

# URBAN FOREST INSURANCE

## LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION



Urban forests provide vital benefits like improved air quality, temperature regulation, and recreation, but face growing threats from climate change, including wildfires, storms, and droughts. Parametric insurance can offer a solution by providing funds to repair damaged tree canopies or plant new trees when specific triggers, such as wind speed, rainfall, or pest infestation, are met.



### WHY INVEST IN THE URBAN FOREST?

- **Public Benefit and Recreation:** Urban forests offer public shaded areas and cooler microclimates, creating more comfortable outdoor spaces, while reducing heat-related health risks and improving the community's overall well-being.
- **Reduced Energy Costs:** Urban forests provide natural cooling through shade and evapotranspiration, lowering energy demand for air conditioning and saving residents and businesses money.
- **Stormwater Management:** Trees reduce stormwater runoff by absorbing rainfall and slowing water flow, decreasing the need for expensive infrastructure to manage flooding.
- **Job Creation:** Urban forest programs could create employment opportunities, such as arborist training, tree maintenance, and ecosystem management, fostering workforce development.



### WHAT ARE WAYS TO INVEST IN THE URBAN FOREST?

- **Innovative Insurance:** Parametric insurance could offer a pathway to secure fast funds for repairing tree canopies and planting new trees when specific triggers are met.
- **Collaborative Stakeholder Efforts:** Local, state, and federal agencies, alongside NGOs, commercial districts, philanthropic organizations, and private industry, could potentially collaborate to explore funding mechanisms for urban forest initiatives.
- **Arborist Training and Workforce Development:** Programs could be developed to train future arborists, creating a skilled workforce to monitor and maintain urban forests, manage risks, and support recovery efforts after disasters.
- **Urban Forest Management Plans:** Encouraging stakeholders to adopt management plans and maintain updated tree inventories could pave the way for more effective insurance coverage and long-term forest health strategies.



Commissioner Ricardo Lara

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