



**Oregon**  
Department  
of Agriculture

Director's Office  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**E.O. 20-04**  
**CLIMATE REPORT**



**June 1, 2020**



June 1, 2020

The Honorable Kate Brown  
Governor of Oregon  
900 Court Street, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown:

Oregon Department of Agriculture submits the attached E.O. 20-04 Climate Report. Oregon's farmers, ranchers, fishers, and agricultural workers are facing the challenges of the changing climate. This report lays out where ODA can take action to help the state achieve the greenhouse gas (GHG) goals set forward in E.O. 20-04. The top-line recommendation is to establish a baseline of scientific understanding and data on Oregon's working lands mitigation and adaptation capacity.

Oregonians strive to protect soils and water systems to ensure opportunities for future generations and healthy ecosystems. As science, technology, and academia evolve, so do agricultural practices. As efficiencies and lower GHG intensive options become readily available, Oregon's agriculturalists continue to adopt current methods and technologies.

A successful Oregon response to mitigating and adapting to changes in climate will require the cooperation and coordination of all state agencies, federal partners, and industry partners. ODA is committed to being a productive and participating partner in achieving the goals of the climate goals set forward in E.O. 20-04.

Serving agriculture in Oregon is a privilege. Our actions have direct impacts on the communities we serve and promote. I am glad to support efforts to assist farmers and ranchers in navigating the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,

Alexis M. Taylor  
Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture

# Oregon Department of Agriculture E.O. 20-04 Climate Report

Governor Kate Brown, Oregon  
June 1, 2020

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## Introduction and Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) demonstrates leadership across Oregon to local food systems, production agriculture, livestock husbandry, aquaculture, natural resources, and related sectors. That leadership is rooted in sound public policy, best available science, and efficient management. ODA's vision statement calls upon our department to remain "able to serve the changing needs of Oregon's diverse agricultural and food sectors to maintain and enhance a healthy natural resource base and a strong economy in rural and urban communities across the state." Climate change has the potential to confound ODA's efforts to meet these core obligations and responsibilities to every Oregonian.

The economic vitality, equity, and quality of life in rural Oregon depend on a financially healthy agricultural system and access to agricultural markets locally, domestically, and internationally. These increasingly sophisticated consumer markets recognize products from Oregon to be high quality and safe to consume. Climate change adaptation is essential to sustain these competitive capabilities in diverse and competitive markets.

Oregon agriculture contributes \$50 billion to Oregon's economy and employs 13.5% of Oregon's workforce; 96.7% of Oregon's farms are family-owned, and 44% of Oregon's agricultural producers are women. Oregon agriculture spans 16 million acres in Oregon, cultivates over 225 unique crops, and is the top producer of 12 crops nationally. This diversity is an Oregon strength. Nursery and greenhouse products, cattle and calves, and hay production are Oregon's top agricultural economic drivers. The 37,000-plus diverse farms are vital to Oregon culturally, environmentally, and economically. Climate impacts are variabilities that challenge every aspect of Oregon's agricultural sector.

Changing temperatures and precipitation patterns, compound and alter pest pressures, crop maturation, and livestock productivity. Oregon's agriculturalists are already experiencing increased disturbances from pest-related losses, prolonged drought, and changing growing seasons.

Changes in land use, cropping, and management affect the release of greenhouse gases (GHG), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) into the atmosphere. Productive lands serve as a sink for the absorption and sequestration of GHG back into plants and soils. ODA has made strong public commitments to support Oregon's farmers and ranchers to be stewards of the land for today and tomorrow.

ODA is well-positioned to respond to the request of the Governor's Executive Order 20-04. ODA's Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 (Appendix B) provides a robust foundation for climate change adaptation and mitigation planning. All seven key objectives of ODA's Strategic Plan can be applied to articulate the opportunities and challenges associated with the State's GHG emission reduction goals, climate change adaptation, and mitigation planning. The Strategic Plan calls for ODA to capitalize on opportunities to "Ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future."

## Establishing a Baseline

Goal setting and instituting metrics to measure success demand a baseline knowledge of the fundamental components of any system. When examining the climate impacts of working lands, a comprehensive study is required to establish a known baseline of all mitigating and contributing factors. Effective actions that are founded on a firm baseline of understanding will drive how changes in public policy, agricultural practices, and regulatory incentives yield the results intended.

The recommendations in this report rely on current understanding and knowledge. To fully consider climate policy on working lands, the up-front investment in research will provide a roadmap to all future decision points. ODA's top recommendation is to conduct cross-cutting research that considers but is not limited to soil health and carbon sequestration, sequestration capacity of crop types and patterns, agricultural and animal husbandry practices, and economic factors of decision making.

A complete understanding of these fundamental factors will shape policy decisions across all four key elements laid out in EO 20-04. Oregon is a diverse agricultural state for crops because Oregon's soil profiles are as uniquely diverse. Oregon has the potential to lead the world in understanding how soil health and land management can be a positive factor in responding to and developing resiliency in the global food supply chain. ODA recommends funding baseline research in the 2021 Legislative Session to achieve the state's GHG goals.

## Four Key Elements

The impacts of climate change challenge the mission, operations, and programs of nearly every state agency, and ODA is no exception. Ensuring that ODA has the capacity to execute its missions and maintain essential services in the face of climate change is essential. Addressing climate change will require preparation by ODA in four key areas described in Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04, which are discussed below.

### ***Executive Order 20-04 - Directing State Agencies to Take Actions to Reduce and Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions***

E.O. 20-04 directed state agencies to deliver a report to Governor Kate Brown on proposed actions within their statutory authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts. This Executive Order called upon state agencies to prioritize agency operations and to consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the State's GHG reduction goals into four key elements: planning, budgets, investments, and policy decisions.

This section outlines ODA's proposed actions and identifies opportunities to achieve the intent of E.O. 20-04. ODA's structure consists of six Program areas, each with their independent missions, authorities, and responsibilities. This report reflects the cross-cutting activities of all the Program Areas working collectively and in synergy to support the activities that help Oregon achieve its



climate goals. The roles and responsibilities of these Program Areas are listed in Appendix A.

## **Planning**

### *Stakeholder engagement*

One of ODA's priority strategic plan objectives is clear, concise, and inclusive communications with stakeholders. ODA routinely has engaged stakeholders in conversations about climate change mitigation and adaptation over the past decade. Discussion topics have ranged from carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction opportunities on natural and working lands to how to address increasing shellfish and crab biotoxin events on the Oregon coast. Recently, as ODA developed the agency's legislative concepts and policy option packages, we highlighted the nexus of climate change mitigation/adaptation within our existing work and the vision for our future. Moving forward as ODA engages stakeholders through existing program advisory committees and outreach, consideration will be given to how ODA can continue to integrate climate considerations into existing ODA programs.

ODA works in partnership with the Environmental Justice Task Force to ensure that the agency is inclusive of Environmental Justice (EJ) communities as it conducts its work, and evaluates the impact of its work on EJ communities. ODA also participates in the Natural Resources and Cultural Resources Working Groups to facilitate communication between state agencies and Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes. Dialogue among all partners includes and expands on how ODA's existing and planned priorities intersect with climate change and how to integrate the lenses of all impacted communities. ODA works collaboratively with impacted communities including farmworker community partners, conservation stakeholders, and partners in rural communities.

ODA is currently participating in the development of the new statewide Climate Change Adaptation Framework coordinated by the Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD). Part of the Framework will include a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Blueprint for all state agencies to use as Oregon implements climate adaptation planning. ODA will use this Blueprint to identify impacted communities who may have an interest in, or be affected by, our climate change adaptation work. This will allow us to proactively reach out to impacted communities as we implement adaptation actions.

### *Prioritizing work with a climate nexus*

The strength of an agency's response to mitigate and increase resilience capacity is a unifying intent. ODA will develop an agency-wide policy to add climate mitigation and adaptation lens to all work and engagement done by the agency. The policy will be consistent with The Board of Agriculture's Climate resolution in Appendix C. This policy will direct future rulemakings, policy considerations, and stakeholder engagement to consider how the actions and decision making of ODA can contribute to Oregon's GHG reduction goals.

For our existing programs that have a natural connection to climate mitigation and adaptation, ODA will apply the climate lens when prioritizing the location of work in those programs. For example, we

will explore adding carbon sequestration potential as a consideration in some of our geographically-based water quality work; and will add climate change mitigation and adaptation in how we prioritize our invasive species work.

### ***Allocating staff resources to work with a climate nexus***

ODA continues to prioritize staff resources to a variety of workgroups in the state with significant connections to climate change. We are a collaborative agency in the climate change adaptation framework led by DLCD, the Oregon Global Warming Commission, the Natural and Working Lands workgroup and Learning Labs, the Wildfire Task Force, and Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Task Force, and the Drought Council. ODA staff engage in Place-Based Planning for water resources, where the impacts of climate change on Oregon's water systems remains a significant topic and focus of the work.

As ODA integrates additional climate consideration into our work, staff will be able to leverage that lens and apply a climate nexus to their work. This work could relate to water supply planning and promotion of water use efficiency; promotion of practices that improve soil health and engagement in collaborative work around soil health; preparation for and participation in emergency response to climate change-related disasters; participation in the interagency workgroup created by E.O. 20-04 on climate impacts to impacted communities; and engagement in prevention and mitigation efforts related to both inland and coastal harmful algal blooms.

ODA is a strategic and critical partner in the work set forward by E.O. 20-24 to the Oregon Global Warming Commission, to assist and consult on a proposal related to carbon sequestration and storage on natural and working landscapes. ODA is committed, as resources permit, to the success of partner agencies under E.O. 20-04, and contribute to additional adaptation plans and strategies that affect agriculture and natural resources.

### ***Agency facilities and operations***

ODA has collaborated with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and energy efficiency experts for several years to identify energy efficiency opportunities in our agency facilities and operations. Recently, we have updated our agency sustainability plan to include energy efficiency goals and describe other sustainability opportunities that we plan to pursue. ODA's 2019-2020 Sustainability Plan includes a variety of internal actions that support climate change mitigation, including actions that reduce the agency's energy use and food waste generation.

The ODA Sustainability Workgroup consists of a team of staff that provided input into our most recent plan update. The workgroup remains active and continues its education and staff engagement work, as well as work with ODA leadership, facilities, and procurement, to support climate change mitigation efforts.

Current discussions to update the ODA Sustainability Plan include focusing on:

- Waste Diversion (food waste, single-use plastics)
- Reducing Electricity Consumption (plug load strategy, light bulb replacement with LEDs),
- Fleet/Reducing Fuel Use (exploring electric car purchase/charging station installation, telecommute/remote meeting guidance, regional staff training to perform more services locally), and
- Green Purchasing (office supplies, catering vendors, agency tokens/educational items for distribution at fairs/training/conferences) along with related agency policies.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are experiencing a temporary reduction in several types of energy use related to agency operations. A significant portion of ODA's workforce is currently telecommuting, causing a reduction in commute-related fuel use and water consumption in the ODA building. In addition, while we continue to conduct regulatory inspections, we converted in-person meetings with partner agencies, organizations, and stakeholders to virtual meetings, reducing both ODA and our partners' travel-related fuel consumption.

In-person meetings and staff commuting to offices around the state will increase as Oregonians return to the workplace. There is an opportunity to capitalize on the lessons learned. ODA plans to work with our administrative services sections, including IT, Human Resources, Facilities, and Fleet, to identify tools to make telecommuting a more long-term possibility for the agency. Technology-based collaborative tools demonstrate a successful and meaningful method to help achieve the state's GHG reduction goals.

## **Budgets**

Many of ODA's budgeted programs, directly and indirectly, support climate change mitigation and adaptation in Oregon agriculture. Existing budgeted ODA programs that connect closely with mitigation and adaptation include our land use policy work, ag water quality program, invasive species programs, certification programs, water quantity work, and shellfish programs. In addition, our market access programs help support a strong agricultural economy in both urban and rural counties and help to keep productive agricultural land in agricultural use and protect it from development.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation is a key consideration in the development of our Policy Option Packages (POPs) for the 21-23 budgeting process.

Currently, ODA's POPs with a climate change connection include the following:

- Collaborative work with OSU to research soil health and carbon sequestration potential in agriculture. OSU is already collaborating with federal partners to build a profile of soil health in the state and we look forward to supporting additional work to establish a baseline of soil health.
- Creation of a soil health position within ODA to promote soil health to the ag community and collaborate with other organizations promoting soil health.
- Expand water quality improvement work in strategic areas. The Agricultural Water Quality



Program supports both mitigation and adaptation, protecting water quality for sensitive aquatic species and supporting streamside vegetation restoration that sequesters carbon.

- Research to support reduced nitrous oxide emissions through groundwater management area water quality improvements and fertilizer use efficiency.
- Coordinator to improve Oregon's early detection of and rapid response to aquatic noxious weeds and other invasive aquatic species.
- Coordinator to help Oregon's shellfish industry identify additional shellfish growing areas and apply to grow shellfish in existing areas.
- Promote local business opportunities for agriculture and food producers that can help reduce transportation miles, localize economic activity in rural communities, and help keep agricultural land in agricultural production.
- Create a generalist inspector pool. These staff could cover certain activities that existing specialized staff must travel long distances to complete, reducing travel-related greenhouse gas emissions.

## Investments

Within the budget categories established in ODA's legislatively adopted budget, there are several opportunities to prioritize investments in ways that support climate change mitigation and adaptation. ODA has already invested in infrastructure and management systems that facilitate telecommuting and virtual meetings; these investments have led to a relatively smooth transition for our staff who are working at home and meeting remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, ODA has been working with DAS to evaluate an opportunity to relocate our laboratories and workspaces in an energy-efficient facility that is specifically designed to meet the unique needs of laboratories.

As resources allow, ODA plans to continue supporting the following types of investments to help our agency mitigate and adapt to changing climate conditions:

- Prioritize investments that support virtual meetings and virtual collaboration, including project management tools, video conferencing hardware and services, and databases/services that track program metrics and performance in the aggregate.
- Invest in staff training that supports teleworking and continues and enhances the agency's excellent track record of customer service.
- Continue to replace fleet vehicles with more fuel-efficient models; research installation of an electric vehicle charging station.
- Continue to explore the relocation of the agency's laboratories and other services in an energy-efficient facility.
- Continue to procure technology from companies that prioritize climate impact reductions.

## Policy decisions

ODA administers several programs that naturally have a climate nexus, and a variety of ODA policies support climate change mitigation and adaptation both directly and indirectly. The Board of Agriculture, a 10-member board that advises ODA on policy issues and advocates for the state's agriculture industry, in December 2019 adopted a new resolution on 'Climate Change Policy Considerations.' The resolution recommends that any climate change policies 1) provide voluntary incentives for agriculture to mitigate and adapt to climate change; 2) recognize agriculture's positive environmental and economic impacts; 3) provide exemptions and compliance time frames to minimize adverse impacts to input costs and companion industries; 4) support research into additional strategies; and 5) support long-term planning, resource allocation, and policy changes to help the state adapt to climate change. A full copy of the resolution can be found in Appendix C.

ODA will conduct the following policy reviews to ensure consistency with Executive Order 20-04.

- Review internal policies through the lens of climate change mitigation and adaptation and revise, as appropriate, policies guiding the planning, budgeting, and investment elements above.
- Add climate change mitigation/adaptation as a consideration in the agency's grant review and award decisions. This includes grants that may be awarded by other agencies but that ODA has an administrative/oversight role, including the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and noxious weed grants.
- When prioritizing legislative concepts for submission, consider any effects on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## Coordination, Implementation, and Cross-Cutting Activities

A successful response to climate change demands the coordination of all state agencies, federal partners, and industry stakeholders. Climate change presents new challenges for partners. ODA is committed to being a productive and participating partner in achieving the goals set forward in E.O. 20-04. Examining ODA's internal structure calls for a collaborative effort across all six Program Areas central to ODA's success.

A focus on inter-agency coordination helps reduce duplicating efforts, reduces obstacles, and provides an agency-wide climate lens. To achieve this goal, it is beneficial to improve communication and awareness at all levels. Coordinating efforts include:

- Elevate climate-change collaboration to an ODA-wide priority to promote a greater consciousness about the need to help achieve the State's GHG reduction goals.
- Analyze current workgroups, management teams, and areas of work to increase climate awareness and support investments to facilitate this effort.
- When appropriate, engage with outside stakeholders to identify opportunities for public-private efforts to help achieve the State's GHG reduction goals.
- Harmonize data and increase the availability of documents, knowledge, and opportunities to all Program Areas.

- Purchase technology and resources from climate-conscious companies.
- Analyze opportunities for telework to reduce staff commute time, duration, and congestion factors.
- Establish an ODA inspector pool of cross-trained specialists who can reduce travel by responding to seasonal work in their communities.

Awareness is the first step toward ensuring successful coordination. The cross-cutting activities outlined in this report demonstrate how each Program Area in ODA will conduct its work across program and policy areas and as part of the greater ODA ecosystem.

No single pathway to implementation is proposed in this report. This report outlines a comprehensive perspective of ODA's work and our developing opportunities to support the State's GHG reduction goals set forward in E.O. 20-04. The report underscores the need to provide ODA with the necessary tools, resources, and funding to support Oregon's agricultural needs and opportunities under a changing climate. Establishing a baseline of knowledge and data will help ODA and the State in policy decision making. It is a priority for ODA to continually explore ways to implement and incorporate the available scientifically supported programmatic options to execute responsible climate mitigation and adaptive measures.

## Appendix A

### Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Areas

The 1931 Oregon Legislature consolidated thirteen separate boards, bureaus, and commissions to form the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Today, the department is comprised of the following program areas:

#### *Food Safety & Animal Health*

- Inspect all facets of Oregon’s food distribution system (except restaurants) to ensure food is safe for consumption, protect, and maintain animal health.
- Ensure animal feeds meet nutritional and labeling standards.
- Protect livestock health.
- Deny a market for stolen livestock through brand inspections.

#### *Natural Resources*

- Address water quality, water quantity, and natural resource conservation on agricultural lands.
- Assure the proper use of pesticides, labeling, and sale of fertilizer.

#### *Plant Protection & Conservation*

- Protect Oregon’s agricultural industries and natural environment from harmful plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds.
- Enhance the value and marketability of exported nursery stock, Christmas trees, seeds, and other agricultural products.
- Further the conservation of threatened and endangered plants.

#### *Market Access & Certification*

- Help Oregon’s agricultural producers successfully add value, sell, and ship products to local, national, and international markets by promoting and creating demand for products through marketing activities, inspection, and certification.
- Control field burning in the Willamette Valley through outreach efforts, compliance, monitoring, and coordination with other natural resource agencies

#### *Internal Service & Consumer Protection*

- Provide consumer protection and fair competition among businesses while facilitating interstate commerce and international trade by ensuring the accuracy and uniformity of Oregon’s Commercial Weighing System and the quality of motor fuels sold in Oregon.
- Provide laboratory analysis and technical support to ODA’s enforcement programs.
- Administer programs dealing with wolf depredation compensation and egg-laying hen cage space.

#### *Administration & Support*

- Provides department-wide services that support the department and program areas.
  - » Budgeting
  - » Business-related services
  - » Communications (external & internal)
  - » Government relations
  - » Human resources
  - » Information technology

## Appendix B



# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY | 2018-2023

### MISSION

Ensure healthy natural resources, environment, and economy for Oregonians now and in the future through inspection and certification, regulation, and promotion of agriculture and food.

### VISION

The Oregon Department of Agriculture remains able to serve the changing needs of Oregon's diverse agricultural and food sectors to maintain and enhance a healthy natural resource base and strong economy in rural and urban communities across the state.



#### OBJECTIVE 1: ROLE MODEL ORGANIZATION

- Be adaptive
- Achieve operational objectives and goals
- Provide quality work products and services



#### OBJECTIVE 2: CULTURE OF COMPLIANCE & SUPPORT

- Provide education and outreach with a regulatory backstop
- Use progressive compliance strategies



#### OBJECTIVE 3: CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

- Engage interested parties
- Respect all view points
- Develop and grow partnerships



#### OBJECTIVE 4: FOSTER EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

- Integrate mission and values into daily work
- Support an encouraging work atmosphere
- Provide professional growth opportunities



#### OBJECTIVE 5: EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Embrace, support, and promote the diversity of Oregon agriculture
- Address customers' needs



#### OBJECTIVE 6: CONNECT & PROMOTE OREGON AGRICULTURE

- Raise awareness of opportunities within Oregon agriculture
- Connect Oregonians to Oregon agriculture



#### OBJECTIVE 7: INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION

- Be clear and concise
- Use effective tools
- Be responsive to customers, consumers, and public

#### CORE VALUES

Honesty, integrity,  
and fairness

Diversity, equity,  
and inclusion

Respect for  
people and  
property

Practical  
collaborative  
approaches to  
problem solving

Science-based  
approaches:  
technical and  
professional  
competence

Transparency

Quality  
customer service



## Appendix C

<b>Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Climate Change Policy Considerations	<b>Number:</b> 319 <b>Effective Date:</b> 12/05/2019
<b>Sub-Committee:</b> Brentano, Harper, Kitamura, Myers <b>ODA Staff Contact:</b> Stephanie Page	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 00/00/2022 <b>Date of Last Review/Revision:</b> <b>Original Resolution Date:</b> 12/05/2019
<b>Board Chair:</b> Marty Myers	Signature on file

### Background

WHEREAS, climate change 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.

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, 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, 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Allocate funding for voluntary incentive programs to assist Oregon agriculture in adapting to 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 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.
- 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 some of the projected impacts from climate change.
- Recognize the sequestration opportunities in agriculture and the benefits that longstanding stewardship activities such as protecting the soil, set aside lands with trees, shrubs and plants.

## **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 long-term planning, resource allocation and policy changes to help the state adapt to climate change.