

Nature is a great teacher! Try this outdoor activity – it's safe, fun, and educational. Project Learning Tree® activities build children's creative and critical thinking skills while they learn what the environment needs to remain healthy and sustainable.

# WHAT'S THE VALUE OF THAT TREE?

Trees do more than provide products such as fruits and wood. They also improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and pollution, reduce flood risks due to rainfall, and provide energy savings by reducing the need for heating and cooling.

Calculate the dollar value of trees using i-Tree MyTree – a free online tool by the US Forest Service. Take children outside to an area with trees. Choose a few trees, identify their species, and measure their circumference (see photo).

Next, go to <https://mytree.itreetools.org/> and follow the instructions to produce a simple “nutrition-style” label that shows a tree's benefits (see Figure 1).

Complete the Tree Value Chart below and reflect:

- Why is it important to care for trees?
- How does the value of one tree compare to the value of other trees?
- Do trees with a larger circumference provide greater values? Why do you think that might be?

**Hint!** If you don't know the tree species, start by completing the activity “Name that Tree” available at [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org).

## TREE VALUE CHART

Common Tree Name	Circumference	Notes On Tree Health	Dollar Value

## CONNECT KIDS TO NATURE!

Encourage your child's school to incorporate outdoor learning by connecting with your local PLT program.

Visit [plt.org/yourstate](http://plt.org/yourstate)

Figure 1



### MyTree Benefits

Tree 1: Tree in front of house  
Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)

Serving size: 11.14" dbh, Good condition

<b>Total benefits for this year</b>	<b>\$50.03</b>
<b>Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Sequestered</b>	<b>\$5.26</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> absorbed each year	226.36 lbs
<b>Storm Water runoff avoided</b>	<b>\$1.13</b>
Rainfall intercepted	813.42 gal.
Runoff avoided	126.16 gal.
<b>Air Pollution removed each year</b>	<b>\$2.59</b>
Ozone	1.73 oz
Nitrogen dioxide	0.62 oz
Sulfur dioxide	0.28 oz
Large particulate matter	1.62 oz
<b>Energy Usage each year</b>	<b>\$42.57</b>
Electricity savings (A/C)	247.09 kWh
Fuel savings (NG,Oil)	7.54 therms
<b>Avoided Emissions</b>	
Carbon dioxide	771.67 lbs
Nitrogen dioxide	4.56 oz
Sulfur dioxide	92.25 oz
Large particulate matter	2.00 oz



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