

SFI URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST SUSTAINABILITY STANDARD

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGE CAMPUSES

CULTIVATING CAMPUS GREEN SPACES THAT ENRICH LEARNING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Canadian universities and colleges play a critical role in advancing sustainable urban and community forest management. Certification to the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard ensures that campus trees and green spaces are responsibly managed, providing long-term benefits for the institution, students, and the broader community.

CELEBRATING AN EARLY ADOPTER

In 2025, Clemson University in South Carolina became the world's first organization certified to the SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. By integrating sustainable forest management into education, campus planning, and well-being initiatives, Clemson shows how higher education institutions can lead in building resilient communities. For Clemson, urban forestry isn't just an environmental initiative, it's a commitment to human health and quality of life.



KEY BENEFITS OF SFI CERTIFICATION

A COMPELLING CASE FOR INVESTMENT

Certification proves accountability, making institutions strong funding partners. SFI-certified forests enhance campus appeal, helping attract and retain students and faculty.

RESTORATIVE SPACES FOR WELL-BEING

Certification recognizes the role of forests in promoting student health and wellness. Certified campuses offer accessible green spaces to relax and connect with nature.

REAL-WORLD LEARNING AND CAREER READINESS

Certification supports campus sustainability and learning experiences for students. By preparing for audits, students gain practical skills.

CONNECTS DEPARTMENTS

Certification encourages cross-departmental collaboration between land managers, interested parties, researchers and educators.

BUILDS A FOUNDATION OF TRUST AND CREDIBILITY

Certification equips your institution to respond to concerns with confidence. Independent audits evaluate your campus with a clear and consistent standard. Audits recognize best practices and identify opportunities for continual improvement, strengthening credibility with partners and funders while keeping pace with evolving opportunities.



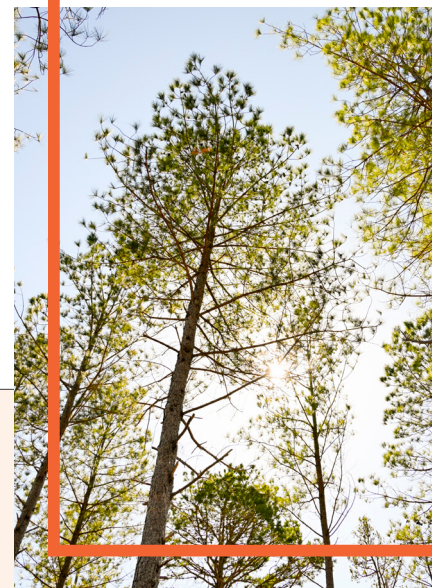
CERTIFICATION PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTS

The SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard provides adaptable certification pathways, enabling organizations to pursue their desired goals and outcomes at their own pace.

SFI offers two unique certification options:

FULL CERTIFICATION

Certify to all 16 objectives to claim your urban or community forest as certified to the full SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard.



COMMUNITY
WELL-BEING AND
HUMAN HEALTH



URBAN
FOREST
IMPROVEMENT



THEMATIC CERTIFICATION

Focus on the areas that matter most to your community. Thematic certification lets your campus focus resources on priority objectives, showcase existing strengths, and build momentum toward full certification over time.



CLIMATE AND
DISASTER
RESILIENCE



ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND HUMAN HEALTH

PROMOTES campus health by embedding equitable access to green space and opportunities for recreation, mental health, and social connection into forest planning and management.

URBAN FOREST IMPROVEMENT

DRIVES continual forest improvement by setting long-term objectives, reinforcing best practices, and tracking measurable results.

CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

POSITIONS your institution to confront climate risks by tracking ecosystem services, reducing carbon footprints, and serving vulnerable communities through equitable urban forestry strategies.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

VALIDATES your institution's role as an environmental leader, demonstrating stewardship of biodiversity, water, soil, and habitat while reinforcing sustainable management of resources.

BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT

Lead the way in education while securing funding and creating hands-on learning opportunities for students.

Turn vision into action and create a lasting legacy for your community.

Explore how at:

forests.org/sfi-urban-forestry-standard/



Learn how certification can support your institution's goals. Connect with Meagan (Meg) Hanna at meagan.hanna@forests.org to get started.

