



American Farmland Trust

California State Policies & Programs that Support Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions via the Agricultural Sector & Ancillary Agricultural Operations

(AS OF MAY 2018)

California Air Resources Board

2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan

Sets forth a plan to achieve SB 32 GHG reduction goals by 2030. Describes opportunities in the agricultural sector to improve manure management, boost soil health, generate renewable power, electrify operations, utilize waste biomass, and increase water, fertilizer, and energy use efficiency to reduce super pollutants. Sets policy that development and new infrastructure construction patterns avoid greenfield development, limit conflicts with neighboring land uses, and increase conservation opportunities for natural and working lands to reduce conversion to intensified uses.

www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/scopingplan.htm

SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) Sustainable Communities

SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) directs the California Air Resources Board and the California Transportation Commission to set regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The sustainable communities strategy is a growth strategy for each region which, in combination with transportation policies and programs, strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions using smart growth land use planning to decrease vehicle miles traveled. www.arb.ca.gov/cc/sb375/sb375.htm

Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emissions Reductions (FARMER) Program

In September 2017, CARB received \$135 million to reduce emissions from the agricultural sector from Assembly Bill (AB) 134 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 254, Statutes of 2017) and AB 109 (Ting, Chapter 249, Statutes of 2017). The bills provide funding for agricultural harvesting equipment, heavy-duty trucks, agricultural pump engines, tractors, and other equipment used in agricultural operations. A cost-share program will be available starting July 2018. <https://arb.ca.gov/ag/agincentives/agincentives.htm>

California Energy Commission

Food Production Investment Program

\$60 million will be used to establish the Food Production Investment Program (FPIP), which will provide grants, loans, or financial incentives to food processors to implement projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

www.energy.ca.gov/research/fpip/index.html

Renewable Energy in the Agriculture Sector

This new program will provide financial assistance for capital costs of onsite renewable energy generation. Eligible projects may include wind energy and solar installations. Energy cost savings from project implementation will be reinvested in disadvantaged communities to promote workforce development and community health.

www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/energy-efficiency-clean-energy-programs/2018/2/12/renewable-energy-in-the-agricultural-sector

Electric Program Investment Charge Program (EPIC)

Funds innovative clean energy research and development projects. Specific to agriculture, program directives are to achieve advances in bioenergy technologies to allow agricultural operations to use more waste for lower-cost, local, clean electricity generation, reducing waste treatment and disposal costs. www.energy.ca.gov/research/epic/

Natural Gas Research Program

Supports investments in improving natural gas energy efficiency and environmental equality, including to achieve significant increases in the efficiency of natural gas use and on-site renewable energy use in the agriculture sector.
www.energy.ca.gov/naturalgas_research/

Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program

Invests in a broad portfolio of transportation and fuel transportation projects throughout the state, including \$35 million (as of April 2018) to fund incentives for clean agricultural equipment and trucks that will reduce emissions.
www.energy.ca.gov/transportation/arfvtp/

California Department of Food and Agriculture

Ecosystems Services Qualitative Assessment Model

California growers and ranchers use many innovative methods to balance food and fiber production with environmental stewardship. A Qualitative Assessment Model (QAM) was developed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel to illustrate the net environmental benefits from management practices, implemented by growers and ranchers, to enhance the environment.
www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/ecosystems-services/

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

Funds up to 50% of project costs with a cap of \$100,000 for on-farm projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve irrigation efficiency. Funding averages \$15 million per year since 2014. Funding source is the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.
www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/sweep/

Joint Pilot Program—Agricultural Water Use Efficiency and Enhancement Program

A joint program with the Department of Water Resources that funded \$3 million in irrigation district water conveyance improvements. Funding source was Proposition 1 bond funds from 2014.
www.water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Agriculture-Water-Use-Efficiency-CDFA-DWR

Healthy Soils Incentive Program

\$3.75 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund supports on-farm soil enhancement as measured by increased soil organic matter. A significant benefit is enhanced soil water holding capacity resulting in improved water use efficiency.
www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/healthysoils/IncentivesProgram.html

Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Funded by a tax on fertilizer sales, this program provides research and education grants for the efficient use of crop nutrients.
www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldr/frep/

Dairy Digester R&D and Alternate Manure Management

CDFA administers these two programs with funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. These programs provide loans and grants for dairy digester construction and other manure management strategies. They also support research and development projects.
www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/ddrdp/

California Department of Conservation

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California’s agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance.
www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP)

Up to 10% of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds allocated at each auction are used to fund SALCP. Approximately \$35 million is available to fund conservation easements that permanently protect agricultural land from urban development and foster improved energy efficiency among other co-benefits. www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP

Agricultural Land Mitigation Program

The Department of Conservation collaborates with other public agencies through the Agricultural Land Mitigation Program to secure agricultural conservation easements for mitigation purposes.

California Farmland Conservancy Program

The California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP) is a statewide grant funding program that supports local efforts to establish agricultural conservation easements and planning projects for the purpose of preserving important agricultural land resources. The CFCP provides grants to local governments and qualified non-profit organizations. www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/Agricultural-Easements/cfcp

Land Conservation Program (Williamson Act)

The Williamson Act Program enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. Land under contract is eligible for a reduced property tax rate. The minimum term for contracts is ten years. However, since the contract term automatically renews on each anniversary date of the contract, the actual term is essentially indefinite. www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca/Pages/Index.aspx

Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) Model

The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) is a point-based approach for rating the relative importance of agricultural land resources based upon specific measurable features. www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/Pages/qh_les.a.aspx

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program

Established by Assembly Bill 2087, the Program consists of three components: regional conservation assessments (RCAs), regional conservation investment strategies (RCISs), and mitigation credit agreements (MCAs). www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation





California Department of Water Resources

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Established by AB 1739 (Dickinson), SB 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley), collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), this legislation requires water agencies to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans. For critically over-drafted basins, the deadline is 2040. For the remaining high and medium priority basins, 2042 is the deadline. www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management

Agricultural Water Management Planning Act

Agriculture water suppliers must comply with SB X7-7 Water Conservation Act (Steinberg Statute of 2009), (Section I, Part 2.55, Division 6 of the California Water Code), the associated Agricultural Water Management Planning Act (Section I, Part 2.8, Division 6 of the Water Code), the Agricultural Water Measurement Regulation (Title 23 California Code of Regulations), and Executive Order B-29-15. Agricultural Water Management Plans are required to cover topics such as current and projected water supplies and demands, current and planned water conservation activities, and the impact of climate change on district operations.

California Natural Resources Agency

California Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan

Scheduled for completion in November 2018, the Implementation Plan will identify the scope and scale of activities that California can undertake to mitigate climate change impacts and enhance the resilience of natural and working lands, increasing their ability to sequester carbon and provide health, social, economic, and environmental benefits. <https://arb.ca.gov/cc/natandworkinglands/natandworkinglands.htm>

State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) was initiated in 2003 to prevent agricultural runoff from impairing surface waters, and in 2012, groundwater regulations were added to the program. Waste discharge requirements (also known as “WDRs” or “Orders”), which protect both surface water and groundwater, address irrigated agricultural discharges. www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/agriculture/

State Coastal Conservancy

Climate Ready Program

The Coastal Conservancy is helping rangeland and agricultural lands adapt to changing climates including grazing operations, grassland restoration, and water and soil conservation projects such as water catchments and storage design. Climate change has been driven by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere and the Coastal Conservancy is working to protect natural and working lands that remove and capture these gases in photosynthesis. Projects include acquisitions of coastal forests, wetland restoration, carbon banking, and carbon farming. <http://scc.ca.gov/climate-change/climate-ready-program/>

Strategic Growth Council

Transformative Climate Communities Program

Established by Assembly Bill (AB) 2722, to fund the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include multiple, coordinated greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to disadvantaged communities. One of ten strategies is Land Conservation and Restoration which aims to permanently protect agricultural land and open space with conservation easements, implement sustainable soil and irrigation management practices, increase permeable surfaces, restore urban streams, and restore wetlands and habitat. <http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/tcc/>

Climate Change Research Program

Established by Assembly Bill (AB) 109, to create a climate change research program within the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The legislation allocated \$11 million in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund revenues to the SGC to develop a program to support research on reducing carbon emissions, including clean energy, adaptation, and resiliency. It is designed to leverage SGC’s role as an interagency body to focus on cross-cutting research investments that build community resilience, integrate land use and development considerations, and facilitate the transformation of California communities. <http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/climate-research/>

Wildlife Conservation Board

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program

Program funds are to be used for climate adaptation and resiliency projects that will result in enduring benefits to wildlife. Grants available for the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements and long-term conservation agreements that conserve natural and working lands. Funds also available to develop and implement natural and working lands adaptation and resiliency planning that prioritizes the conservation and management of natural and working lands, provides technical assistance for natural and working land managers, and supports efforts that improve rural-urban coordination on climate change adaptation. <https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Climate-Adaptation>

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan

Last updated in 2011, the Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan looks to reach California’s energy efficiency and GHG reduction goals through an approach from the utilities side. Collaborative process with the state’s utilities.

California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

California-based Greenhouse Gas Credit Exchange

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Exchange (GHG Rx) is a registry and information exchange for greenhouse gas emissions reduction credits designed specifically to benefit the state of California. The GHG Rx is a trusted source of locally generated credits from projects within California, and facilitates communication between those who create the credits, potential buyers, and funding organizations. www.capcoa.org/ghg-rx/

Local Agency Formation Commissions

Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act 2000 (CKH Act)

“Among the purposes of a commission are discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime agricultural lands, encouraging the efficient provision of government services, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances.” Gov. Code §56301

State of the Art on Agricultural Preservation

This white paper, published in February 2018, is a collaboration of California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) and American Farmland Trust (AFT). The purpose of the white paper is to inform and inspire LAFCOs seeking to establish new or enhance existing policies that preserve agricultural land while simultaneously promoting orderly growth and development. <https://calafco.org/>

Executive Orders

Executive Order S-3-05

Established GHG emission reduction targets and created a Climate Action Team.

Executive Order B-30-15

Set GHG emissions targets for 2030 at 40% below 1990 levels.

Executive Order B-37-16

In response to droughts, points 11-13 require Ag Water Management Plans and water conservation actions.

Executive Order B-40-17

In response to droughts, point 8 requires actions by ag water users.



Join American Farmland Trust in saving the land that sustains us.

www.farmland.org/cagreenerfields

