Carbon Definitions

- **Carbon pool**: a component of the forest that can gain or lose carbon over time.
- **Carbon storage**: the amount of carbon retained in a forest and/or carbon pool.
- **Carbon sequestration**: the process by which trees and plants use carbon dioxide and photosynthesis to store carbon as biomass.

**Units**: Forest carbon is typically expressed in US tons per acre or metric tons (1 metric ton = 1.10 US tons).

Quick Facts on Forest Carbon

- Massachusetts has 3.0 million acres of forests and is 61% forested.
- Massachusetts forest carbon stocks have increased by 12% from 1990 to 2019.
- Average carbon density in aboveground trees across Massachusetts forests is 38.5 US tons per acre.
- In Massachusetts, forests, urban trees, and harvested wood products:
  - Remove 8% of all CO$_2$ emissions in the state. (Across the US, this value is 14%.)
  - Store the equivalent of 18 years of all CO$_2$ emissions produced in the state.