

Gas Leaks Kill Trees

Miles of pipes under our streets are leaking methane gas that is killing our street trees as well as polluting our air and contaminating the soil. Gas suffocates trees by depriving the roots of the oxygen they need to survive.

Gas leaks have killed street trees throughout Massachusetts.

Tree deaths from gas leaks are documented in Acton, Boston, Brookline, Concord, Cambridge, Newton, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, Wellesley, Worcester, and many other cities and towns.

Gas leaks that kill street trees cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

Street trees are valuable property owned by cities and towns. Dead or dying trees must be cut down and replaced, costing approximately \$1,000 for each new tree. It takes decades for new trees to mature and replicate the canopy of legacy trees planted in the 19th century.

Street trees benefit our environment.

Trees create shade, clean the air, reduce storm water runoff, absorb carbon emissions, and keep our neighborhoods cool in summer.

Street trees enhance the quality of urban life.

Trees keep us healthy. They reduce asthma, improve physical and mental well-being, affect obesity, and reduce stress by buffering the noise of city life. They provide habitat for urban wildlife. They increase property values, creating shady streets that are more desirable.

Gas companies have known for decades that their leaky pipes are killing trees.

Fixing leaks that kill trees is not a priority for gas companies. There are no mandates for repair and no serious financial consequences.



The Department of Public Utilities does not hold gas companies accountable for letting trees die due to gas leaks.

The DPU does not consider requiring utilities to protect trees to be part of its mission to serve the public.

We are paying for the leaking gas that is killing our street trees.

In the greater Boston area, the value of leaking gas is estimated to be \$90 million a year. As gas customers, we are paying for that lost gas in our monthly bills. We're also paying to replace the trees that are being killed by gas from unrepaired leaks.

TAKE ACTION: To find gas leaks near trees in your town, go to squeakyleak.org. Then urge your elected representatives to prioritize fixing gas leaks that kill trees.

The Gas Leaks Allies is a Massachusetts coalition working to cut methane emissions from gas leaks. To learn more, visit FixBigGasLeaks.org.