

| Theme | | | | | |
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| 1 | <i>Reduce and sequester GHG emissions from ag and forestry practices (Pathways 10 & 23)</i> | | | | |
| Pathway | Strategy | Row | Action | Comments | Subcommittee Member |
| 10 | 10a | 4 | Expand Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP) program to extend beyond water quality and incorporate climate change criteria | | AW, JP |
| 10 | 10a | 5 | Implement agroforestry and silvopasture practices that integrate woody vegetation in agricultural production. | | SL, RP, JP |
| 10 | 10a | 6 | Implement agronomic practices that reduce tillage and increase vegetative cover, e.g., no-till, cover crop. | | SL, RP |
| 10 | 10a | 7 | Implement edge-of-field practices that increase herbaceous and woody vegetation, e.g. riparian forest buffer (e.g. CREP). | | AM, SL, RP, JP |
| 10 | 10a | 8 | Implement grazing practices that increase vegetative cover and forage quality, e.g. rotational grazing. | | AM, SL, RP, JP |
| 10 | 10a | 9 | Implement methane capture and energy generation on farms, e.g., anaerobic digesters and covers. | | RP |
| 10 | 10a | 10 | Implement Nutrient Management and Amendments (e.g., biochar, compost) on cropland and grazing land. | | SE, RP |
| 10 | 10a | 12 | Research and pilot improved manure management and storage programs. | | AW, SE, RP |
| 10 | 10a | 13 | Implement natural resource restoration practices that support climate mitigation and resilience, including river corridor easements, wetland restoration, and afforestation practices with consideration to agricultural land loss. | Incorporate actions from Strategy 23g: - Expand tree and other planting efforts on private land to promote restoration efforts to reforest riparian areas, wetland buffers, and degraded lands - Provide incentives for restoration and expansion of floodplain forests) | AM, SL, JP |
| 23 | 23a | 11 | Leverage, expand, and adapt existing State of Vermont programs that support the agricultural sector's mitigation of climate change. | | AW, JP |

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| 23 | 23b | 114 | Based on the findings of the technical RFP mentioned in action step (b) of this strategy, the VCC should consider recommending that the State of Vermont GHG emissions inventory protocol established in 10 V.S.A. § 582 be amended to include an inventory of GHG emissions that align with the intent and standards of the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories that will include a net GHG emission accounting for the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector. | | AW, JP |
| 23 | 23b | 115 | Develop a methodology and protocol for quantifying climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation impacts of existing state and federal water quality implementation programs as reported through the annual Clean Water Initiative Performance Report. The Clean Water Initiative Performance Report “summarizes the State of Vermont’s clean water efforts and demonstrates how investments are making a difference through accountability measures.” As mentioned, most water quality conservation practices and programs also have climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation benefits. Recommend using existing tracking systems and quantify the climate benefits from this existing implementation and data tracking. The data spans state and federal funding programs and regulatory programs that drive clean water efforts and coordinates across agencies to track these efforts and monitor progress. | | AM |
| 23 | 23c | 118 | Develop and implement a PES program for healthy soils and soil carbon sequestration on farms. Act 83 of 2019 convened the Payment for Ecosystems Services Working Group whose purpose is to recommend financial incentives designed to encourage farmers in Vermont to implement agricultural practices that improve soil health, enhance crop resilience, increase carbon storage and stormwater storage capacity, and reduce agricultural runoff to waters. Final program recommendations from the PES Working Group are due in January 2023. | | AM, SE, JP |
| 23 | 23c | 119 | Develop and implement a PES program for forestland owners including water filtration/cycling, carbon sequestration, etc. | | JP |

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| 23 | 23d | 122 | <p>Develop program for tracking and limiting the use of chemicals, substances, or products that contribute to climate change in Vermont and leverage existing legislative activity on this topic</p> <p>i. VAAFAM currently tracks statewide commercial pesticide use as well as statewide fertilizer use. This data is currently used to establish trends in the use of these inputs as our agricultural systems evolve.</p> <p>ii. Programs to track these agricultural inputs already exist at VAAFAM but have not been assessed through the lens of contributions to climate change. VAAFAM or the new newly established Agricultural Innovation Board (AIB) established by Act 49 of 2021 can prioritize an assessment of the impacts and benefits our agronomic management systems have on offsetting climate change.</p> <p>iii. An assessment of Vermont’s different agronomic practices and management, such as, conventional, organic, no-till, and cover cropping, should be weighted for impacts on climate change based on agricultural inputs, fuel consumption, carbon sequestration and other measurable factors</p> | | JP |
| 23 | 23g | 132 | Expand tree and other planting efforts on private land to promote restoration efforts to reforest riparian areas, wetland buffers, and degraded lands | See comments from AM above | SE, JP |
| 23 | 23g | 133 | Increase funding to tree planting via Renewable Energy Standard (RES). | | SE, JP |