

Biodiversity and Land Management

Preserving Habitat and Ecosystems

Protecting biodiversity and managing the lands near our rail network is essential to operating a responsible railroad. Our goal is to minimize environmental disturbance, while incorporating positive enhancements.

Our network passes through a wide range of habitats, including national parks, forests, prairies and wetlands, which provide essential ecosystem and social benefits. We are committed to improving the environment where we operate and conducting our activities and operations in a way that minimizes our disturbance of these ecosystems.

Proactively Assessing Impacts

Before starting construction projects, we conduct environmental and social impact assessments to understand potential ecosystem and biodiversity risks and identify mitigation measures. We work with key stakeholders to identify opportunities to apply the mitigation hierarchy – avoidance, minimization, restoration and compensation where appropriate.



“Tree Canada is excited to continue our partnership with CN. Through the EcoConnexions From the Ground Up program, CN is creating a lasting legacy of sustainability for present and future generations, providing funding and much-needed awareness to the value of trees to our health, well-being and the environment.”

DANIELLE ST-AUBIN
Chief Executive Officer, Tree Canada

Our systematic approach ensures that we consider the specific environmental and regulatory context, and the needs of local communities.

Partnering to Preserve Ecosystems

We continue to develop partnerships to protect and restore ecosystems across our network. Our EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* and reforestation program enables us to work directly with the communities we serve, sponsoring mass plantings in strategic locations adjacent to our main lines. We also invest in ecosystem preservation and restoration projects. For example, in 2018, we launched a pilot project to explore using old concrete rail ties to enhance marine life on the coast of British Columbia.

Responding to Incidents Promptly

We focus on preventative maintenance, spill prevention and emergency preparedness to reduce incidents and limit potential impacts. Our emergency response plans ensure that any spills or releases are attended to promptly. We investigate incidents and complete a comprehensive environmental clean-up and remediation of affected areas.



Enhancing Marine Life in Prince Rupert

“Building on our partnership with the Port of Prince Rupert, in 2018, we began a two-year pilot project exploring the use of old concrete rail ties to enhance marine life on the BC coast by creating artificial reefs.

In the project, triangular and square reef structures were created and placed at both shallow and deep depths. The designs and locations were studied to determine which were most successful in promoting an abundance and diversity of marine organisms, such as fish, sea stars, crabs and mollusks.

This successful initiative opens up a new avenue for recycling old concrete rail ties used in locations across BC.”

MIKE LINDER
Environmental Specialist

Value of Trees

Creating a Lasting Legacy

We strive to be a good neighbour and planting trees is one way we can give back to the communities along our rail lines. We work with our partners and local organizations to have a lasting impact and improve the national landscape for future generations to enjoy.

➤ IMPROVING AIR QUALITY AND OFFSETTING CARBON

Even though rail is one of the most environmentally friendly ways to move goods, we must still work to minimize the impact of our operations. Planting trees improves air quality and offsets carbon emissions. In this way, we are contributing to cleaner air and increased quality of life in the communities where we operate.

➤ SUPPORTING HEALTHY SOILS AND BIODIVERSITY

We also plant trees to help restore and protect the ecosystems along our network. In some areas, they help rehabilitate agricultural land or provide wind barriers and soil mitigation. They also provide food and shelter to an abundance of wildlife, enabling us to support and enhance biodiversity.

➤ CREATING RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Trees selected for the plantings have been carefully chosen to thrive in their regions, so they will be part of the community for years to come. In cities, urban forests can reduce heating and cooling costs for homes and buildings, lessen water runoff, prevent soil erosion, and help mitigate climate change.

CN is creating a living legacy of sustainability for present and future generations, providing funding and awareness to the value of trees and green spaces for our well-being as well as the environment.



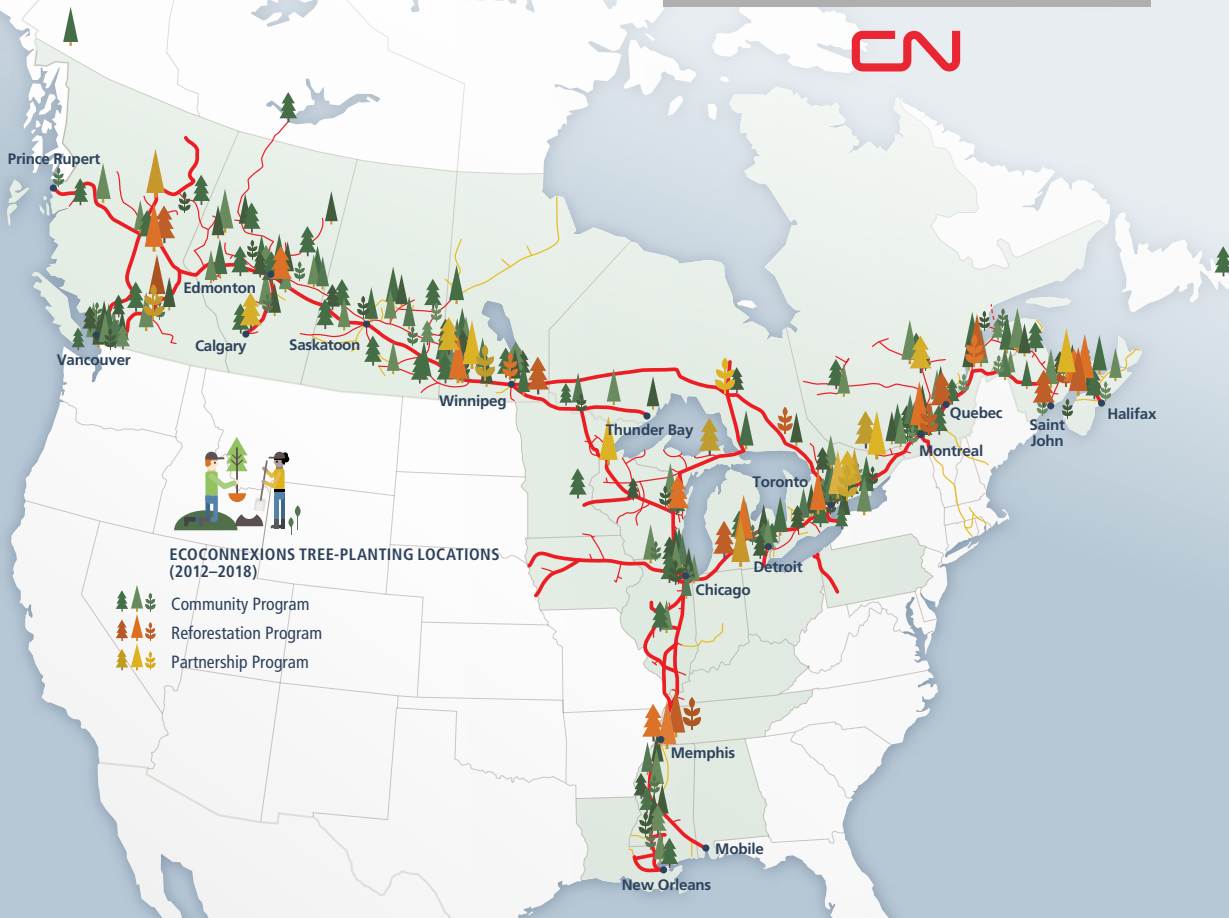
Transforming Our Communities

Our EcoConnexions *From the Ground Up* and reforestation program promotes the greening of communities and First Nations situated along our rail network.

Working together with our partners, Tree Canada and America in Bloom, we have assisted community groups to establish green spaces, tree plantings and mass reforestation projects in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner. In 2014, EcoConnexions was expanded to recognize our customers and supply chain partners for their sustainability practices, and we are now planting trees in honour of their efforts.

Through these programs, we’ve since helped 268 community groups establish green spaces, tree plantings and mass reforestation projects.

In total, since 2012, our EcoConnexions programs have planted more than two million trees – making us one of the leading private non-forestry company tree planters in Canada.



Our Results

2,000,000

TREES PLANTED ACROSS NORTH AMERICA SINCE 2012

Leading

PRIVATE NON-FORESTRY TREE PLANTER IN CANADA

Our Partners



ONE TEAM

Growing Sustainably with Our Customers and Supply Chain Partners

Our EcoConnexions Partnership Program celebrates companies that pledge to work to reduce their emissions, increase energy efficiency, and drive sustainable business practices throughout the supply chain.

Last year, we recognized 40 customers and supply chain partners for their sustainability leadership at a ceremony in Vancouver, BC. We planted 100,000 trees in Canada and the U.S. in recognition of the work they do in their individual businesses and across their supply chains.

"We take pride in our social responsibility programs at COSCO SHIPPING Lines, and are pleased to be recognized as an EcoConnexions Partner," says Dave Bedwell, Executive Vice-President at COSCO Canada.

Through this program, CN has planted over 500,000 trees since 2014 to help rehabilitate agricultural land or to provide wind barriers and soil mitigation.



PICTURED:
EcoConnexions
Partnership Program
2018 Award Ceremony,
Vancouver, BC.