

New York State Climate Action Council

Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel

January 14, 2021
Meeting 7

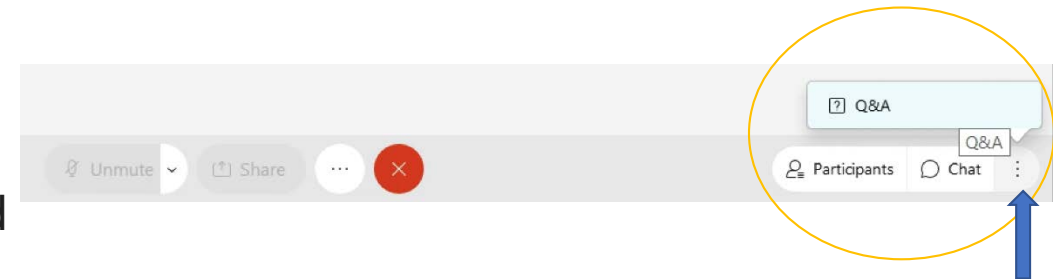


**Climate Action
Council**

Procedure for Public Input

The Advisory Panel welcomes public comments and questions both during and in between its meetings

- > To submit feedback to Panel Members and agency staff during the meeting, members of the public can use the WebEx Chat function located in the right bottom corner.
 - Comments and questions submitted through WebEx will be aggregated and submitted to panel members to be included in deliberations.
- > To submit feedback between Advisory Panel meetings, please email agriculture.forestry@agriculture.ny.gov



Agenda

- > Welcome
- > Roll Call
- > Subgroup reports and discussion
- > Recommendations template
- > Open discussion on state of progress
- > Next steps
 - Public Engagement Meeting
 - Equity Considerations for next meeting
- > Set next meeting

Subgroup Reports and Discussion

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Agroforestry Subgroup

- > **Agroforestry** - Incorporating trees into areas of agricultural production (agroforestry) have the potential to reliably increase carbon sequestration and have numerous other environmental benefits.
- Focused on understanding and increasing adoption of silvopasturing practices
- Focused on increasing implementation and establishment of riparian forest buffers, windbreaks, shelterbelts
- Focused on understanding alleycropping and increasing implementation

Enabling Initiatives

- AEM Planning for Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation
- Emphasizing agroforestry technical and financial assistance through CRF Program
- Supporting research, education and technical services
- Coupling easements with adoption of long term beneficial practices
- Measure and monitor progress and benefits over time

Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel Soil Health/Nutrient Management Subgroup

> **Soil Health/Nutrient Management** - Increase carbon sequestration with the adoption of soil health management, often referred to as regenerative agricultural practices. Reduce N₂O emissions through continued and expanded nutrient management planning and implementation.

- Focused on increasing adoption of soil health, often referred to as regenerative agricultural practices
- Focused on understanding benefits of nutrient management and increasing adoption to reduce nitrous oxide emissions
- Focused on increasing capacity to measure and monitor benefits overtime

Enabling Initiatives

- AEM Planning for Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation
- Supporting research, education and technical services – with uniform messaging
- Payments for Ecosystem Services
- Nitrogen use efficiency x crop yield contests
- Soil health standard
- Offering a range of alternatives for farms (size, resources, management, goals, etc.)
- Industry-led sustainability initiatives and goals
- Measure and monitor progress and benefits over time

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Livestock/Dairy Management

- > **Livestock/Dairy Management** - Methane emission reduction through manure management. Methane emission reduction through feed management.
 - Focused on planning and implementation of alternative manure management that meets water quality, nutrient management, and methane reduction objectives.
 - Focused on increasing precision feed management (PFM) planning and implementation, conducting/reviewing research on novel approaches (e.g. feed additives), advancing information, training, outreach and technical assistance to livestock producers at various scales.
 - Focused on increasing capacity to measure and monitor benefits overtime

Enabling Initiatives

- AEM Planning for Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation
- Supporting research, education and technical services
- Encourage the implementation of manure management systems that meet multiple environmental objectives
- Offering a range of alternatives for farms (size, resources, management, goals, etc.)
- Industry-led sustainability initiatives and goals
- Additional farm product development and markets (RNG, electricity, nutrient products, carbon products, etc.)
- Coordinate with other panels and state agencies to advance implementation of advanced systems
- Measure and monitor progress and benefits over time

Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel Bioeconomy Subgroup

> Bioenergy Discussion on December 16

- Included Waste Panel members and outside experts
- Presentations on In-state Feedstock Potential
 - Manure management
 - Perennial biomass crops
 - Biosolids from wastewater processing
 - Organics in Municipal Solid Waste
- Key Takeaways
 - In-state biofuels are a limited opportunity
 - Biogas from methane sources needs to be considered alongside alternative management strategies (emissions, cost)
 - Avoiding leakage and minimizing co-pollutants are key
 - Energy crops require careful consideration of land use trade-offs
 - Focused discussion on land use issues would be valuable

> Next meeting on bioenergy end-use is January 26

- Transportation, Housing and Energy Efficiency, Power Generation, Energy Intensive and Trade Exposed Industries Panels and outside experts have been invited

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Forest and Forestry Management Subgroup

- > Improved Forest Management-Actions to increase carbon sequestration in existing New York forests
 - Focused primarily on increasing adoption of improved forestry practices by private forest landowners using tax incentives
 - Two meetings focused on recommending statutory changes to current tax abatement program, 480a, that would allow landowners to manage their lands for increased carbon sequestration.
 - Measuring success or additionality
 - Decreasing the fiscal impact on local municipalities
 - How do we get widespread adoption?
 - Drafting program recommendations for sub-group review
 - Future meetings will focus on other recommendations such as afforestation, forest stewardship, etc

Enabling Initiatives

- Increasing state funding to maintain and upgrade the “Natural Carbon Sequestration Machine”
- Support research and development of “NYS Approved Forest Carbon Practices”
- Workforce development training for resource professionals
- Others

Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel Land Conversions Subgroup

> **Avoided Conversion** – Preventing conversion of agriculture and forest land to other land uses.

- Focused on increasing conservation of forests and farms through conservation easements and fee acquisition by government and non-profit organizations
- Focused on tax policies such as Forest Tax Law, Agricultural Districts Law and other incentives
- Focused on land access including intergenerational transfer, new, beginning and BIPOC farmers

Enabling Initiatives

- Local government planning and zoning; smart growth
- Community Protection Acts

Recommendation Template

Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel Recommendations Template

- > Final work product of the Advisory Panel
 - Powerpoint slide template to be provided by the CAC
- > Guidance document to assist with populating the template
- > Summary of recommendations and total expected emissions reductions
 - Detailed information on individual recommendations
- > Three types of recommendations:
 - Mitigation Strategy
 - Enabling Initiatives
 - Adaptation and Resilience
- > Benefits and Impacts
 - Disadvantaged communities
 - Health and environmental benefits
 - Business and workforce

Open Discussion on the state of progress

Next Steps:

Public Engagement Meeting

January 27th, 2021 (2-4pm)

**Next Steps:
Hold Meeting
focused on Equity
Considerations**

Next Meeting Date:

**Thursday,
February 4th, 1pm**

Thank you