

Update on Climate Action Reserve Agriculture Protocol Development



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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
 - 4 Reserve protocols approved for CA cap & trade program
- 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

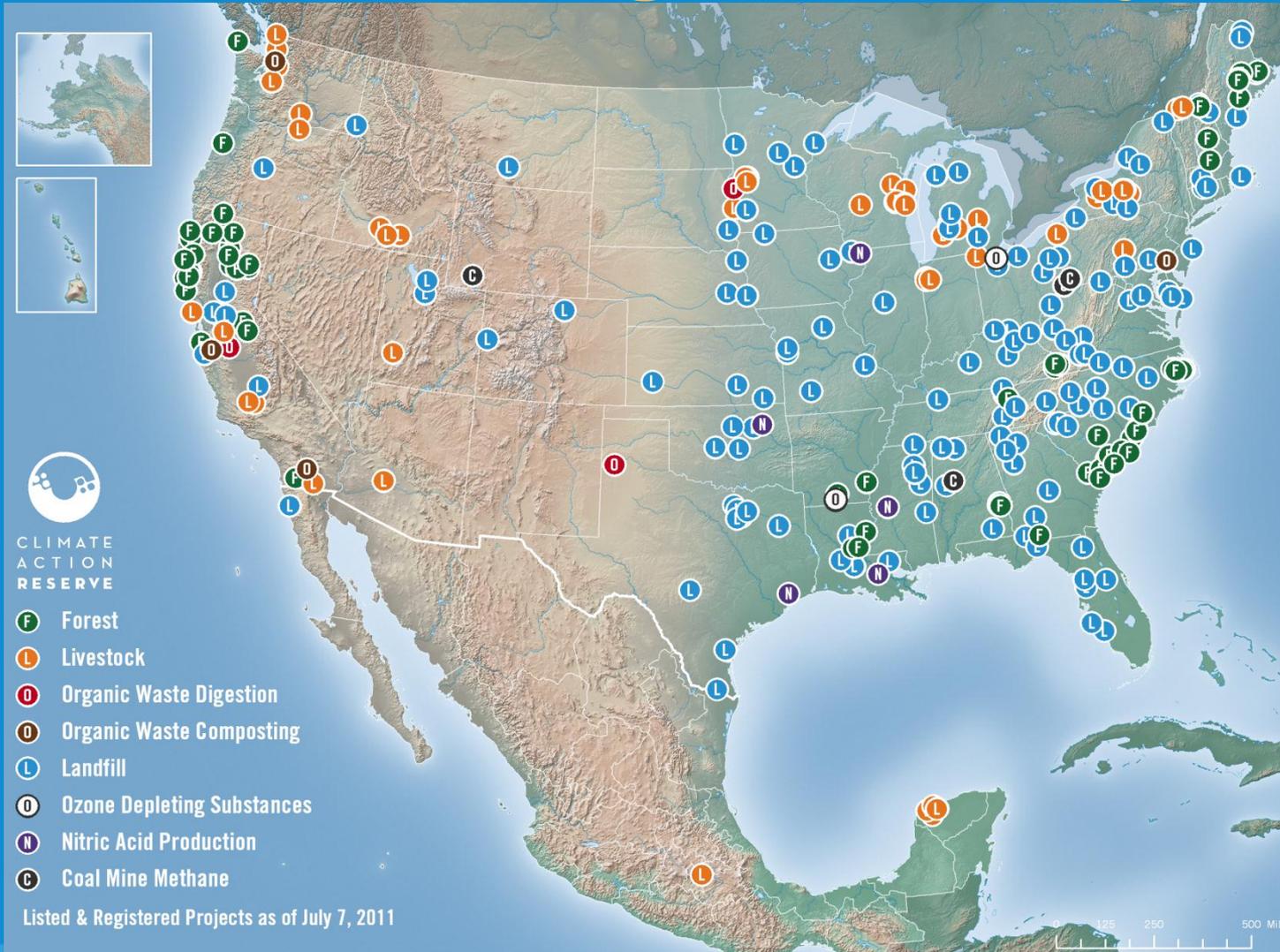
Listed and Registered Projects



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392 Account Holders
98 Projects registered
203 Projects listed
140 New projects

15,326,320 CRTs
issued





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 (performance standards) based on industry trends to address additionality
 - 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
8. Final version adoption by Reserve board in public session



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)



New Agriculture Protocols

- Rice Cultivation Project Protocol: CH_4 reduction
- Nutrient Management Project Protocol: N_2O reduction
- Cropland Management Project Protocol: CO_2 reduction

Rice Cultivation Project Protocol (RCPP)



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- Workgroup assembled (December 2010)
- Three workgroup meetings (Feb 7, May 11, June 6)
- Draft protocol developed and under refinement (June 1 draft available online)
- 30-day public comment period (Sept/Oct 2011)
- Reserve Board adoption (December 2011)

Rice Cultivation Project Protocol (RCPP)



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- Existing DNDC based rice methodology as starting point
- V1.0 will cover California only
- Developing performance standard thresholds for:
 - Mid-season drainage
 - Early drain (possibly)
 - Drill seeding
 - Winter flooding
- Model revalidation & uncertainty calc under development
- Evaluating leakage risks
- Aggregation approach under development
- Developing protocol-specific verification guidance

Nutrient Management Project Protocol (NMPP)



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- Workgroup established (December 2010)
- Held two workgroup meetings (May 18, June 27)
- Held one subcommittee meeting (“stacking”) (June 12)
- Methodology Synthesis (May 6)
- Protocol Development Background Paper (July 22)
- Draft protocol (next week)
- In-person workgroup meeting (Aug 1)
- Science Advisory Committee meeting (Sept 7)
- Public comment period (November 2011)
- Reserve Board adoption (Feb/March 2012)

Nutrient Management Project Protocol (NMPP)



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- Reserve preference is to use biogeochemical process model to quantify GHG emissions
- Have a conceptual framework for the performance standard (covered in detail on June 27 call)
- Nitrogen rate reductions and BMPs potentially eligible
- Flexibility built in for anomalous sites and bad years
- Baseline for GHG reduction quantification is site-specific (not equal to performance standard)
- Exploring how to assess additionality when multiple ecosystem credits can be earned for the same practice implemented voluntarily

Cropland Management Project Protocol (CMPP)



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- Workgroup established (December 2010)
- Two workgroup meetings (Feb 9, April 7)
- Background papers
 - Methodology Synthesis (March 10)
 - Additionality Research (working draft posted April 1)
 - Analysis of GHG Accounting Boundary and Leakage (June 17)
- Protocol development postponed until Fall 2011
 - New data on no-till adoption indicate high degree of use already
 - Do not know how common “continuous” no-till is (T-AGG research underway may inform GHG potential)
 - Significant interest in cover crop adoption; we’ll be collecting data on common practice under NMPP development process

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/>
- Nutrient Management Project Protocol
 - <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/in-progress/nutrient-management-project-protocol/>
- Cropland Management Project Protocol
 - <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/how/protocols/in-progress/cropland-management-project-protocol/>



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