

Scaling up Agriculture's Climate Solutions with Policy



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California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN)

Introduction to CalCAN

Mission: CalCAN serves as the only California sustainable agriculture voice on state and federal climate change policy

Goal: We seek resources for and remove barriers to agricultural climate change solutions

Strategies: We cultivate farmer leadership, build a network and advance policy initiatives



Outline

1. California's "climate smart agriculture" policy & programs
2. Healthy Soils programs in other states
3. Federal policies & funding
4. A pitch to take action!



California's Climate Leadership

- One of the world's most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets
- Cap-and-trade program that regulates all aspects of the economy (transportation fuel, energy, industrial)
- Includes voluntary incentives programs for agriculture (but does not regulate it)
- Tries to minimize impact on the economy and on low-income communities
- Many states and countries are watching California's experiment



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund



Over \$5 billion allocated to date

Governor Brown proposing \$1.25 billion for 2018-19

Climate Smart Agriculture Funding

Four competitive grants programs:

1. Dairy Methane Reduction
2. Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
3. State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program
4. Healthy Soils Initiative

Funding to date (spent & budgeted):

2014-15 total = \$27 million

2015-16 total = \$70 million

2016-17 total = \$120 million

2017-18 total = \$362 million



Dairy Methane Reduction Programs

Objective: To reduce methane from dairy manure by capturing it or by making manure management less anaerobic



Two grant programs:

1. Anaerobic digesters (\$35 million)
2. Alternative Manure Management Practices Program (\$10 million)

Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation

Objective: To protect agricultural lands at risk of development



\$79 million spent to date
for permanent easements on ag land & planning grants
80,000 acres protected
GHG reductions (over 30 years): 42 million metric tons CO₂

State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program

Objective: To reduce on-farm water & energy use



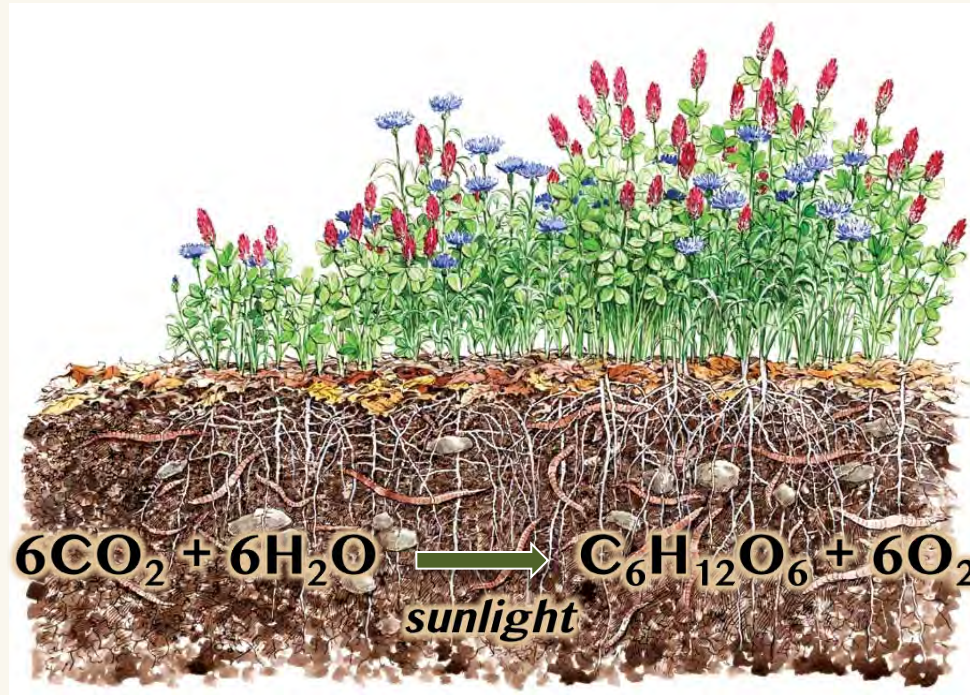
\$67.5 million spent to date, funding almost 590 projects

Water saved (over 10 years): almost 715,000 acre feet

Greenhouse gas reduction (over 10 years): 225,060 metric tons CO₂

Healthy Soils Program

Objective: To build soil carbon and reduce agricultural GHG emissions through incentives



\$5.2 million awarded in Dec. 2017 for 86 projects

Will fund compost, mulch, cover crops, reduced tillage, conservation plantings

Healthy Soils in Other States

Maryland

Massachusetts

New York

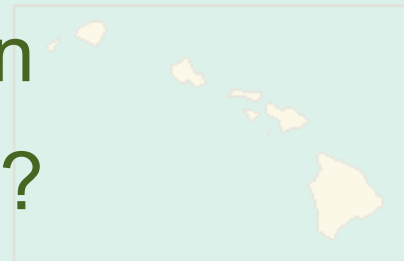
Hawaii

Oklahoma

Vermont

Oregon

Others?



Federal Picture



1. NRCS Climate Building Blocks (EQIP)

2. USDA Climate Hubs

<https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov>

3. Outcomes-Verified Regenerative Soil Health Program

<https://www.landcoreusa.com>

Shameless Pitch

CalCAN needs your help to restore funding for the Healthy Soils Program and SWEEP!

- Sign on to comment letters
- Make calls
- Participate in meetings with legislators

Organizations can:

- Repost CalCAN blogs
- Link on your website
- Distribute action alerts



Thanks!

Sign up for our newsletter & blog:

<http://calclimateag.org/blog/>



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