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Study: Urban trees remove pollution

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LONDON, Oct. 5 (UPI) -- British researchers say trees can improve air quality in cities like London by filtering out pollution particulates that are damaging to human health.

The urban trees of the greater London area remove somewhere between 850 and 2,000 tons of particulate pollution from the air every year, researchers at the University of Southampton said in a release Wednesday.

Targeted tree planting in the most polluted areas of cities and the use of a mixture of trees, including evergreens such as pines and evergreen oak, would have the greatest benefit to future air quality, they said.

"Trees have evolved to remove CO2 from the atmosphere, so it's not surprising that they are also good at removing pollutants," researcher Gale Taylor said.

"Trees which have leaves the whole year are exposed to more pollution and so they take up more. Using a number of different tree species and modeling approaches, the effectiveness of the tree canopy for clean air can be optimized."

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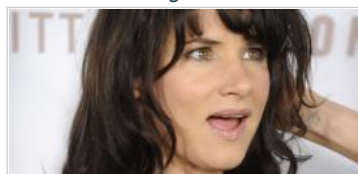
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