NYS Conservation Programs and the CLCPA – Milk Marketing Advisory Council
March 21, 2022

Brian Steinmuller
Assistant Director Division of Land and Water Resources and the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee
Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Framework

Core Concepts

• Open to all farmers
• Voluntary, incentive-based
• Environmental management and farm viability
• Science-based
• Locally-led & delivered
  o Farmers
  o Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  o Natural Resources Conservation Service
  o Cornell Cooperative Extension
  o Farm Service Agency
  o Agri-Business
  o Watershed Groups
  o NGOs / Conservation Organizations

• Prioritized on watershed and natural resource needs, local AEM Strategic Plans, and associated Action Plans
• **Focused on farmers advancing through the AEM Tiers**
  • Customized farm by farm
  • Confidential
  • Promotes teamwork
  • Coordinates assistance
• **Adaptive to future priorities – Dairy Net Zero Initiative and other sustainability goals**

[Logo: Department of Agriculture and Markets]
Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program

- Launched in 2015
  - $12 million awarded
  - 200 farms assisted
  - Estimated 320,000 metric tons of CO2e/yr. emissions reduction
- Three tracks:
  - Methane management through manure storage cover and flare systems
  - Water management
  - Healthy Soils NY

Round 6 release January 2022, due May 16th, 2022 - $8 million available
Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) – Overview

Carbon neutral economy, mandating at least an 85% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels by 2050

- 40% reduction in emissions by 2030
- 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2040
- 70% renewable electricity by 2030
- 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035
- 6,000 MW of distributed solar by 2025
- 3,000 MW of energy storage by 2030
- 185 TBtu on-site energy savings by 2025

Commitments to climate justice and just transition

Advisory Panels
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Land Use and Local Government
- Transportation
- Energy Efficiency and Housing
- Energy Intensive and Trade Exposed Industries
- Power Generation
- Waste Management

Working Groups
- Just Transitions
- Climate Justice

New York’s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) (ny.gov)
Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel

Richard Ball, Chair, Commissioner NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
Peter Innes, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Rafael Aponte, Rocky Acres Community Farm
Amanda Barber, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District
John Bartow, Empire State Forest Products Association
Michelle Brown, The Nature Conservancy
Tom Gerow, Wagner Lumber Company
Suzanne Hunt, HuntGreen LLC and Hunt Country Vineyard
Peter Lehner, EarthJustice

Samantha Levy, American Farmland Trust
Robert Malmsheimer, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
Stephanie Morningstar, Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust
John Noble, Noblehurst Farms
Julie Suarez, Cornell University
Ned Sullivan, Scenic Hudson
Donna Wadsworth, International Paper
Elizabeth Wolters, New York Farm Bureau
Peter Woodbury, Cornell University
Nelson Villarrubia, Trees New York
Two key themes of the panel:

- Agricultural Emissions Reductions
- Carbon Sequestration in Forests and on Farms
Nutrient Management - Reduce nitrous oxide (N2O) emissions while achieving desired crop yield and quality through continued and expanded nutrient management planning and implementation on crop fields, hay fields, pastures, orchards, vineyards, and other agricultural lands receiving nutrients.

Alternative Manure Management - Reduce methane emissions by implementing practice systems specifically planned and designed for each farm, such as cover and flare systems, anaerobic digester systems, and other innovative systems that collect, capture and combust methane from manure storages or prevent methane production from manure storage.

Precision Feed Forage and Herd Management - Reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions while achieving desired ruminant growth and lactation goals. Strategy acknowledges that additional methane emission reduction may be realized from feed additives developed in the future.
Carbon Sequestration in Forests and on Farms Broad Strategies

> **Avoided Conversion of Forest and Farmland** - Maintain and enhance the state’s carbon stocks and carbon sequestration potential through avoided forest and farmland use conversion.

> **Soil Health** - Reduce net GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration/storage and other environmental benefits through adoption of soil health management practices (e.g., cover/double crops, reduced tillage, perennial crop systems. Also referred to as Regenerative Agricultural Practices).

> **Agroforestry** - Adding trees into areas of agricultural production to reliably increase carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits.

> **Forest Management** - Increase carbon sequestration through improved, sustainable forest management practices. Secure forest regeneration, improving forest health and productivity, and restore degraded forests.

> **Reforestation/Afforestation** – Tree plantings focused on underutilized agricultural lands. Increasing tree density in understocked forests.

> **Climate Focused Bioeconomy** - the portion of an economy that produces sustainable, renewable bio-based feedstocks, rather than fossil fuel-based feedstocks, to produce products that achieve the climate and social justice goals of the CLCPA.
Table 12. Agriculture and Forestry Sector Key Strategies by Theme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Forest</td>
<td>AF1. Identify where Forest Management would Provide the Greatest Benefits</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>AF2. Prevent Forest Pests, Diseases, and Invasive Species and Restore Degraded</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Forests</td>
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<td>AF3. Maintain and Improve Sustainable Forest Management Practices and</td>
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<td>Mitigation Strategies</td>
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<td>AF4. Assist Landowners in Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and Mitigation Strategies</td>
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<td>AF5. Support Local Communities in Forest Protection and Management</td>
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<td>AF6. Create a New York Forest Carbon Bank</td>
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<td>AF7. Monitor Progress and Advance Forestry Science and Technology</td>
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<td>AF8. Conduct Education and Outreach on Forest Management</td>
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<td>AF10. Advance Precision Feed, Forage, and Heard Management</td>
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</tbody>
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## Table 12. Agriculture and Forestry Sector
### Key Strategies by Theme

| Soil Health, Nutrient Management, and Agroforestry | AF11. Advance Agricultural Nutrient Management  
AF12. Adopt Soil Health Practice Systems  
AF13. Increase Adoption of Agroforestry  
AF14. Develop AEM Planning for Climate Mitigation and Adaptation  
AF15. Monitor and Benchmark Agricultural GHG Emissions  
AF16. Establish a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Program  
AF17. Bolster Local Agricultural Economies |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climate-Focused Bioeconomy                       | AF18. Develop Forestry Training Programs to Support Expanding Workforce and Climate Knowledge  
AF19. Expand Markets for Sustainably Harvested Durable Wood Products  
AF20. Develop a Sustainable Biomass Feedstock Action Plan and Expand the Use of Bioenergy Products  
AF22. Provide Financial and Technical Assistance for Low-Carbon Product Development  
AF23. Advance Bio-Based Products Research Development and Demonstration  
AF24. Advance Deployment of Net Negative CO2 Removal |
Draft Scoping Plan – Broad Overview

Comprehensive document containing sector specific recommendations for meeting the CLCPA emission limits and net zero goal

• Addresses Climate Justice, Just Transitions, Public Health, Measuring Success

• Transportation – Zero emission fleet, including off-road equipment (farm equipment), accomplished through a mix of battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles

• Waste – Includes recommendations for the reduction of methane through avoiding organics in landfills, strategic use of biogas

• Land Use/Local Government – Includes the AFAP recommendations for avoided conversions, afforestation/reforestation, wetland protections

• Gas Systems Transition – Downsizing and transitioning of the state’s fossil gas system

• Buildings – Transition home heating to highly efficient electric heat pumps for primary heating, cooling and hot water
Next Steps and Public Comments

climate.ny.gov

Public comment period open through June 10th, 2022 (see: climate.ny.gov)

> To identify areas where additional clarity is needed in the scoping plan
> To further understand relevant needs and priorities of members of the public and how they connect to existing (or additional) climate strategies
> Highlight where New York residents and businesses can participate in achieving the State’s climate goals

Public and stakeholder input will occur in parallel to complementary continued analysis and CAC discussion

> Written comment (now through June 10, 2022): Written comments and questions to be shared by members of the public with the CAC via written format
> Public hearings (April/May 2022): In-person and virtual hearings to take input directly from the public
> Stakeholder engagement (March 2022 +): Targeted stakeholder engagement
Public Hearings

April 5, 4:00  Bronx Community College, Bronx
April 6, 4:00  Brookhaven Town Hall, Brookhaven
April 12, 4:00  Binghamton University, Binghamton
April 14, 4:00  Empire State Plaza, Albany
April 26, 4:00  SUNY-ESF, Syracuse
April 27, 3:30  Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Buffalo
May 3, 4:00  NYC City College of Technology, Brooklyn
May 7, 10:00  Virtual
May 10, 4:00  The Wild Center, Tupper Lake
May 11, 4:00  Virtual

See https://climate.ny.gov/CAC-Meetings-and-Materials for venue addresses, links to view virtual hearings and to pre-register for public hearings.
Thank you

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