

Protecting and Restoring Natural Ecosystems

QTS Development Tree Program replants trees to protect the environment

Making a positive impact on its communities is embedded in the QTS culture. Guided by its core values, the data center operator strives to be a trusted and impactful community partner that builds value, enhances citizens' lives and protects the environment.

Data Center Greenfield Development Requires Environmental Responsibility

Demand for data center services is surging in response to rapidly growing data generation driven by AI-powered applications, social media, streaming services and other digital tools. To support the demands of an increasingly digital world, QTS is building new data centers to provide the infrastructure necessary to enable these workloads.

QTS makes a long-term commitment to the communities in which it lives, works and operates, pledging to serve as a trusted partner and responsible neighbor. As a good steward of the environment, QTS actively supports initiatives that protect and restore natural ecosystems, for the benefit of future generations.

The QTS Development Tree Replacement Program

The QTS Development Tree Replacement Program reduces the environmental impact of its data center builds by replanting more trees than were cleared during development. The program is a go-forward initiative for all QTS greenfield developments in which trees are removed.

To help manage and execute this multifaceted endeavor, QTS collaborates with a local conservation partner, leaning on its expertise to develop a reforestation



proposal that prioritizes local planting. QTS provides the conservation partner with the minimum number of trees to be replanted, and the conservation partner determines the required acreage, identifies a local planting site, and selects the mixture of indigenous tree species, the density of planting and other critical logistics that help produce the greatest environmental outcomes for the region.

QTS makes a significant investment in the program, providing the funds to plan the project and purchase and plant large, more mature trees — rather than saplings — for a more immediate environmental impact. QTS is the only data center operator to make this level of a commitment to local reforestation.

THE INAUGURAL DEPLOYMENT IN FAYETTEVILLE, GA

QTS's Fayetteville, GA greenfield development is its first implementation of the Development Tree Replacement Program. Partnering with Southern Conservation Trust (SCT), a Georgia-based 501(c)(3) public charity, QTS is replanting trees in two distinct Southeast locations.

The project is being deployed in two phases. In phase 1, QTS replaced 105% of trees cleared during the development of its southern campus, planting 11,000 new trees on a 20-acre field site within Henderson Farm, a 403-acre preserve in Henry County, Georgia. The plantings include a mix of 14 native canopy and understory tree species that closely align with tree varieties

that would have historically been present on the property. Post planting, SCT will monitor the health of the trees to ensure the best success rates for the developing forest as it matures.

“GROW WITH QTS” OFFERS ANOTHER OPTION FOR REFORESTATION

As QTS expands this program with other greenfield developments, it will continue to seek local conservation partners that can help drive maximum value. When a local conservation partner is not available, QTS can leverage its Success-based Giving Program partner, One Tree Planted, an environmental nonprofit that plants trees globally to support natural ecosystems and invest in the future.

QTS's Success-Based Giving Programs directly align its business performance, growth and customer contracts with contributions to support nonprofit global organizations that improve the lives of individuals and care for the environment. As part of the “Grow with QTS” Success-based Giving partnership, QTS donates one tree for every 100 kilowatts (kW) contracted each month per new and existing customer. Through this program, QTS commits to donating a minimum of 25,000 trees annually to help restore threatened forests.

In one year, an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.

A mature tree can absorb an average of 22 lbs. of carbon dioxide per year.

Supporting the Environment and Future Generations

Through its Development Tree Replacement Program, QTS is managing its impact on the environment, proactively helping to create a natural ecosystem that produces important environmental and health benefits.

SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY & WILDLIFE HABITATS

Replanting trees supports the biodiversity necessary to nurture natural ecosystems. This includes creating homes and providing shelter for a variety of animals and birds.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY & MITIGATING CLIMATE CONTROL

Trees absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the air, filter pollutants and release oxygen back into the atmosphere to improve air quality, reduce air pollution and help mitigate climate change.

CONTROLLING SOIL EROSION

Trees help minimize land erosion. During rainfall, tree canopies soften the direct force of rain as it hits the ground, and tree roots help keep soil in place to diminish the risk of surface runoff, flooding and landslides.

MINIMIZING WATER POLLUTION

By helping the ground absorb water, trees reduce runoff to allow less pollutants to flow into water bodies.

As QTS continues to expand its footprint to keep pace with digitalization, it remains a strong advocate for environmental sustainability. The QTS Development Tree Replacement Program is one of many initiatives that allows QTS to do its part to care for the natural environment and help build a better world for current and future generations. ▼



About QTS Data Centers

QTS is a global data center leader with unrivaled access to scalable infrastructure across North America and Europe. Powered by people and driven by purpose, QTS provides state-of-the-art data center solutions, robust connectivity and premium customer service to leading hyperscale technology companies, enterprises and government entities. QTS is a Blackstone portfolio company.

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