



a project of



Commit. Act. Impact.

Policy at the Farm Level: Unlocking Barriers to Adopting Regenerative Agricultural Practices

June 29, 2020

How many companies have committed?

Justin's



gaia
HERBS

650+

Companies
Committing to Action

2400+

Commitments



Community
FOOD CO OP



Veritable
Vegetable



seventh
generation



MegaFood
Fresh From Farm To Tablet™

nutiva
NURTURE VITALITY™



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

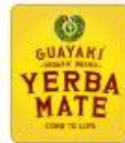
CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE CATALYST



CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE CHAMPIONS



CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE LEADERS



CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE ALLIES



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Alter Eco	Good Earth Natural	Nature's Path Foods	Roplast Industries Inc
Annie's	Foods	New Hope Network	Safe Sterilization USA
Associated Labels and	Griffith Foods	New Morning Market	West
Packaging	Grove Collaborative	Numi Organic Tea	Sambazon
Aurora Organic Dairy	Guayaki	Nutiva	Stonyfield
Cheer Pack N.A.	Happy Family	Organic India	Strategic Rise Partners
Clif Bar & Company	Organics	Organic Valley	Straus Family
Danone North	Harvest Market	Outpost Natural Foods	Creamery
America	INFRA	Perfect Supplements	Studio Fab
Decker and Jessica	Jimbo's Naturally!	Plastic Pollution	Sweet Additions
Rolph	Justin's	Solutions	Tiger Cool Express
Dr. Bronner's	KeHE	Plum Organics	Traditional Medicinals
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Gaia Herbs	Lundberg Family Farms	Pure Strategies	White Leaf Provisions
General Mills	MegaFood	REBBL	Whole Foods Market
gimMe Snacks	MOM's Organic	Rogue Creamery	
	Market		

Our Free Resources



TAKE ACTION ▾

BLOG

MEDIA

RESOURCES

EVENTS

ABOUT

DONATE



RESOURCES

EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES BELOW AND CHECK OUT
OUR THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO CLIMATE ACTION

Step 1: COMMIT | Step 2: ACT | Step 3: IMPACT



Resources for Agriculture
Commitment



Resources for Energy
Efficiency Commitment



Resources for Food
Waste Commitment



Resources

[FAQ](#)

[Videos](#)

[Partners and Solutions Providers](#)

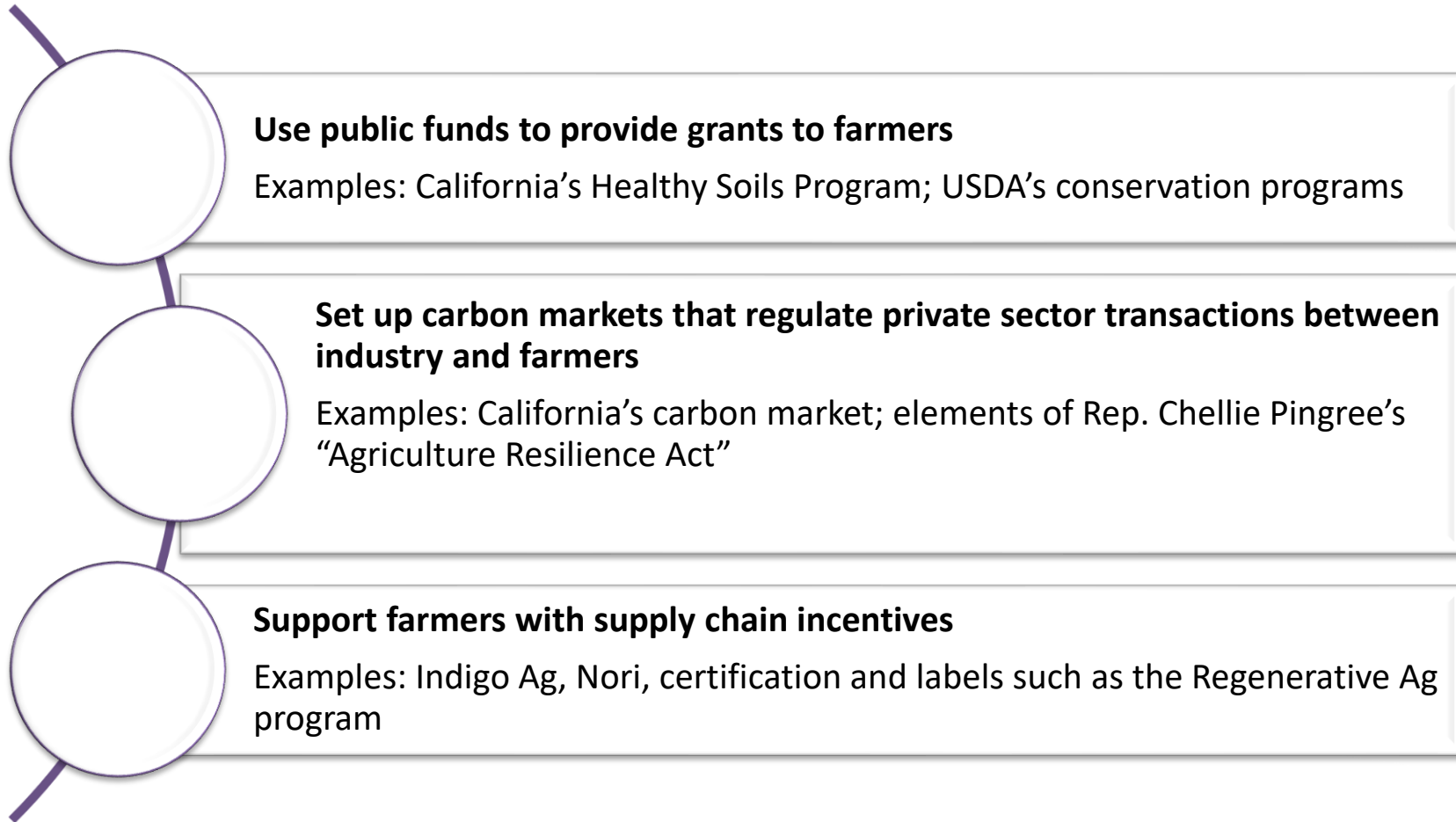
[Case Studies](#)

[Rooted Community Action Group](#)

[ReCAP Action Group](#)



How can we achieve a widespread shift in agriculture towards practices that store carbon and curb CO2 emissions, enhance resilience, and improve community and farmworker health?



Speakers



Moderator: Erin Callahan
Director,
Climate Collaborative



Giana Amador
Co-Founder and Managing Director,
Carbon180



Renata Brillinger
Co-Founder & Executive Director,
California Climate and Agriculture Network
(CalCAN)



Kendra Kimbirauskas
Director of Agriculture
State Innovation Exchange



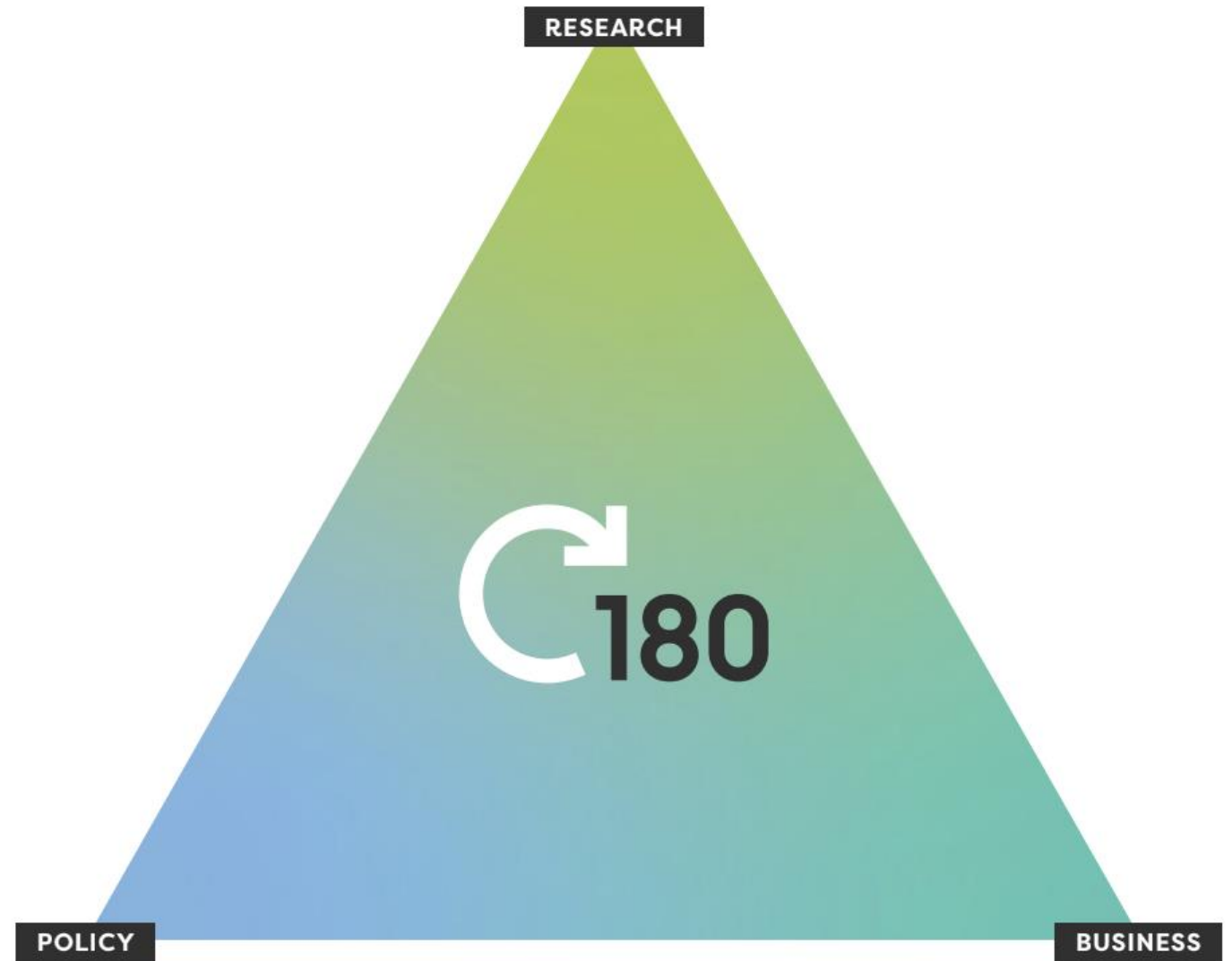
Leading with Soil

Driving soil carbon storage through US
federal policy

June 29, 2020

Carbon180

The Carbon180 Approach

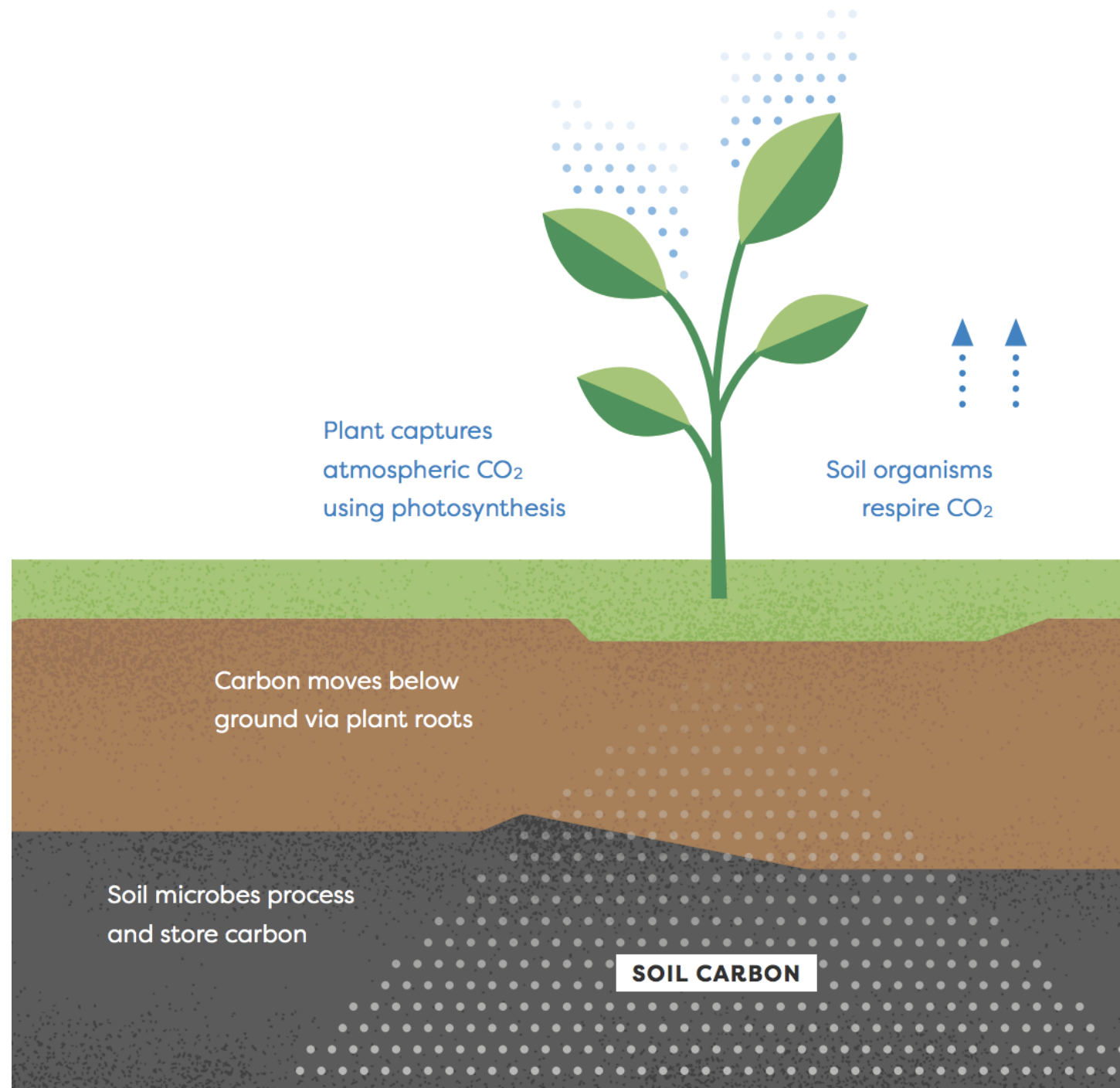


Good for the climate. Good for our farms.

Agricultural practices that store carbon can help fight climate change
while improving producers' bottom lines.



Soil Carbon Storage



Barriers to Adoption



EDUCATION



SCIENCE



INCENTIVES

Our Model

HOST EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

BUILD PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS

IMPROVE TECH ASSISTANCE

ADVISE ON SOIL SCIENCE



Carbon180 worked with partners across Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico to understand and address barriers to scaling soil carbon storage.

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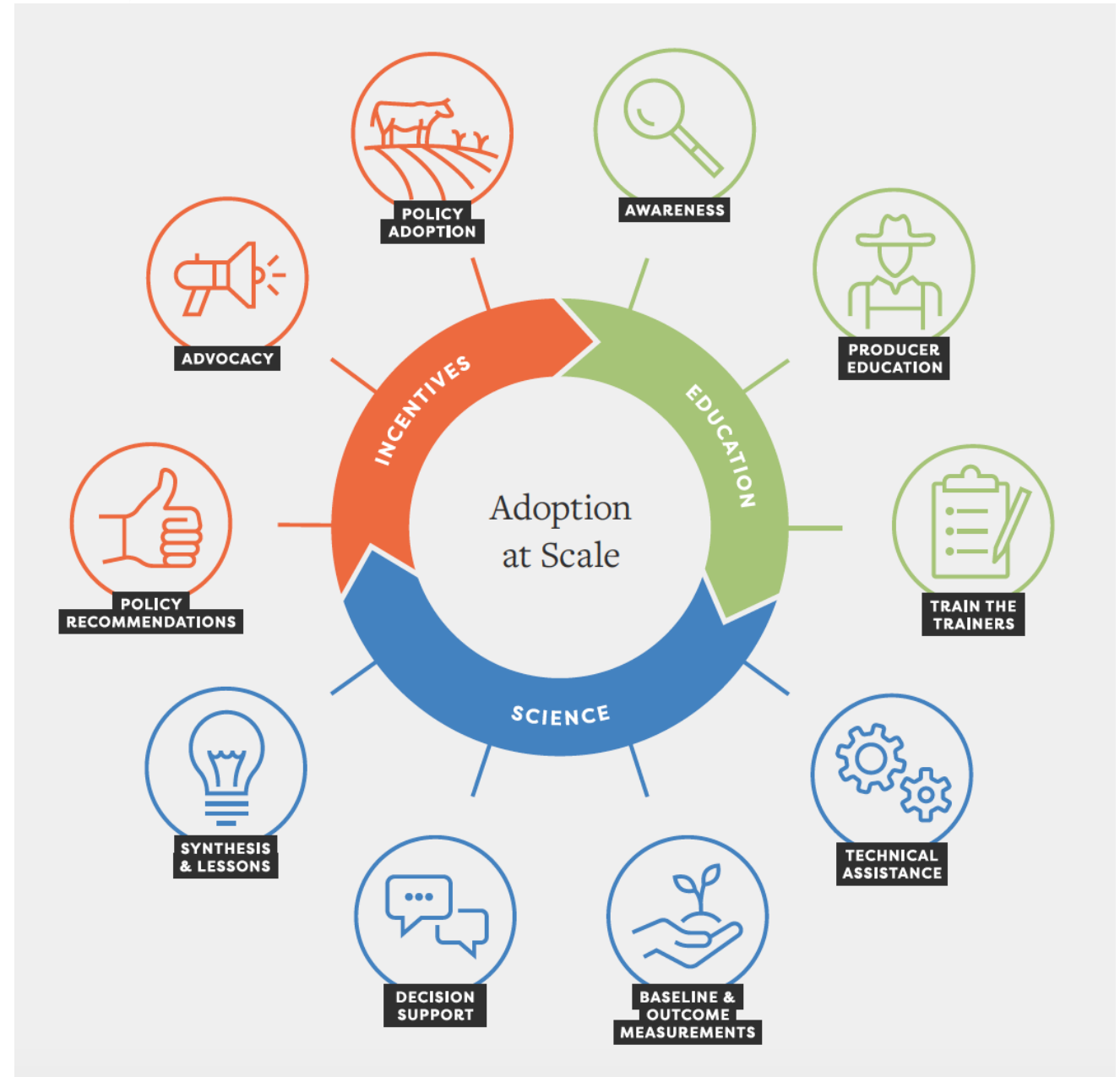
Carbon180 worked with partners across Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico to understand and address barriers to scaling soil carbon storage.

One big question:

How do we bring soil carbon
storage to scale?

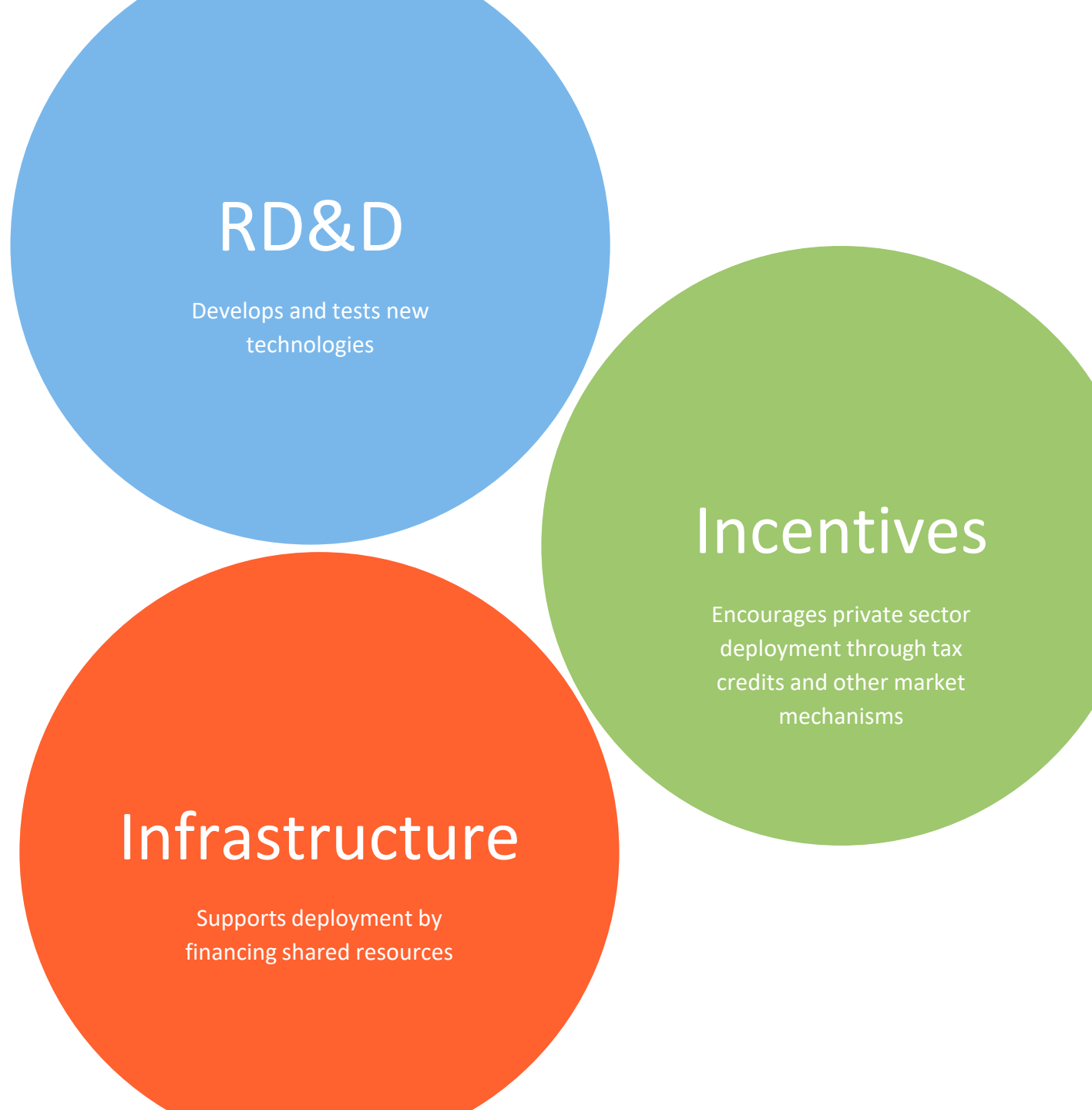
Driving a system of change

Policy recommendations reinforce each other to marshal a system of change and support agricultural producers and store carbon.



Policy Levers

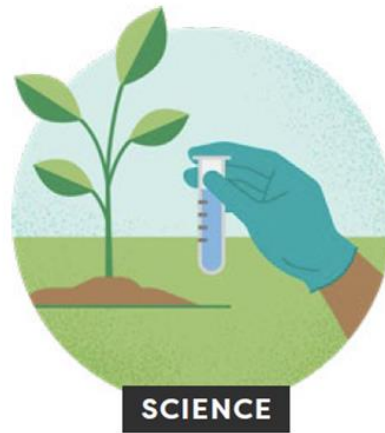
The US Federal government holds a number of powerful tools to scale climate solutions. These levers—RD&D, incentives, and infrastructure—have the ability to alleviate the barriers faced farmers and ranchers today.



Recommendations



- Fund demonstration projects
- Bolster NCRCS local technical capacity
- Increase support for peer networks



- Develop C assessment tools and methodologies
- Demonstration projects
- Economic research
- National C observatory



- Invest in infrastructure
- Match incentives to speed of C accrual
- Reform crop insurance
- Simplify access to incentives

Existing Federal Programs

POLICY	DESCRIPTION	POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS
EQIP	Cost-share (up to 75%) to implement conservation practices, most last 1-3 years, but up to 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streamline application process• Increase number of years for cost-share to match speed C accrues in dryland ecosystems• Increase funding
CSP	Producers receive technical/financial assistance to implement conservation practices (max 5 year contracts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Streamline application process• Increase number of years for cost-share to match speed C accrues in dryland ecosystems• Increase funding
NRCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	Producers can access expertise and training to support practice adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase funding• Build soil C and healthy soil knowledge at regional offices
CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS	Competitive grant program that encourages private sector innovation around conservation. \$10M for soil health demonstration trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase funding for soil health and soil carbon demonstration trials, with specific focus on underexplored geographies

Near-Term Opportunities

+ the Growing Climate Solutions Act

Stimulus

How can soil carbon storage support rural and agricultural communities?

Transition

What should a new administration do in the first 100 days?

Budget

How can we use the annual budget process to drive priorities around soil health and soil carbon storage?

Long-Term Strategy

- Congressional education and briefings
- Coalition building
- States as laboratories for the next Farm Bill
- Build bipartisan champions

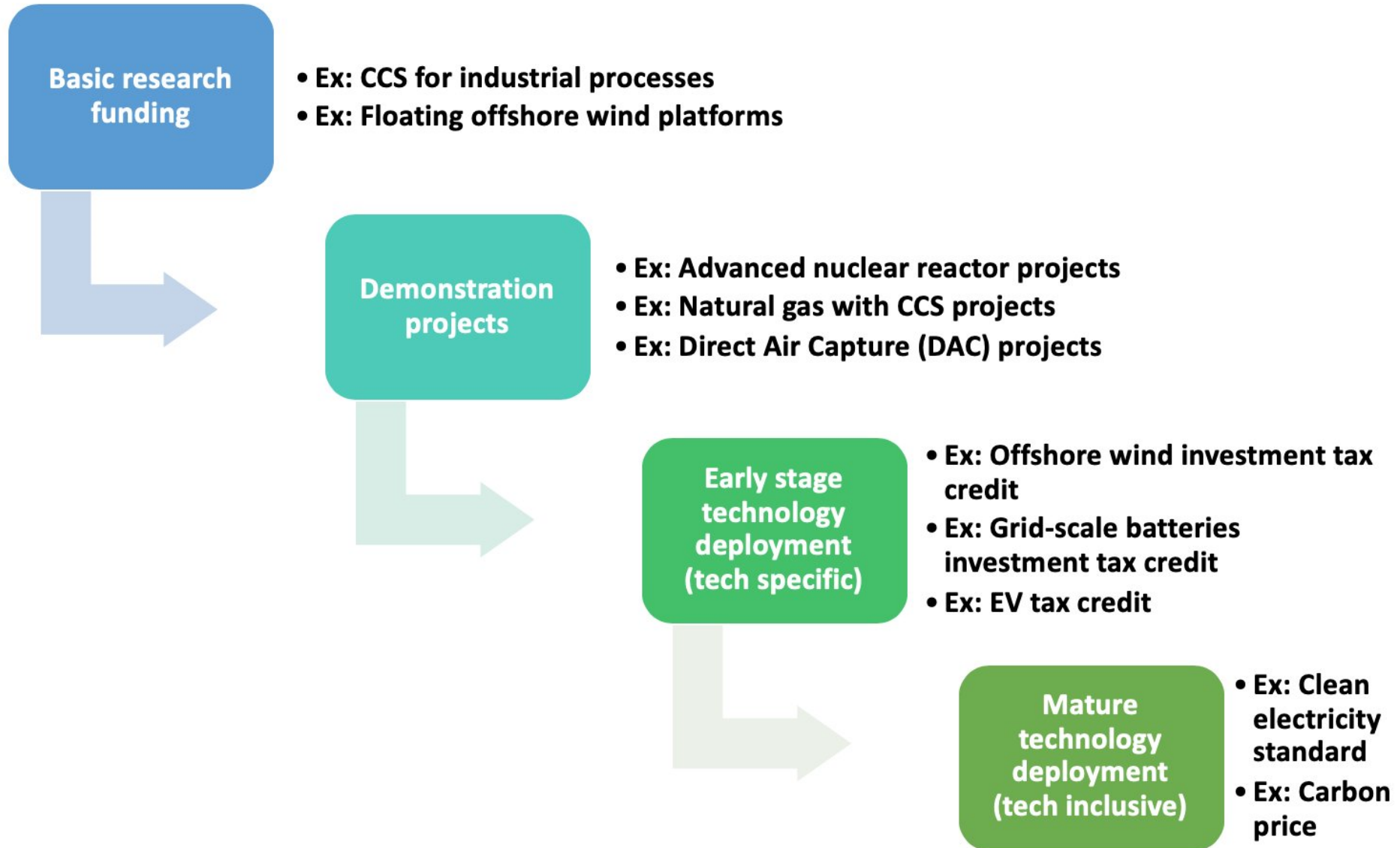


A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large clump of dark, rich soil. Several earthworms are visible, crawling on the surface of the soil. The person is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing a wooden surface and some papers.

2 Million US Farms and Ranches

Appendix

Clean Energy Policy Roadmap





Barriers

Education

- Soil health practices are not widely familiar across agricultural contexts and not yet in the mainstream
- There is a lack of consistent technical assistance and TA providers are often not specifically trained to assist with soil health and carbon sequestering practices
- Producers interested in implementing new and innovative practices are disconnected from like-minded peers





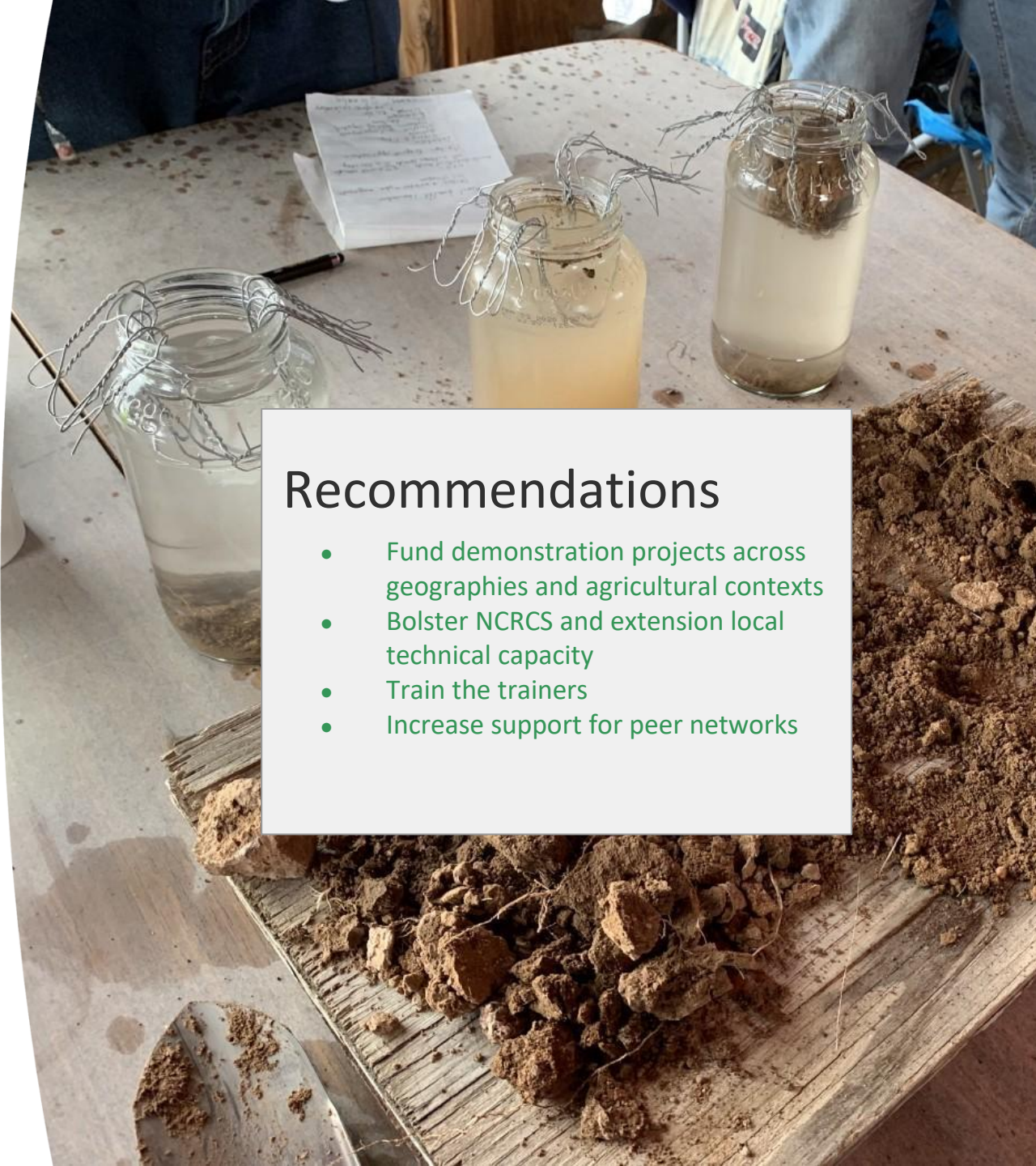
Barriers

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Recommendations

- Fund demonstration projects across geographies and agricultural contexts
- Bolster NCRCS and extension local technical capacity
- Train the trainers
- Increase support for peer networks



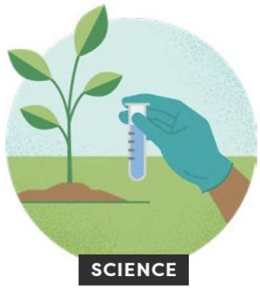


Barriers

Science

- Scientific tools and methods are inconsistent, difficult to access, and expensive.
- Soil health metrics differ across geographies and agricultural contexts
- Existing science does not fully encompass all geographic and agricultural contexts, creating market and policy challenges
- Existing incentive programs do not reflect economic realities





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- Existing incentive programs do not reflect economic realities

Recommendations

- Develop soil health and C assessment tools and methodologies that are accessible and inexpensive
- Fund demonstration projects across geographies and agricultural management contexts
- Expand economic research
- Create a national C observatory



Barriers

Incentives

- Insufficient financial incentives
- Land owners and non-owner operators require different types of incentives
- Existing incentive programs do not match the duration of time it takes for soil health and carbon benefits to accrue
- Perverse incentives make it more challenging to implement new practices
- Existing incentives are administratively complex
- Implementing new practices continues to be risky





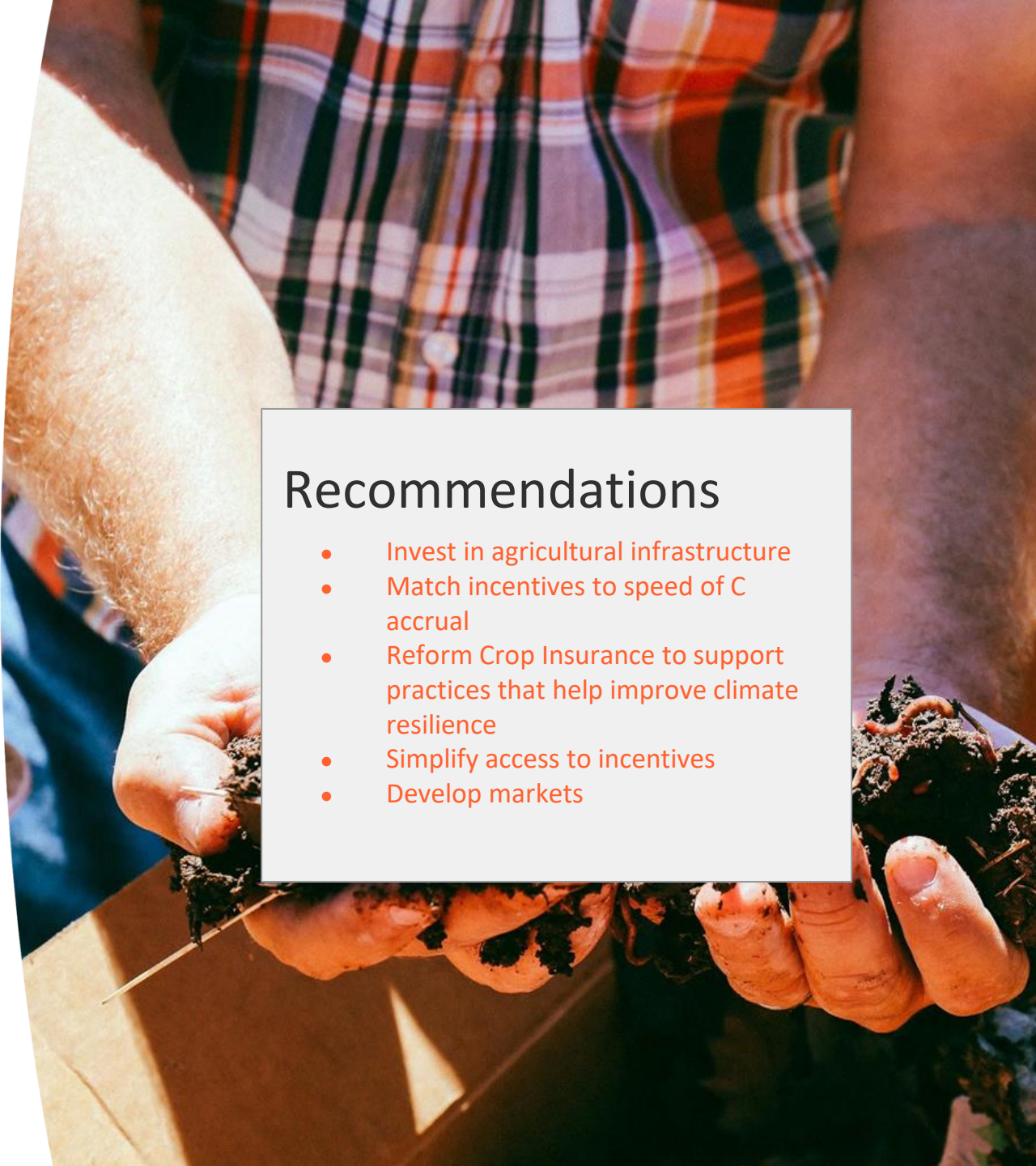
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Recommendations

- Invest in agricultural infrastructure
- Match incentives to speed of C accrual
- Reform Crop Insurance to support practices that help improve climate resilience
- Simplify access to incentives
- Develop markets



Advancing Climate & Agriculture Policy



Renata Brillinger



Our theory of change:

- Use policy as a lever to transform agriculture
- Science-based
- Collaborative, building political power through partnerships
- Farmer-centered
- Focus on incentives
- Multi-beneficial
- Prioritize needs of small/mid-sized growers, farmers of color, organic



"These grants provide an opportunity for farmers to think creatively about site-specific ways to best build soil, sequester carbon, and save water. As a farmer, once you start thinking like that, you don't stop."
-Emma Torbert



"The most immediate benefit we get is to our health. Now, we can pick nuts right from the trees without worrying about getting sick from pesticides."
-Jose Robles



"With the Healthy Soils grant, we are able to plant 800 feet of hedgerows, adding biodiversity both above and below ground and increasing water quality for our entire watershed."
-Rebecca King



"We couldn't have done the application without help from University of California Cooperative Extension."
-Pao Yang

Agriculture's Climate Solutions



California has a target of achieving net carbon neutrality by 2045. Agriculture must be part of the solution. How?

- Reduce energy and fuel use (vehicles, water pumping, etc.)
- Reduce nitrogen fertilizer use
- Produce renewable energy
- Conserve farmland to limit urban sprawl
- Reduce methane emissions from livestock
- Store carbon in soil and plants



California Blazing a Trail



Four Climate Smart Ag programs established

Almost \$400 million invested • Over 1,600 grants • >1.2 MMT CO₂

Sustainable Ag
Lands
Conservation
Program
(SALCP)



Healthy
Soils
Program



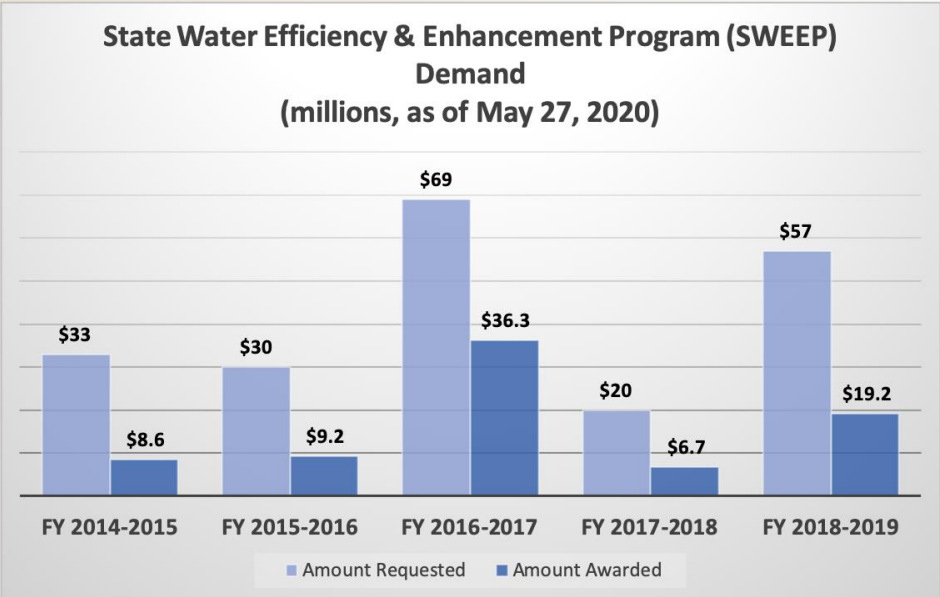
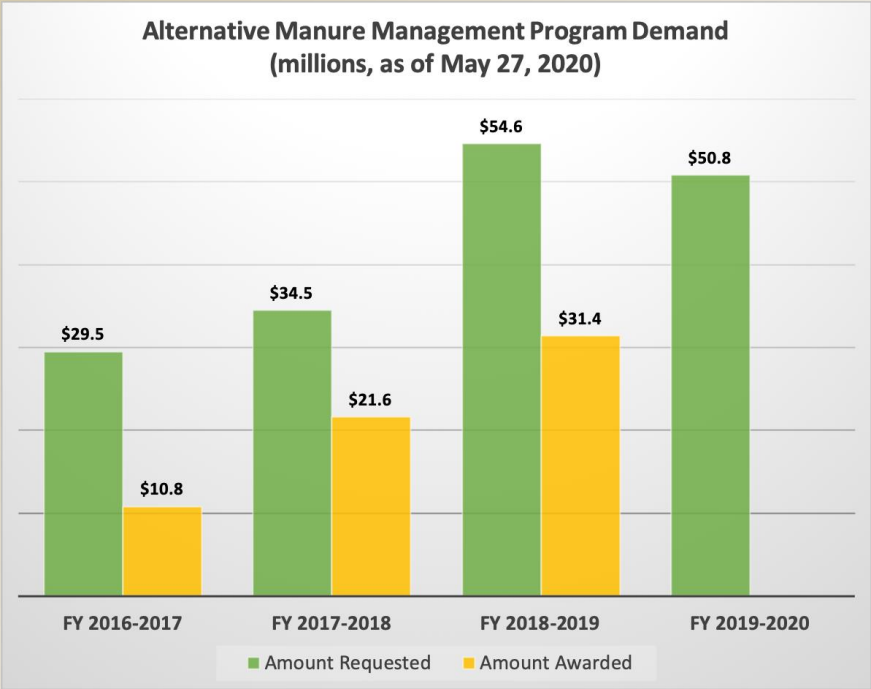
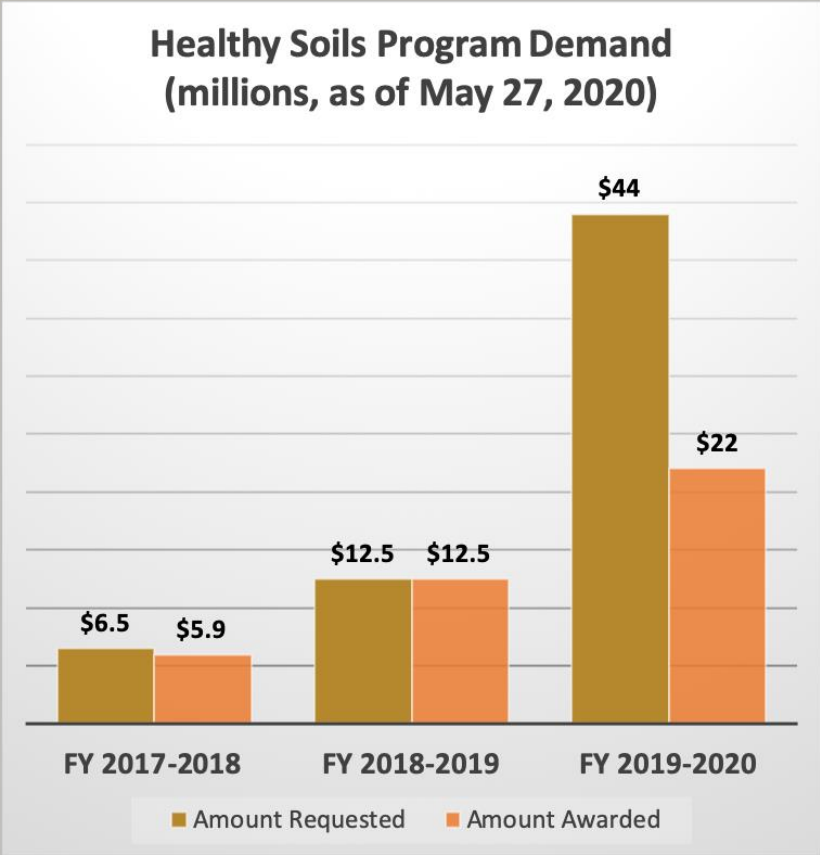
State Water
Efficiency &
Enhancement
Program (SWEEP)



Alternative
Manure
Management
Program
(AMMP)



High Farmer Demand for Funding





Farmer/Rancher Motivations

- Equipment modernization
- Improved operational efficiency
- Decreased costs (inputs, labor)
- Regulatory compliance
- Increased yields
- Healthier working conditions
- Reputation, respect
- Sometimes: Leadership on climate and environmental stewardship



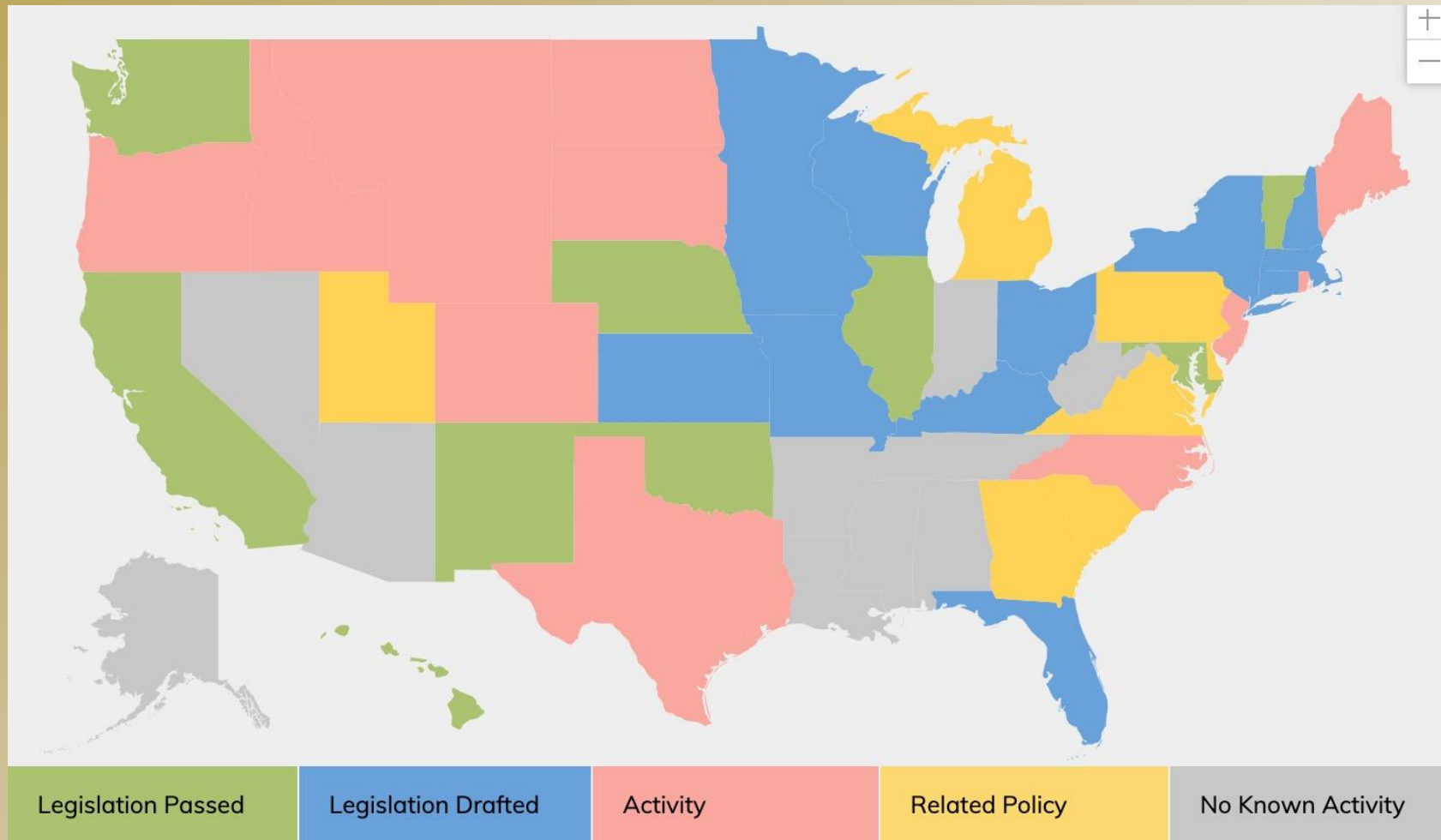


Status of Funding

(Millions of dollars)

	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	TOTAL TO DATE	Proposed FY 20-21	COVID Era
Healthy Soils	--	--	\$7.5	0	\$15	\$28	\$50.5	\$18	??
SWEEP	\$10	\$30	\$27.5	0	\$20	0	\$87.5	\$20	\$0
AMMP	--	--	\$9.6	\$21.6	\$32.75	TBA (approx. \$10)	\$63.95	TBA (approx. \$6)	\$0
SALCP	\$5	\$37.4	\$34	\$48	\$55	TBA Dec 2020	\$179.4	TBA	50% ?
TOTAL	\$15	\$67.4	\$78.6	\$69.6	\$122.75	\$28	\$381.35		

National Interest in Healthy Soils Bills



<https://nerdsforearth.com/state-healthy-soils-policy/>

National Healthy Soils Policy Network

Farmer-centered organizations from 19 states

Goals:

- To be a learning network for sharing resources
- To bring farmers and their advocates into state climate policy initiatives
- To connect farmer voices across the country and create a new narrative
- To make the case for state and federal resources to catalyze a transition to regenerative agriculture
- To build power



Farm tour with Wisconsin state legislator



Joint Ag Committee roundtable with New York farmers



Advocacy Works

Businesses



Your
logo
here!



Public health organizations



Getting Involved



- Don't need to be an expert; find advocacy group (s) to partner with
- Be authentic, speak from your values and business priorities
 - Make the business/jobs/economic recovery case
- Possible tactics:
 - Sign on letters
 - Lobby days
 - Calls to elected representatives
 - Financial support
 - Media (op eds)





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STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE
AGRICULTURE



State Innovation

Founded in 2014, SiX is the result of a merger of three organizations: the Center for State Innovation, the Progressive States Network, and the American Legislative and Issue Campaign Exchange (ALICE).

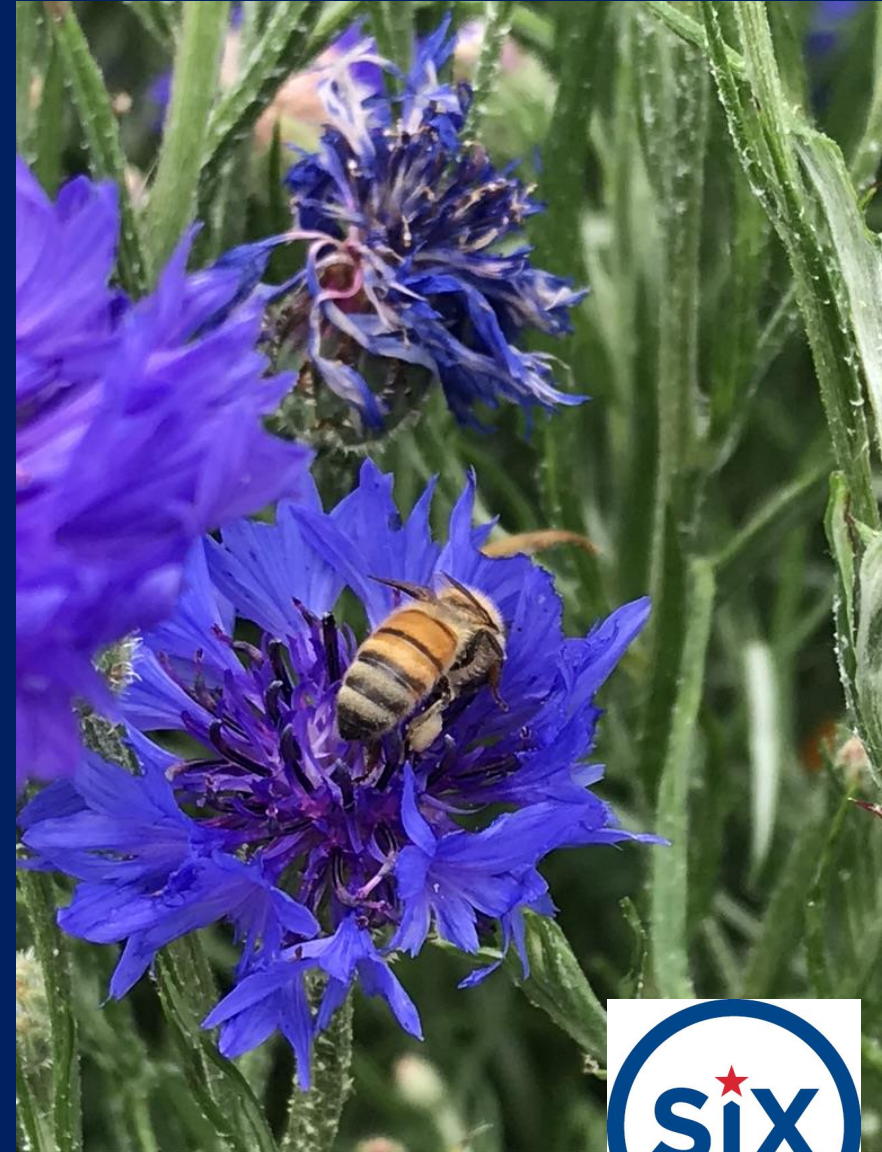
Our Vision

We envision an equitable, resilient, healthy, and prosperous future for every person in the United States, which is secured and safeguarded by progressive state legislators.

Our Mission: SiX

We empower, embolden, and equip state legislators to build and wield progressive governing power by/with/for the people they represent. We do this by providing legislators with the tools needed to shape impactful public policy and building their capacity to lead with their constituents. We foster long-term collaboration between legislators- across chambers, across regions, and across state lines - and with grassroots movements.

**We are not just the liberal version of ALEC –
We are better!**



Our Organization

- 3500+ Progressive Legislators who are members, Representing all 50 states
- 27 Staff, preparing to hire additional people. Combination of state-based and national staff
- Work on a host of progressive issues, but we have specific programing around Reproductive Justice, Economy, Democracy and now Agriculture
- We also have a c4 called SiX Action



Our Work

- We serve legislators to help build and add capacity so they can be champions for progressive causes – looks different in each state;
- We are “organizers” for legislative caucuses – through research, polling and strategic partner engagement we work with caucuses to set unified agendas
- Provide communication resources and support to legislators and assist them in gaining earned media opportunities;
- We provide research at the request of legislators and partners
- In state trainings with legislators and partners
- Webinar and digital trainings with state and national advocates, organizers and leading policy organizations
- Legislator convenings to provide networking opportunities, idea exchange, best practices and strategic regional initiatives



SiX does not independently push policy agendas.



State Innovation Exchange

AGRICULTURE: THE SIX LANDSCAPE



Who are SiX Legislators?

- Mostly Urban
- Little agriculture or farm experience/very little understanding of Issues
- Not always hearing a progressive side to the Issue/ don't know the players
- Willing to engage, but it's not necessarily comfortable
- Sometimes Ag Committee assignments are punishment or committees of last resort
- Feel isolated on the issue and often targeted by all sides
- They don't know who represents the progressive side of the debate





Western Trifecta Conference November 2019





This Moment & Regenerative Agriculture Policy Making



A group of approximately 15 people are standing in a grassy field, looking towards the horizon under a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset. The sun is low on the right side, creating a strong backlight effect and silhouettes of the people. The field is lush green with some small white and pink flowers in the foreground. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

FARMERS!





STATE INNOVATION EXCHANGE
AGRICULTURE

Thank you!

Kendra Kimbirauskas
(503) 997-7438
kendra@stateinnovation.org



Discussion



Moderator: Erin Callahan
Director,
Climate Collaborative



Giana Amador
Co-Founder and Managing Director,
Carbon180



Renata Brillinger
Co-Founder & Executive Director,
California Climate and Agriculture Network
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Commit. Act. Impact.



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