

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Climate Change Policy Considerations	Number: 319 Effective Date:
Workgroup A: Harper, Allen, Miller, Orem, Santamaria ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 – Under Review Date of Last Review/Revision: 05/03/2022 Original Resolution Date: 12/05/2019
Board Chair:	Signature on file

Proposed action: Active Resolution under review

Background

WHEREAS, climate change is adversely impacting Oregon agriculture including the well-being of farmers, ranchers, seafood producers and resource reliant communities because of intensifying extreme weather resulting in drought, wildfire events, water shortages, changing ocean conditions, and other impacts,

Commented [SI*O1]: Updated to be more current and acknowledge current impacts

WHEREAS, activities with the potential to be net carbon sinks provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy input costs.

Deleted: is projected to impact Oregon agriculture in many ways, including but not limited to changing precipitation patterns, summer water shortages, increased average and extreme temperatures, and increased drought and fire

Commented [SI*O2]: acknowledge broad potential of carbon sequestration impacts

WHEREAS, improving soil health across Oregon lands improves soil security to sustain functionality for current and future generations, agricultural resilience, nutrient retention while reducing inputs, and provides ecosystem services including water quality and quantity, flood mitigation, air quality, and may be a net carbon sink.

Commented [SI*O3]: Acknowledge soil health importance

WHEREAS, clean and abundant ground and surface water is critical for agriculture, and climate change is affecting annual rainfall and snowpack that provides water for agriculture.

WHEREAS, Oregon's agriculture industry is diverse in numerous ways, producing over 250 different commodities in various landscapes and climatic conditions, operating diverse production systems using a variety of inputs, depending on diverse markets both domestically and internationally, and partnering with numerous agriculture and food businesses to produce and process products.

WHEREAS, policies intended to help the state in adapting to changing climate conditions, such as policies to address water shortages and water quality issues, will affect agriculture.

WHEREAS, Government and private sector programs, policies, and investments can help agriculture adapt and become more resilient to climate impacts and contribute to greenhouse gas mitigation and promote climate resilience and can provide co-benefits such as soil health, water quality, improved water retention and filtration on farms, and reduced energy and input costs.

Commented [SI*O4]: Acknowledge of co-benefits of policies and investments

WHEREAS, policies to address greenhouse gas emissions will also affect agricultural production, even if agriculture is exempted from these policies.

WHEREAS, policies that regulate greenhouse gas emissions will affect the costs of agricultural inputs including fuels, electricity, and fertilizer, impacting the cost of production as well as the cost of moving agriculture and food products to market.

WHEREAS, competition and regulatory issues can cause emissions intensive trade exposed industries to explore out of state or overseas opportunities, potentially affecting industries that add value to Oregon agricultural products and contribute to Oregon's agricultural and food economies.

WHEREAS, climate change policy may also benefit agriculture by mitigating some of the most serious impacts of climate change, and by providing incentives and tools to help agriculture reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.

WHEREAS, offsets are one type of incentive, but the costs to measure and verify the mitigation benefits of offset projects can be prohibitive for certain project types.

WHEREAS, Oregon's Land Use Planning program is a major contributor to the protection of agricultural land that preserves the viability of Oregon agriculture by protecting farm and rangeland from development and thus ensuring soils and vegetation can continue to sequester carbon.

Commented [SI*O5]: Importance of land use protections in climate policies.

WHEREAS, other jurisdictions have experienced good participation from the agricultural sector in flexible, accessible, voluntary programs that invest allowance revenue into activities that help agriculture reduce its carbon footprint and adapt to climate change.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture recommends any climate change related policies should:

- Maintain a healthy agricultural economy, including processing and infrastructure that adds value to Oregon agricultural production, and retain agriculture's ability to grow crops and livestock, harvest seafood, pack and process agricultural products economically in Oregon.
- Consider the well-being of farmers, ranchers and rural communities and the need to sustain a resilient food supply, rural economy, and quality of life.
- Support Oregon's land use planning program's protection of natural and working lands as foundational for Oregon's agricultural viability and their contribution to climate mitigation through soil carbon sequestration.
- Balance the need to reduce emissions from intensive and trade exposed industries with the goal of retaining these industries in the state.
- Recognize that if processing or other facilities leave the state because of higher costs due to carbon policy, we have not achieved the goal of reducing carbon and have simply moved emissions to another location while harming our economy and industry.

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- Provide compliance assistance, including longer compliance time frames, technical assistance, and low-cost compliance instruments, for energy intensive trade exposed industries that are at risk of loss to overseas or out of state competitors.
- Support exemptions or rebates for fuel used in on-farm activities.
- Consider the costs of transportation to move agricultural and food products to market, both within the state, domestically, and internationally, and maintain affordable transportation methods to move agricultural products to market both within and beyond the state.
- Structure offset programs so they are as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems. An aggregation or cooperative effort of small and mid-size operations should be allowed under any offset program.
- [Structure programs to incentivize carbon sequestration and resilience on Oregon's agricultural lands to be as workable and accessible as possible for farmers and ranchers with diverse farm sizes, crop types, and production systems.](#)
- [Create sustained funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.](#)
- Provide incentives to address the potential impacts of climate change to water supplies and water quality, and support agricultural practices that [support soil health](#), conserve water, modernize irrigation techniques, and develop water storage capacity.
- Consider adapting the state's water management policies to recognize the changes in climate conditions and water availability.
- Create flexible funding programs, recognizing the diversity in Oregon's commodities, production methods, farm size, and changing and evolving technologies and strategies used.
- [Ensure both natural and working lands are included in climate policy and programs and position the state to leverage state and federal lands and investments to do so.](#)
- Design incentive programs to be as accessible as possible, including a straightforward and simple application process, delivery systems that use local partners such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and simple reporting requirements.
- Support research into strategies that help agriculture adapt to impacts from climate change.
- Recognize the [net carbon](#) sequestration opportunities in agriculture and the benefits that longstanding stewardship activities such as protecting the soil, set aside lands with [native or non-invasive vegetation](#),

Commented [SI*O6]: This is suggested to replace bullet above however I think both could be included.

Commented [SI*O7]: Replaces deleted language

Deleted: Allocate funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

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Summary

Recommends that any climate change policies provide voluntary incentives for agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change; recognize agriculture's positive environmental and economic impacts; provide exemptions and compliance time frames to minimize adverse impacts to input costs and companion industries; support research into additional strategies; and support [equitable](#) long-term planning, resource allocation and policy changes to help the state adapt to climate change.

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Proposed action: Active Resolution under review