

## GREEN Growing: Become a Carbon Sink!



**Ardsley CAN by 2030!** provides us with the opportunity to reduce our household carbon footprint 50% by 2030. One way to reach that goal is to make choices that decrease our reliance on carbon. But did you know there is also another way? You can capture carbon from the atmosphere and save money by making your yard an efficient 'Carbon Sink'. Here are some simple ways to do that:

**Plant trees and shrubs.** Trees and shrubs capture carbon in a big way. Choose native trees and shrubs to support biodiversity, the ecosystem, and to help the critters who rely on them for survival. According to a recent study, just urban trees in the United States accumulate nearly 23 million tons of carbon each year! Click on the icon for a native plant guide, including native trees and shrubs, from the NYS DEC.



DEC Native Plants  
of New York.pdf

**Compost.** Don't throw out your green kitchen scraps, leaves or garden waste – make them a carbon sink. Compost benefits the soil, sequesters carbon, and reduces methane emissions from landfills. For more information on composting, click [here](https://www.healthyyards.org/homeowners/composting/).

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**Ditch the synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides.** Not only are these unhealthy for humans and animals, their manufacture requires fossil fuels and produces greenhouse gasses. The best practice is to 1) encourage beneficial insects through improving organic matter in soil and planting native

plants; 2) provide fertilizer through mulching grass clippings and leaves as you mow. For more information on leaving your leaves and how to mulch leaves on your lawn click [here](#).

<https://www.healthyyards.org/homeowners/love-leaves/>

**Nurture Healthy Soil.** Did you know there is four times as much carbon stored below ground than there is in all the world's vegetation? As botanist Ginny Stibolt aptly put it, "We need to stop treating our soil like dirt". Organically rich soil supports microorganisms and fungus that feed on carbon and keep it in the soil. How do you get healthy soil? By doing all the above and reducing the size of your lawn by replacing it with plants and vegetables. Grass has a very shallow root system and does not sequester carbon as efficiently as deeply rooted plants. Click [here](#) to learn more.

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/tips-for-healthy-soil-in-your-backyard-garden>

Don't forget to register for the first free **Ardsley CAN by 2030!** Zoominar where you will discover easy ways to reduce your carbon footprint while also saving money and getting healthier.

**Click to register for the session that works best for you.**

**Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**

**OR**

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**

*The foregoing is provided as a public service announcement and without promotion, representation, or review by the Village of Ardsley.*