Growing Trees to Absorb Carbon Dioxide

Through photosynthesis, trees absorb CO2 from the atmosphere and convert it into structural materials like cellulose. About half a trees mass is the carbon in these structural chemicals that make the woody roots, branches and leaves. This natural process is part of the *carbon cycle* and is known as bio-*sequestration*. In most ecosystems, the majority of the carbon is stored belowground, either as roots and decaying biomass or as organic carbon in the soil. The carbon is released back into the atmosphere when the wood decomposes or is burnt.

With a <u>tree carbon calculator</u> you can make a simple measurement of trees in your school, and be given an estimate of

just how much carbon they store. Measurements in successive years can be used to find out how much carbon was absorbed (Individual trees would need to be identified). The CO_2 absorbed by trees in the school can be subtracted from the CO_2 produced by the schools energy consumption ie it is a **carbon offset**. Download the tree carbon calculator at:

www.rumbalara.eec.education.nsw.gov.au/resources/tree%20carbon%20calculator.xlsm

Trees can also improve the biodiversity of the school grounds.

Carbon Stored in Trees		date:
Tree Identification eg label or code	Tree girth (cm) at 1.3 m	Carbon Dioxide equivalent (Kgs)