



www.kyclimatechange.us

Brief Descriptions of Catalog Items Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management Technical Work Group

This document provides brief descriptions of the policy options contained in the corresponding Technical Work Group (TWG) Catalog of State Policy Actions. The catalog and these brief descriptions will be developed more fully during the climate planning process in Kentucky.

AFW-1. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY - PRODUCTION OF FUELS AND ELECTRICITY

1.1 Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity, Heat, and Steam Production

Increase the amount of biomass available from forests for generating electricity and displacing the use of fossil energy sources. Note: This is related to the 8.2 (Municipal Solid Waste and Yard Waste Biomass) option.

1.2 In-State Liquid/Gaseous Biofuels Production

Increase production of ethanol, biodiesel, or other liquid/gaseous biofuels from agriculture and forestry feedstocks (raw materials) to displace the use of fossil fuel. For example, promoting the development of cellulosic ethanol feedstocks and production systems that use renewable fuels lower the embedded carbon content of ethanol. Increased in-state production and consumption of biofuels will likely provide the highest benefits. Note: This is related to 8.8 Waste Management Feedstocks for Liquid/Gaseous Fuels Production.

1.3 Improved Energy Capture from Wood Waste and Biomass Combustion

Reduce emissions and increase heat efficiency from bio-feedstock heat sources, such as wood-burning stoves and furnaces and pyrolysis ovens. Continue to advance the biomass heating industry.

1.4 Improved Commercialization of Biomass Conversion Technologies

Improve the rate of technology development and market deployment of biomass conversion technologies including biomass gasification combined-cycle, pyrolysis, and plasma arc technologies. These technologies expand the application of renewable fuels derived from biomass. A range of renewable products can be developed from these processes, including gaseous and liquid fuels, biochar, chemical products, and methane to methanol. Existing processes include waste combustion and energy recovery (as electricity, steam, or both) or ethanol plants using co-products for heating and drying, rather than relying on outside energy sources.

1.5 Integrated Bioenergy Research and Production

Integrates electricity from anaerobic methane digestion of manure, with production of by-products, e.g. biodiesel and ethanol. Pyrolyze biomass to create energy and by-products, e.g., syngas, bio-oil and biochar.

1.6 Expanded Production/Use of Bio-based Materials and Chemicals

Expand the production and use of bioproducts, such as corn-based plastics through applied research, expanding production and markets. Increase the amount of renewable products and chemicals produced from bio-feedstocks, including building materials that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over conventional petroleum-based products.

1.7 Manure Digesters/Other Waste Energy Utilization

Reduce the amount of methane emissions from livestock manure by installing manure digesters on livestock operations. Energy from the manure digesters is used to create heat or power, which offsets fossil fuel-based energy production and the associated GHG emissions. May consider new technologies as well, such as plasma arc technology.

Integrates methane digesters into agricultural operations to generate energy from waste on an individual or community basis.

AFW-2. AGRICULTURE—LIVESTOCK AND RANGE MANAGEMENT

2.1 Manure Management

Implement manure management practices that reduce GHG emissions associated with manure handling and storage. Potential practices include (but are not limited to) manure composting (to reduce methane emissions), manure crusting, addition of additives to decrease the amount of nutrients lost, and improved methods for application to fields (for reduced nitrous oxide [N₂O] emissions). Application improvements include incorporation into soil instead of surface spraying or spreading. Implement digester and energy recovery projects at confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), both to reduce methane emissions and to utilize the energy to displace fossil fuels. (To date, most of these projects have been implemented at dairies and swine operations.) The utilization of collection and control equipment, such as biofilters at CAFOs, can reduce methane emissions. Increasing the area over which manure is deposited has the potential to reduce emissions of methane, since the manure is more likely to be decomposed aerobically than anaerobically.

2.2 Changes in Animal Feed

Livestock emit methane directly as a result of digestive processes (enteric fermentation). Research suggests that changes in the energy content of feed and other dietary changes can reduce methane emissions from enteric fermentation. By optimizing nitrogen (protein) utilization in the feed, nitrogen levels in the manure can be reduced, which in turn reduces the potential for N₂O emissions.

2.3 Rotational Grazing/Improve Grazing Crops and/or Management

Heavy grazing can cause significant soil disturbance and result in carbon losses from soils. Rotational grazing, where animals are moved from field to field on a regular basis, reduces soil disturbance and maintains soil carbon levels. Rotational grazing also can improve plant vigor and enhance soil carbon levels.

2.4 Mitigation of Carbon Sequestration Loss and Emissions from Rangeland Wildfires

Naturally occurring wildfires at historic frequencies and intensities are important for maintaining rangeland health. However catastrophic fires can cause significant emissions and lower the soil carbon sequestration potential for some time. Programs to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfire will help vegetation and soil to sequester carbon and resist invasion by less desirable and more fire-prone vegetation, such as mesquite and cheatgrass.

AFW-3. AGRICULTURE—CROP PRODUCTION

3.1 Soil Carbon Management

The amount of carbon stored in the soil can be increased by the adoption of practices, such as conservation, no-till cultivation, and crop rotation. Reducing summer fallow and increasing winter cover crops are complementary practices that reduce the need for conventional tillage. In addition, the application of biochar (i.e., charcoal) may also increase soil carbon content and stabilize soil carbon. By reducing mechanical soil disturbance, these practices reduce the oxidation of soil carbon compounds and allow more stable aggregates to form. Other benefits include reduced wind and water erosion, reduced fuel consumption, and improved wildlife habitat. Encourage soil productivity and carbon sequestration through the use of biochar.

3.2 Nutrient and Water Management

Improve the efficiency of fertilizer use and other nitrogen-based soil amendments through implementation of management practices and Generally Accepted Agriculture Management Practices (GAAMP). Excess nitrogen not metabolized by plants can leach into groundwater and/or be emitted to the atmosphere as N₂O. Better nutrient utilization can lead to lower N₂O emissions from runoff.

Improve the efficiency of water use through implementation of Best Management Practices and GAAMP. Excess water can lead to nitrogen runoff, with subsequent emission to the atmosphere as N₂O. By managing and improving water consumption and nutrients spread on crops, there will be a minimal loss of carbon from the soil. Reduced water consumption can result in lower energy use for water pumping.

3.2.1 Drainage Management

Improve drainage on agricultural lands to prevent ponding, which could lead to anaerobic soils and GHG emissions (methane).

3.3 Technology Improvements to Increase Efficiency

New technologies and cultivation methods have the potential to reduce GHG emissions when fossil fuel or electricity consumption can be reduced. Auto-steer guidance systems are an example, as is auto swath technology, which uses global positioning system (GPS) technology to automatically turn the spray boom sections on or off when coming to an area of the field that has been sprayed or needs to be sprayed. Auto swath technology can be used for planting, fertilizing, and other operations. On odd-shaped fields, it can result in a 3%–5% savings. See http://www.agleader.com/products.php?Product=directcommand_1.

Variable-rate fertilizing and liming are also becoming more popular among farmers. The farmer has a local co-op grid sample the field, and then variable rate applies the fertilizer or lime in the areas of the field that need it. The areas of the field that do not need fertilizer or lime have none applied, which can result in a 50%–60% reduction in the amount of lime or fertilizer needed. See http://www.agleader.com/products.php?Product=directcommand_g.

With GreenSeeker normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) technology farmers apply 50%–70% of their nitrogen at planting. Then, in season, they use GreenSeeker to apply what the corn or wheat plant needs when it is growing—a more efficient way of applying nitrogen that will result in less nitrogen being overapplied. GreenSeeker NDVI is a new technology that is still in its early testing stages, but it looks promising. See <http://www.ntechindustries.com/greenseeker-RT200.html>.

Improvements may also encompass newer machines with better fuel efficiency, larger planters and combines, and genetically modified seed. Note that this option has a similar counterpart in option AFW-8.1, Advanced Recycling and Composting.

3.4 Biotechnology Applications for Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

Improved research in and utilization of drought-resistant, flood-resistant, pest-resistant crop varieties.

3.5 Perennial Crop Production

Encourage the planting of perennial crops, which reduces tillage, reduces planting costs and related equipment use and soil compaction, and typically reduces water consumption.

AFW-4. AGRICULTURE—LAND-USE CHANGE

4.1 Land-Use Management That Promotes Permanent Grassland Cover

Convert marginal agricultural land used for annual crops to permanent cover—such as grassland/rangeland, orchard, or forest—where the soil carbon and/or carbon in biomass is higher under the new land use. Includes opportunities to keep Conservation Reserve Program lands covered in perpetuity.

Increased demand for corn-based ethanol and biodiesel feedstocks can act as an incentive for converting grassland to cropland. Adopt mechanisms to prevent these acres from returning either to conventionally tilled production or to suburban/urban development.

4.2 Preserve Open Space/Agricultural Land

Reduce the rate at which agricultural lands are converted to developed uses, while protecting private property rights and responsibilities. This retains the above- and below-ground carbon on these lands, as well as their carbon sequestration potential. Transportation emissions will be reduced indirectly through more efficient development and lower vehicle use. Agricultural land conversion may be prevented through conservation land grants and conservation easements facilitated through nonprofit land preservation organizations.

4.3 Prioritize Environmental Remediation Actions for GHG Benefits

Place higher priority on reclamation and remediation actions that improve the uptake of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and reduce GHG emissions, such as revegetation of disturbed sites with site-appropriate cover crops or native vegetation.

4.4 Preserve and Expand Wetlands for Carbon Sequestration

Preserve and expand wetlands to increase biodiversity and improve carbon sequestration.

AFW 5. AGRICULTURE—FARMING PRACTICES

5.1 Increase On-Farm Energy Production and Efficiency

Renewable energy can be produced and used on site at agriculture operations. For example, installing solar or wind power; using hydro-powered generators for irrigation; converting diesel farm equipment to liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, or hybrid technology; increasing on-farm use of biofuels and other renewables; expanding farm energy audit programs; and updating machinery, equipment, and engines will reduce CO₂ emissions by displacing the use of fossil-based fuels.

5.2 Organic Farming

Promote organic farming for its lower-intensity practices and non-use of pesticides and fertilizer, which can off-gas GHGs, and emphasize adding carbon-rich compost to soils and less tillage, all resulting in higher soil carbon.

5.3 Programs to Support Local Farming/Buy Local Programs

Promote the production and consumption of locally produced agricultural goods, including transportation and heating fuel and plastics, which displace the consumption of those transported from other states or countries. GHG reductions occur from reduced transportation-related emissions.

Encourage increased beneficial agricultural uses and buying local programs to meet food needs of residents and institutions.

5.4 Promotion of Urban Agriculture

Promote participation in urban agriculture programs that reduce GHGs by sequestering carbon and reduce cooling costs by mitigating urban heat islands. Promote all forms of urban agriculture and intensification of plant density in urban settings through community gardens, backyard gardens, and green roofs. Programs also reduce transportation-related emissions by reducing food miles for urban consumers. Promote urban agriculture on vacant or abandoned lands. Need to be sensitive to greenbelt taxing issues.

5.5 Promotion of Farming Practices That Achieve GHG Benefits

Provide incentives to farmers for using production processes that achieve net GHG benefits, for example, by using biotech crops or some organic farming practices that could achieve reduced GHG emissions compared with conventional farming, depending on the specific practices implemented (e.g., use of no-till cultivation and fewer chemical inputs).

AFW-6. FORESTRY—BIOMASS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

6.1 Forest Protection—Reduced Clearing and Conversion to Non-Forest Cover

Reduce the rate at which existing forests are cleared and converted to developed uses. Much of the carbon stored in forest biomass and soils can be lost as a result of such a land-use conversion. Easements can be used to do this as well as conservation programs.

6.2 Urban Forestry

Maintain and improve the health and longevity of trees in urban and residential areas to protect and enhance the carbon stored in tree biomass. Indirect emission reductions may also occur by reducing heating and cooling needs as a result of planting shade trees. Promote use of software programs that

can be used by cities and communities to track urban forestry. Need to be sensitive to greenbelt taxing issues.

6.3 Reforestation of Understocked Forest Land

Re-establish trees, at appropriate spacing, on forested land that is currently understocked. Interplant stands that are currently thinner than carrying capacity to increase biomass and diversify age classes. Avoid planting monocultures to minimize the risk of insect and disease, while increasing the habitat value for wildlife and overall biodiversity. Favor the planting of native trees appropriate to habitat type and local climate conditions. Consider future climate trends and plant species most able to adapt and thrive over changing conditions.

6.4 Afforestation and/or Restoration of Non-Forested Land

Establish forests on land that has not historically been forested (e.g., agricultural land—“afforestation”). Promote forest cover and associated carbon stocks by regenerating or establishing forests in areas with little or no present forest cover (“reforestation”). In addition, implement such practices as soil preparation, erosion control, and stand stocking to ensure conditions that support forest growth.

6.5 Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration

Forest management activities that promote forest productivity and increase the rate of CO₂ sequestration in forest biomass and soils and in harvested wood products. Practices may include increased stocking of poorly stocked lands, age extension of managed stands, thinning and density management, fertilization and waste recycling, expansion of short-rotation woody crops (for fiber and energy), expanded use of genetically preferred species, modified biomass removal practices, fire management and risk reduction, and pest and disease management.

6.6 Mitigation of Forest Carbon Sequestration Loss and Emissions Due to Wildfire

Programs that reduce the potential for and severity of wildfires also reduce GHG emissions by lowering the forest carbon lost during the fire in addition to the subsequent losses of carbon sequestration potential in the area impacted by wildfire. Prescribed fires may increase carbon in soil. Mechanical removal of biomass may provide sources of biomass that can be used for conversion to energy.

6.7 Mitigation of Forest Loss Due to Insects and Disease

Programs that reduce insect damage to forests also reduce GHG emissions by maintaining the carbon sequestration achieved in healthy forests.

6.8 Silvicultural and Technology Improvements

Adoption of water conservation, improved harvesting technology, such as improved equipment, and other GHG-reducing agricultural practices that can be applied to silviculture. Maximize compliance to programs.

6.9 Wildlife Management to Encourage Vegetative Regeneration and Growth

Overpopulations of ungulates (e.g., deer and elk), porcupines, and other wildlife that consume or injure young tree and shrubs can have a significant impact on regeneration and riparian (streamside and wetland) vegetation. Measures to effectively control populations and avoid concentration of animals in sensitive locations can allow regeneration and growth of important species, thus increasing the above-ground biomass and its ability to sequester carbon.

New studies suggest that reintroduction of top predators (especially wolves and cougars) improves undergrowth and riparian vegetation due to trophic cascade effects. Predators keep wild ungulates more wary and cause them to move more frequently, reducing the concentrated impacts of continual grazing. Wildlife numbers, particularly in ungulate populations, are somewhat reduced, which also decreases the impact of browsing on emerging vegetation. Overall biodiversity is significantly increased, improving the vegetative health and resiliency of wildlands.

AFW-7. FORESTRY—WOOD PRODUCTS AND WASTE**7.1 Improved Mill Waste Recovery—Utilization of Sawmill Residues and Emissions**

Improve treatment and cleaning of waste materials from paper mills, which can then be reused to manufacture additional wood products. Ensure that sawmill by-products are recycled or beneficially used for energy. Promote opportunities for using mill CO₂ emissions to create chemical products, such as carbonates. This option links to 1.1 (Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity, Heat, and Steam Production) and 1.3 (Improved Energy Capture from Wood Waste and Biomass Combustion).

7.2 Improved Logging and Other Residue Recovery

Use more efficient logging methods to fully utilize harvested trees, which will minimize carbon losses from wood damaged during harvesting and maximize the potential for carbon sequestration in harvested wood products. Process the logging remains efficiently minimizing waste.

7.3 Expanded Use of New, Reused, and Recycled Wood Products for Building Materials

Increase the amount of renewable wood products used for residential and commercial building. Using wood products in place of other building materials can increase carbon sequestration in wood products and displace GHG emissions associated with processing high-energy input materials, such as steel, plastic, and concrete. Reduction potential is enhanced by promoting the use of locally

grown wood because it has lower transport-associated emissions. Promote utilization of recycled or reusable wood products to reduce wood waste. Encourage certification programs, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to put wood on an equal footing with other materials.

7.4 Promotion of In-State Forestry Products

Promote the production and consumption of locally produced forestry goods, which displace the consumption of those transported from other states or countries. GHG reductions occur from reduced transportation-related emissions.

AFW-8. WASTE MANAGEMENT—WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

8.1 Advanced Recycling and Composting

Increase recycling and reduce waste generation in order to limit GHG emissions associated with landfill methane generation and with the production of raw materials. Increase recycling programs, create new recycling programs, provide incentives for the recycling of construction materials, develop markets for recycled materials, and increase average participation and recovery rates for all existing recycling programs.

8.2 Expanded Use of Municipal Solid Waste and Yard Waste Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity, Heat, and Steam Production

Increase the amount of biomass available for generating electricity and displacing the use of fossil energy sources. Local electricity or steam production yields greatest net energy payoff. Note: This is related to 1.1 (Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity, Heat, and Steam Production).

8.3 Promotion of Bioreactor Technology

A bioreactor landfill is essentially in-landfill composting activity at a Subtitle D sanitary landfill in which liquid, temperature, and air (for aerobic processes) are managed in a controlled manner to achieve rapid stabilization of the food, green-waste, and paper-waste constituents. To optimize the rapid waste stabilization of these wastes, moisture, gas composition, gas flow, and temperature must be carefully maintained and monitored. Bioreactor technology is used to accelerate waste stabilization, enhance gas production and collection, control leaching, reduce volume, and minimize long-term liability of waste.

8.4 Source Reduction Strategies

Reduce the volume of waste from residential, commercial, and government sectors through programs that reduce the generation of wastes. Reduction of generation at the source reduces both landfill emissions and upstream production emissions.

8.5 Resource Management Contracting

Unlike traditional solid waste service contracts, resource management (RM) compensates waste contractors based on performance in achieving an organization's waste reduction goals, rather than the volume of waste disposed. As a result, RM aligns waste contractor incentives with the goals to explore innovative approaches that foster cost-effective resource efficiency through prevention, recycling, and recovery.

8.6 Waste Coal Recapture

Maximize the efficiency of coal by utilizing waste coal.

8.7 Prevent Landfilling of Unprocessed Organic Material

Reduces methane emissions associated with landfilling by reducing the biodegradable fraction of waste emplaced. Recently, an area of focus in the solid waste industry has been in increasing recycling of organic wastes (e.g., lawn and garden waste, food waste, wood, paper, and bio-based plastics) using different conversion technologies, including composting, anaerobic digestion, or hybrids of these technologies.

8.8 Waste Management Feedstocks for Liquid/Gaseous Fuels Production

Use municipal solid waste (MSW) biomass (waste wood, landscape debris, other fiber) to produce liquid or gaseous biofuels for use in transportation or stationary energy needs. For example, these could include cellulosic ethanol feedstocks, biomass gasification feedstocks, etc.

AFW-9. WASTE MANAGEMENT—LANDFILL GAS STRATEGIES**9.1 Flare Landfill Methane at Non-NSPS (smaller) Sites**

Encourage smaller landfills that do not fall under environmental protection New Source Performance Standards to capture and flare methane gas. Flares are used to safely combust toxic and volatile gases from landfills and they convert methane gas, which has a relatively high global warming potential, to CO₂.

9.2 Methane and Biogas Energy Programs

Encourage and promote the use of anaerobic digesters and energy recapture for waste materials other than MSW at landfills (e.g., food processing waste). These projects will help prevent the emission of methane while producing clean energy. Anaerobic digesters make a two-fold contribution to climate protection: the usual unchecked discharge of methane into the atmosphere is prevented, and the burning of fossil fuels is replaced with renewable energy (biogas).

9.3 Landfill Methane Energy Programs

Use the renewable energy created at landfills by anaerobic digesters (methane) to make electric power, space heat, or liquefied natural gas.

AFW-10. WASTE MANAGEMENT—WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

10.1 Energy Efficiency Improvements

Provide incentives for efficiency improvements. Encourage the setup of energy policies, energy audits, and energy cost tracking. Identify and implement energy improvements, such as using energy-efficient equipment and generating on-site power (e.g., solar power).

The term “efficiency improvements” is defined, within the scope of wastewater management activities, as:

- Conversion of secondary aeration processes to fine-bubble diffusion and optimization of oxygen transfer efficiencies.
- Research and development (R&D) of diffuser cleaning protocols.
- R&D to increase removal of chemical oxygen demand in primary treatment tanks and clarifiers.
- Evaluation of steam usage in plant processes and biofilters, optimization of use, and promotion of alternatives.
- R&D of options to optimize denitrification in secondary treatment.

Financial and performance analyses that may be conducted to assist the implementation of this option include:

- Creation of a leveraged state revolving loan fund program to capitalize energy efficiency in municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- Conduct benchmarking of energy use per million gallons treated in state to showcase good and deficient energy performance in this specific climate.

May also include researching ways to use wastewater biomass as an energy source, rather than just as a soil carbon source.

10.2 Lower Waste Water Processing Needs

Develop and implement best practices for lowering water consumption and lowering waste production in the industrial, commercial, and residential sectors. Encourage and create incentives for R&D on methods or technologies to reduce water consumption and waste production. Provide education to reduce water consumption and waste production. Lower water consumption and waste production lead to lower GHG emissions.

10.3 Install Digesters and Turbines or Fuel Cells

Provide incentives to install anaerobic digesters to treat municipal waste and create methane. Install turbines or reciprocating engines to generate electricity from the methane. Reductions occur via methane control and offsetting fossil energy use. Provide incentives to recover heat from wastewater influent or effluent through the use of heat pumps. Investigate opportunities for waste heat recovery from biogas combustion units (turbines, engines, flares).

10.4 Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids for Energy Production

Develop and implement methods for biosolids processing and use as a renewable energy source.— for example, as a renewable fuel to be co-fired with other fuels in existing or new combustion units for the purpose of generating electricity, heat, or steam.

10.5 Algae in Effluent and Bio-oils as Energy Source

Provide financial incentive to research the production of bio-oils from algae or other microorganisms grown in wastewater effluents (which would reduce carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus).

10.6 Utilization of Biosolids as a Fertilizer Substitute

Promote the use of residual biosolids from wastewater treatment plants on farms in order to replace fossil-derived fertilizers.