



ANDY LIPKIS, PRESIDENT

Andy Lipkis began planting trees to rehabilitate smog and fire damaged areas when he was 15 years old. He founded TreePeople and has served as its President since 1973.

TreePeople has been an international guiding light for the citizen forestry movement. Andy's programs include airlifting bare-root fruit trees to Africa, inspiring the planting of one million trees in L.A. before the 1984 Summer Olympics, numerous disaster relief efforts during flood and fire, and trainings that increase citizen involvement in urban tree planting and care. Andy also spearheaded an approach to use integrated watershed management to apply a forest's natural infrastructure services to cities. The result: a sustainable water supply as well as flood and pollution prevention. This has created a long term retrofit of the Sun Valley area (pop. 80,000) and a new paradigm for increasing the environmental health and sustainability of our cities.

Andy is a creative problem solver who develops solutions to pressing public health, economic and environmental issues by forging partnerships between diverse and sometimes conflicting parties. For over 30 years Andy's leadership has helped make Los Angeles a testing ground for visionary, community-based efforts including:

- Andy coined the trademarked term Citizen Forestry to refer to the thousands of residents TreePeople has trained and supported to organize their neighborhoods to plant and maintain trees on urban streets. This term has been adopted by tree-planting organizations throughout the United States.
- Andy helped guide the creation and successful implementation of L.A.'s curbside recycling program.
- With his wife and colleague, Kate, Andy wrote *The Simple Act of Planting a Tree*. Published in 1990, the book sold 50,000 copies.
- After L.A.'s 1992 civil unrest, Andy co-created the Urban Greening Initiative of the USDA Forest Service, which brought L.A. \$2.5 million in jobs programs and urban forestry projects.
- Andy founded or co-founded numerous initiatives in Los Angeles including the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and most recently Green LA, a collaboration of 60 mainstream and environmental justice groups. He sits on the Board of Advisors of several organizations and has served on the faculty of the Urban National Forest Academy. He is also a member of the California Climate Registry Advisory Committee for Urban Forestry Protocols.
- Following the devastating 2003 Southern California wildfires, Andy organized an unprecedented conference for the state's top fire ecologists, scientists and foresters to prevent future damage to the environment, economy and human health.
- In 2004 TreePeople completed construction on one of the nation's most sustainable buildings – the Center for Community Forestry's Conference Center. This facility includes a 220,000-gallon cistern to capture, clean and re-use rainwater. It is also part of a state-of-the-art campus designed to nurture local, state and national leadership in sustainability.
- In 2007 Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa requested Andy's participation in crafting L.A.'s Climate Change Mitigation Plan to reduce the city's carbon dioxide emissions to 35% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- Andy has produced or been featured in numerous TV programs, such as the Emmy-award-winning series, *How Does Your Garden Grow*, and the PBS series *Edens Lost and Found*, as well as films including Leonardo di Caprio's *The 11th Hour*.



Across the country and around the world, Andy has addressed groups involved in the linked issues of environment, urban forestry, sustainability, water, and energy use. These include: the United Nations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.K. National Urban Forestry Unit, the U.S. Forest Service, the Greenhouse Crisis Foundation, Greening Australia, American Society of Civil Engineers, and many others.

Andy's honors come from groups as diverse as the Baha'i Faith, Daughters of the American Revolution, National Arbor Day Foundation, the California State Board of Forestry and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Andy and Kate Lipkis were named to the UN Environment Programme's Global 500 Roll of Honour. They also hold American Forests' Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1991, President Bush named TreePeople the 440th Point of Light. In 1998, Andy was honored as Founder of the Year at National Philanthropy Day. In 2007, Andy was named a Durfee Fellow and received the Boeing Crystal Vision Award. In 2009 Andy was named an Ashoka Fellow.

