

The *New York Times News Service* reports scientists, foresters, environmentalists, and government officials are taking "the first serious steps toward an ambitious long-term goal: planting enough trees around the world to ease the threat of global warming."

The activity to stimulate the growth of new forests worldwide is taking place on a variety of fronts. The American Forestry Association – a citizens' conservation organization, has undertaken a national campaign aimed at planting 100 million new trees in American cities and towns by 1992. Industrial companies are being urged to follow the model effort of an electric company in Connecticut – AES Thames (a subsidiary of Applied Energy Services of Arlington, Va.), which is helping pay for planting 52 million trees on plantations and small farmers' plots in Guatemala to offset the carbon dioxide emitted by their new generating plant at Uncasville, Conn.

The EPA, in an investigation requested by Congress, has come up with a number of carbon-reducing remedies it considers feasible, among which are:

- Offering American farmers incentives to plant more trees on erodable lands that have been kept out of cultivation in the Conservation Reserve Program;
- Planting up to 400 million trees in urban areas of the United States – both to soak up carbon dioxide and to provide shade that would help reduce energy use in hot weather;
- Reforesting 20 percent of U.S. highway corridors;
- Managing forests more effectively to make them more dense; their total mass (and thus their carbon-storing capability) is estimated to be increasable by 60 percent.

In the U.S., DOE at its Oak Ridge lab is experimenting with "short-rotation" plantations of fast growing trees that are ready for harvest in 10 years.