



## India to Plant 2 Billion Trees Along the Highway, Improving Air Quality and Giving Jobs to Thousands

LatriceHarrison November 23, 2015

Deforestation is a problem that affects us all. It is estimated that an area of forest the size of a football field gets cut down every single minute somewhere in the world, mostly for agriculture or the logging industry. Unsurprisingly, this rampant deforestation is taking a major toll on the world.

Forests are the lungs of the planet and supply us with oxygen. They also help to moderate climate and weather patterns, not to mention that countless species call them home. The bottom line is that if we continue to lose trees, it does not bode well for our future. The good news is that many people are waking up to the reality that when our forests go, many species including us will likely follow, and consequently taking amazing positive steps to make a difference.

One wonderful example of this action comes from India. India's Rural Development Ministry has decided to tackle the dual issues of poor air quality and youth unemployment through a groundbreaking plan to plant over **two billion** trees along the country's highways.

The trees will cover a stretch of 62,137 miles and create over 300,000 jobs for India's young people – which is a win-win for the planet and people alike!

Getting young people to work for the benefit of the local environment is a great way to instill a sense of responsibility for the future of the planet. Not to mention, putting trees next to these highways will dramatically improve the air quality.

A study conducted in the UK found that trees are particularly good at mitigating particulate matter pollution, in some cases, it was found that homes that had birch trees in their yards had 65 percent lower metallic particle concentrations, and 50 percent reduction of all dust. With the addition of two billion trees along a 62,137 mile stretch of highway, the possibility for better air quality is inevitable.

We can only hope that this amazing plan inspires other world nations to take similar action. After all, act now to breathe tomorrow.

Source: <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/news/india-to-plant-two-billion-trees/>