



Santa Barbara Clean Energy

FY 27 Street Trees Program

Guidelines and Terms & Conditions

1. Program Description

- 1.1. The Santa Barbara Clean Energy (SBCE) Street Trees Program is a collaborative effort between the Sustainability & Resilience and Parks & Recreation Departments to increase the number of trees in areas of the city with the greatest number of vacant tree wells.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Participant Eligibility

- 2.1.1. Community members living at or near the addresses of vacant sites will be invited to participate in the program as Tree Stewards.
- 2.1.2. Tree Stewards must be active SBCE customers and commit to taking care of and watering the tree for two (2) years after installation.
- 2.1.3. An opted-out customer may re-enroll in SBCE service to regain eligibility to participate in the program.

2.2. Site Eligibility

- 2.2.1. Sites will be determined by the density of vacant tree wells in a neighborhood. Neighborhoods with a high density of vacant tree wells will be prioritized.

2.2.2. Neighborhoods with the greatest opportunity for planting trees will be prioritized for this program. The Westside neighborhood was selected for summer 2026.

2.2.3. Individual sites will be vetted by SBCE staff for feasibility and long-term success.

2.2.4. The feasibility of the site will be determined by the space afforded by the tree well, the tree well's proximity to obstructions, the integrity of the tree well, and other determinations outlined by Urban Forestry staff.

2.3. Tree Eligibility

2.3.1. The trees planted in the tree wells will be determined based on Urban Forestry's Tree Designation list.

3. Program Overview and Offerings

3.1. Community members living near identified empty tree wells in the Westside neighborhood will be invited to become a tree steward and care for a Street Tree for two (2) years.

3.2. The trees will be installed by Urban Forestry's approved vendors.

3.3. Confirmed Tree Stewards will be provided with a gator bag and the City's Tree Watering Guide by SBCE upon installation of the tree.

3.4. Participants will receive two (2) \$25 "Street Tree Care" stipend checks over the course of the establishment period of two years to cover costs associated with tree care.

3.5. SBCE will host program information on its website including access to the City's Tree Watering Guide, tree care best practices, and a comprehensive FAQ section including information on bill impacts.

- 3.6. Participants will receive quarterly emails with information and reminders about the tree in their care, which they can reply to with questions and concerns.

4. Application Process

- 4.1. Community members who have been invited to and are interested in being a tree steward shall apply to the program via SBCE Street Trees website
- 4.2. Applicants must provide their SBCE account number, the name on the account, and the address of the empty tree well.
- 4.3. Eligible applicants will be contacted with their participation approval.
- 4.4. Participants will receive communications from program staff with an approximate date and time of tree installation.

5. Terms and Conditions

- 5.1. Applicants must be an active SBCE customer with an active SBCE account in good standing at the time of the tree installation
- 5.2. Tree Stewards must commit to taking care of and watering the tree for two (2) years after installation.
- 5.3. If a Tree Steward moves from the site and is no longer able to take care of the tree, they must inform program staff prior to leaving.
- 5.4. Tree Stewards can and should contact program staff with questions about their trees, the tree care stipend, and the program generally.
- 5.5. The installed trees belong to the City of Santa Barbara and are cared for by the Tree Stewards for the two-year establishment period.
- 5.6. The tree cannot be removed except by approved City staff.
- 5.7. City staff can inspect the tree whenever they choose.