

Update on Climate Action Reserve Agriculture Protocol Development



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C-AGG Meeting
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Background on the Climate Action Reserve



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- Chartered by California state legislation in 2001
 - Mission is to encourage early actions to reduce emissions and to have such emissions reductions recognized
 - Initially focused on emission reporting and reductions by member organizations in California
- Now a North American program focused on emission reduction projects generating offsets
- Balances business, government, academic, and environmental interests



What We Do

- Develop High Quality Standards
 - Convene stakeholders and lead development of standardized protocols for carbon offset projects
- Manage Independent Third Party Verification
 - Training and oversight of independent verification bodies
- Operate a Transparent Registry System
 - Maintain registry of approved projects
 - Issue and track serialized credits



Protocol Development Goals

- Develop a standardized approach for quantifying, monitoring and verifying GHG reductions
 - Research industry trends in adoption of GHG reducing practices
 - Set criteria and reference points based on industry trends
 - Provide specific tools for quantifying emissions
 - Detailed and specific monitoring requirements
 - Train verifiers with a consistent set of protocol-specific standards
- Maintain consistency with or improve upon existing methodologies
- Balance accuracy, conservativeness, and practicality



Protocol Development Process

1. Internal research and scoping
2. Public scoping meeting(s)
3. Multi-stakeholder workgroup formation
4. The Reserve drafts a preliminary protocol
5. Draft protocol considered by workgroup
 - Provides technical expertise and practitioner experience
 - Period meetings and individual consultation when needed
6. Revised draft protocol released for public comment
7. Public workshop(s)
8. Final version adoption by Reserve board in public session



Agriculture Protocol Scoping

- Conducted internal scoping research (throughout 2010)
- Developed and published three issue briefs Oct 2010
 - Options for Determining Additionality of Agriculture Projects
 - Quantification Options for Agriculture Protocols
 - Options for Managing CO₂ Reversals
- Held three public scoping meetings in Oct 2010
 - Chicago, IL, Modesto, CA, Washington, DC
- Decided to move forward with developing three new agriculture protocols



New Agriculture Protocols

- Rice Cultivation Project Protocol: CH₄ reduction
 - Changes in water management, e.g., winter flooding, mid-season draining, and/or drill-seeding
 - Changes in residue management, e.g., baling or incorporation
- Cropland Management Project Protocol: CO₂ reduction
 - Change in management, e.g., use of continuous no-till, cover crops, fallow management...
 - Conversion of cropland to a new use (grassland or pasture)
- Nutrient Management Project Protocol: N₂O reduction
 - Changes in rate, type, timing, and/or placement of fertilizer

Rice Cultivation Project Protocol (RCPP)



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- Workgroup established December 2010
- Kick-off meeting held February 7, 2011
- Background papers
 - Performance Standard Research (**April**)
 - DNDC Uncertainty Analysis and Modeling Guidelines (**May**)
- Next workgroup meeting: TBD
- Final protocol completed this winter (2011)

Cropland Management Project Protocol (CMPP)



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- Workgroup established December 2010
- Kick-off meeting held February 9, 2011
- Background papers
 - Cropland Soil Carbon Offset Methodology Synthesis (**completed**)
 - Performance Standard Research (**draft available soon**)
 - Analysis of GHG Accounting Boundary and Leakage (**May**)
 - Analysis of the Application of Process Models (**May**)
- Next workgroup meeting: April 7, 2011 at 10 am PST
- Protocol completed early next spring (2012)

Nutrient Management Project Protocol (NMPP)



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- Workgroup established December 2010
- Kick-off meeting will be held in late April/early May
- Background papers
 - Nutrient Management Methodology Synthesis (**completed**)
 - Protocol Development Research (**June**)
 - Performance Standard Research
 - Analysis of GHG Accounting Boundary and Leakage
 - Analysis of Quantification Approaches
- Protocol completed early next spring (2012)



Open Development Process

- Transparency is an important principle
- Significant interest in agriculture workgroup involvement
- We are striving for completely open development process:
 - Each agriculture protocol has a website with meeting logistics
 - Background papers , slides, agendas, & other materials posted
 - Workgroup meetings open to the public in real time (listen-only)
 - After the meetings a video recording of webinars is posted (if technically feasible)

Agriculture Protocol Development Websites



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- Agriculture Protocols Overview
 - <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/in-progress/agriculture/>
- Rice Cultivation Project Protocol
 - <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/in-progress/rice-cultivation-project-protocol/>
- Cropland Management Project Protocol
 - <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/in-progress/cropland-management-project-protocol/>
- Nutrient Management Project Protocol
 - <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/in-progress/nutrient-management-project-protocol/>



Science Advisory Committees

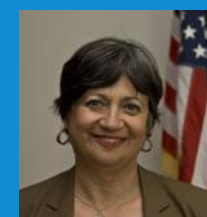
- Purpose: direct scientific review and input in the practical application of current science in the Reserve's agriculture protocols
- Two Science Advisory Committees (SAC)
 - CMPP and NMPP
- Each SAC will advise Reserve staff on:
 - Interpretation of research
 - Evaluation of the technical and scientific merits of offset protocol assumptions
 - Evaluation of quantification methodologies



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Navigating the American Carbon World

- North America's largest carbon event, taking place April 13-15 in Los Angeles
- Speakers include:
 - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
 - Governor Gray Davis
 - CalEPA Secretary Linda Adams
 - CDFA Secretary Karen Ross
 - ARB Chair Mary Nichols
 - US EPA Assistant Administrator Gina McCarthy
 - Chair CEQ Nancy Sutley
- Breakout session: **The Role of Agriculture**
 - 1:30pm – 3:00pm Thursday, April 14



Navigating
the **American**
Carbon World

Contact Information



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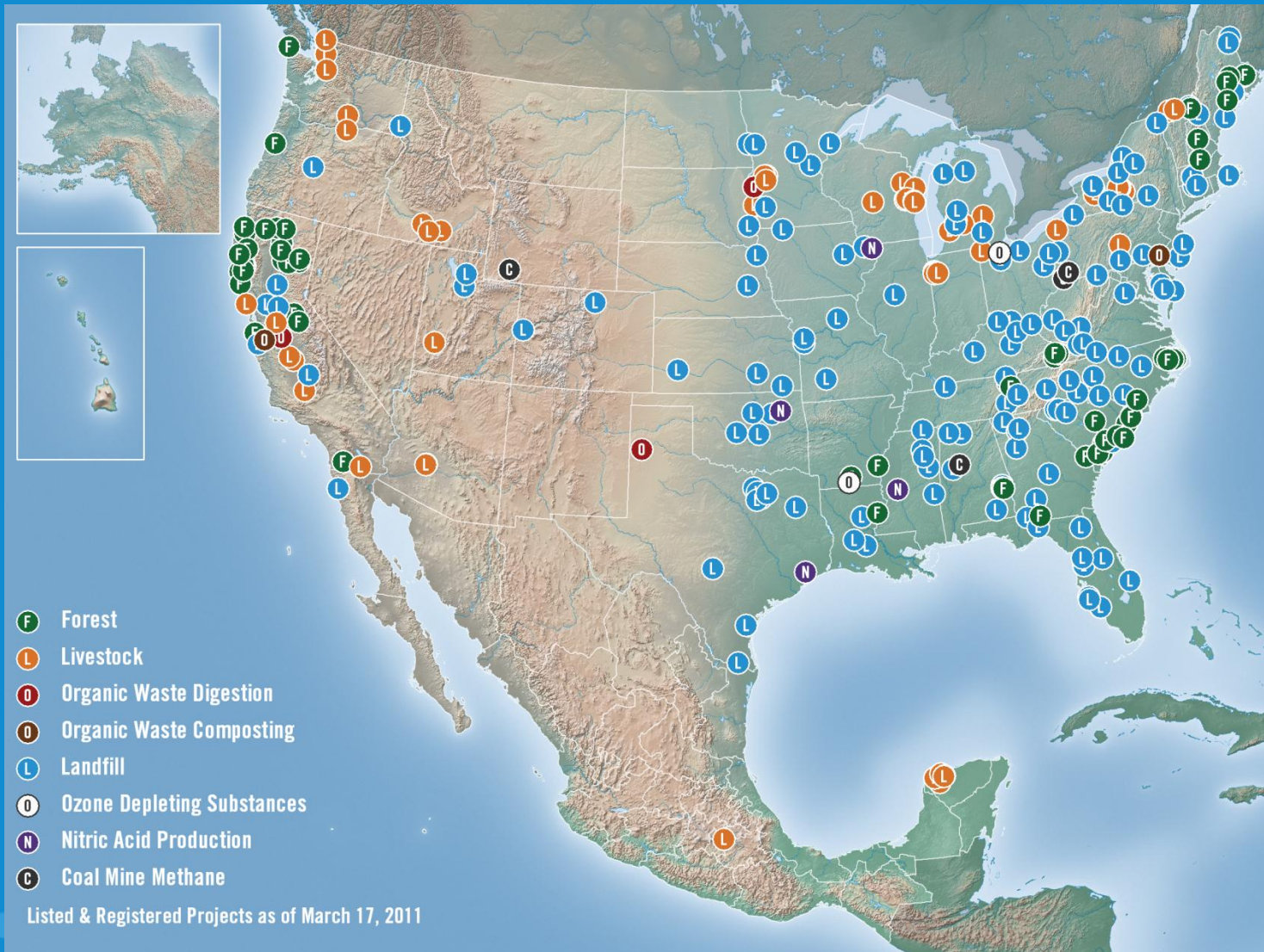
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Listed and Registered Projects





Reserve Stats

- **Over 11.5 million CRTs** registered
 - CRT = “Climate Reserve Ton” = 1 metric ton
- **396 Projects** in the system
 - Projects listed: **201**
 - Projects registered: **85**
 - New projects (not shown on map): **110**



Existing Protocols

- Forestry
 - Improved Forest Management
 - Reforestation
 - Avoided Conversion
- Urban forestry
- Landfill gas capture (US & Mexico)
- Livestock methane capture (US & Mexico)
- Organic waste digestion
- Organic waste composting
- Coal mine methane
- Nitric acid production
- Ozone depleting substances (US & Article 5 sources)