

S. 1733, Clean Energy Jobs and American Power

Strategic tree planting and maintenance programs contribute greatly to energy conservation and efficiency around residential and commercial areas.

- The Coalition supports the inclusion of energy conservation through trees language in S 1733 (Section 167).
- Passed by the House, this language supports the creation of a DoE program to help utilities, nonprofit organizations and state/local agencies plant and maintain shade trees for energy efficiency.
- Shade trees are planted strategically around residential and commercial buildings to reduce ratepayer's energy demands and cost.
- This program provides an innovative approach to energy conservation that has a win, win outcome. Beyond energy conservation and financial savings for residents, the ecosystem benefits are numerous.

Background

Today, the utility sector is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, producing approximately one-third of the country's emissions. That's predicted to get worse as the climate warms. A first step should be curbing urban heat island effect, which is responsible for 5-10% of peak electric demand and as much as 20% of population-weighted smog concentrations in urban areas due to air-conditioning use alone.

The House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) with Section 205 (Energy Conservation Through Trees). This provision supports innovative approaches to conserve energy by strategically planting shade trees around residential and commercial structures in order to reduce ratepayers' energy demand. This approach is smart, efficient, and will encourage local partnerships between energy providers, municipalities, state and local agencies, tree-care professionals, and community-based organizations.

The legislation would replicate the successful Sacramento Municipality Utility District (SMUD) shade tree program, which has provided over 400,000 trees since 1990 to the people of Sacramento to shade and cool homes.

Alliance for Community Trees

American Forests

American Nursery
and Landscape Association

American Planning Association

American Public Works Association

American Society
of Consulting Arborists

American Society
of Landscape Architects

International City/County
Management Association

International Society of Arboriculture

Keep America Beautiful

National Arbor Day Foundation

National Parks and Recreation
Association

Society of Municipal Arborists

Tree Care Industry Association

TreeLink

Utility Arborist Association

US Conference of Mayors

The Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) is a group of national organizations advancing a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities.