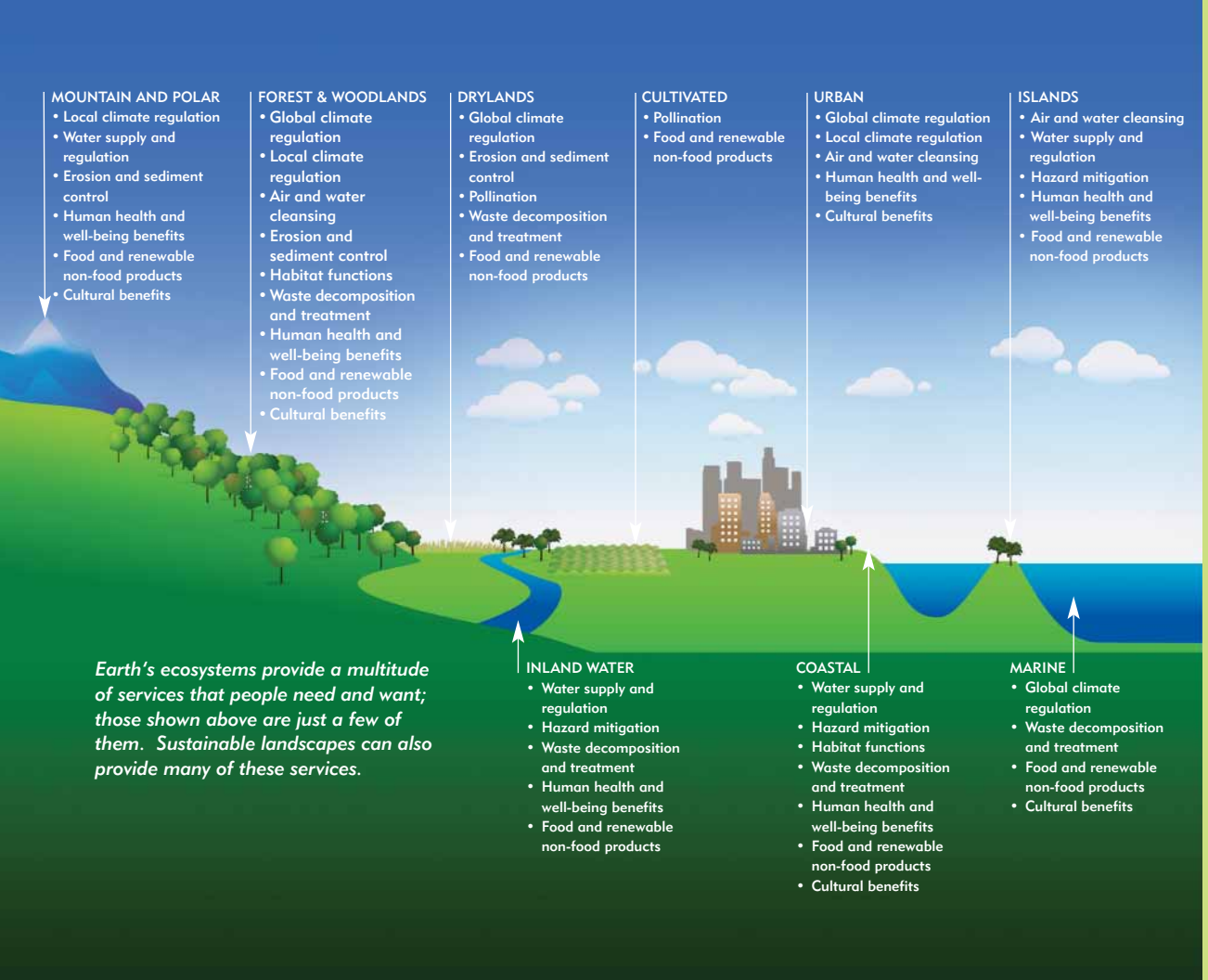

Earth's ecosystems provide a multitude of services that people need and want; those shown above are just a few of them. Sustainable landscapes can also provide many of these services.

THE VALUE OF SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

The Sustainable Sites Initiative recognizes that any landscape is capable of providing the natural benefits essential to human and ecological health.

- Strategically planting vegetation outdoors reduces the energy consumption needed to cool the indoors by up to 25 percent.
- In Minneapolis, street trees resulted in savings of $6.8 million in energy costs and $9.1 million in stormwater treatment, and property values increased by $7.1 million.
- Compost and mulch can decrease soil compaction and increase soil's nutrient content and its ability to hold water.