

WAXWING'S CLIMATE RESILIENT PRACTICES



🌍 Conduct thorough site analysis to design with the “**right plants at the right place**”, eliminating the need for conventional greenhouse gas emitting practices, like irrigation.

🌍 Reduce land disturbance when site prepping a new habitat, by **using a waste stream** of matte cardboard through sheet mulching, instead of petrochemical herbicides and gas powered tilling.

🌍 Embrace **human labor** over gas powered machine labor. **Wind-powered electric tools** are used as an assist in our restorative projects, such as the removal of overgrown, invasive shrubs in the existing landscape or drilling pilot holes for the new native landscape plugs. Waxwing HQ is also proudly powered with locally generated wind power. Make your power switch at [PAPowerSwitch!](#)

🌍 Design with a **diversity of densely planted** regionally selected native plants, with varying bloom times and flower structure to build resilience in available foraging materials for wildlife, with raised awareness of **phenological shifts** due to climatic changes.

🌍 Layer landscapes to provide highly adaptive, carbon sequestering C4 grasses and native trees/shrubs that through photosynthesis, **sequester carbon** from the atmosphere and sink carbon into plant tissues and soil.

🌍 Incorporate native perennial edibles to **build local food resilience**. Our latest favorites to plant: Serviceberry, Pawpaw, Chokeberry, Mountain Mints, Violets (simply encourage existing communities to grow), and Solidago odora.

🌍 Educate and engage **urban youth**, through the Schoolyard Habitat program partnership, about our innate connection to natural systems and our vital role in building and stewarding ecosystems.

Want to dig even deeper to build climate resilience and rebuild biodiversity? Check out some of our favorite resources:

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Project Budburst | <https://budburst.org/plants-climate-change>
Citizen science action on tracking your garden plant's phenological changes due to climate change. Great for full family engagement!
- iNaturalist | <https://www.inaturalist.org/>
Another family favorite to build your ecoliteracy, tracking the plants and wildlife you observe on hikes and in your backyard (tip: use [SEEK](#) for younger, budding ecologists).

ECOLOGICAL GARDENING

- Please see Waxwing's [Resource](#) Page for free Videos, Links, and More!

FOOD RESILIENCE/NATIVE PERENNIAL EDIBLES

- WildSeed Project | <https://wildseedproject.net/2017/04/native-greens-grow-delicious-edible-vegetables-back-yard>
Native perennial greens "free two birds with one hand" - reduce your food miles AND support local wildlife's habitat needs.
- DCNR | <https://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/DCNR-Riparian-Plants-Book.pdf>
Edible and floral native plants that act also as excellent riparian buffer restoration species.
- Indigenous Landscapes | <https://indigescapes.com/npa>
Excellent resources native perennial edible plant selection within the native plant agriculture movement.

SIFTING THROUGH THE SCIENCE

- Wild Plant Culture | <https://wildplantculture.com/home/2017/1/9/uzrqf1s03nruf0a3niyfwaogyiqwr>
Excellent summary article written by a regionally local ecological restoration practitioner, summarizing the value of capturing more carbon by planting C4 plants, like Waxwing's favorite grasses- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) & Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*).
- Xerces Society | <https://xerces.org/blog/climate-news-roundup-link-between-climate-change-and-biodiversity>
Connecting the scientific dots between climate change and biodiversity.

