



Forest Carbon in Shrewsbury, Vermont

Our forests in Shrewsbury are treasured because of their beauty, source of wood products, trails, ease of accessibility, biodiversity, history, and many other reasons. They have played a major role in the success of Shrewsbury and continue to bring us endless enjoyment. In this time of climate change, they also play a critical role in this growing trend of warmer temperatures, rain bursts and at the same time droughts, less snowfall, the explosive growth of invasive plant species and invasive insects that are threatening certain species of trees. Our beloved forests are essential in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) stored in our atmosphere through carbon sequestration and storage. In fact, over 45 percent of the CO₂ emitted in Vermont is absorbed by the 4.5 million acres of forest we have in Vermont.

Carbon is absorbed by our trees through photosynthesis whereby CO₂ is absorbed, and oxygen is released, a process called sequestration. The carbon is then stored in the trunks, branches, and roots of the trees as well as in the soils. Through improved forestry management practices, the rate of carbon sequestration and storage in a forest can be enhanced, increasing the level of impact forests can have on mitigating climate change. Rather than having the CO₂ remain in the atmosphere causing global warming, forests can remove that CO₂ and can lock it up for decades if not centuries.

Back in December 2019, the Shrewsbury Conservation Commission and Tim Stout, long-term resident of Shrewsbury and Principal of Northam Forest Carbon, gave a presentation on forest carbon. Since then, the understanding of forest carbon has grown substantially on many fronts from including it in the State's Climate Action Plan to the establishments of several forest carbon programs whereby landowners can be paid for building the amount of carbon stored on their property. One of these programs introduced in the Fall 2022 by the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy is called the [Family Forest Carbon Program](#).

To assist Shrewsbury and its residents in pursuing forest carbon, Tim Stout at [Northam Forest Carbon](#) at 630 Coldham Rd in Shrewsbury is available to meet with landowners at their land or at the above address to discuss forest carbon and to see how it's applied on Tim's farm, Jockey

Hill Farm. Tim can be reached either at 617-899-1011 or at stoutim@gmail.com. The website for Northam Forest Carbon includes a Resources section with numerous other reports, presentations, and YouTube Videos.

'Forest Carbon: An essential natural solution for climate change' is an excellent primer on forest carbon. Its very useful report for understanding the basics of forest carbon is linked here.

https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/land-conservation-tools/resources/forest_carbon_an_essential_natural_solution_for_climate_change_0.pdf