Towns, cities, and communities retain heat to a higher degree than rural areas, typically 15-20 degrees warmer. This program aims to reduce the heat-island effect by planting trees to strategically shade buildings. Projects that demonstrate tree locations that will shade buildings and pavement will be prioritized, but all will be considered.
- **Optimize tree selection:** Ensuring the right tree species are planted in suitable locations to optimize energy conservation. (See **PUD Tree List Suggestions**)
- **Demonstrate 'right tree right place':** Strategic tree planting plans should consider location to mitigate removal costs as well as soil and sunlight conditions when choosing tree species.
- **Detailed tree maintenance plans:** Good maintenance plans include plans for watering, weeding, staking, mulching, monitoring and tree replacement.
- **Ensures equitable access:** Projects in underserved communities to ensure equitable access to green spaces.

Funding:

- A minimum of 80% of funds must be used for tree-related expenses.

Timeline:

Applications open on Arbor Day April 10 and close on June 28, 2024. Funding awards will be announced by August 28, 2024.

Questions? Please email treepower@snopud.com

¹EPA. 1992. *Cooling our Communities: A Guidebook on Tree Planting and Light-Colored Surfacing*. US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Policy Analysis, Climate Change Division. p32. ²https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/environmentalservices/urban_forestry/proper_tree_placement

