



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Environment & Production Subcommittee

September 29, 2022 1:00pm -2:00pm

1. Welcome

2. Group Discussion

A. Review Updated Proposed Recommendations

I. Task Force on Climate Change Mitigation Metrics for Agriculture

- Suggestions/Comments: **(1)** There are some identified redundancies in terms of task force, data collection and mitigation efforts with existing MDA programs, moreover the idea of support practices vs. crops growth are different (MDA is supportive of all farmers and does not support monetary incentives for one crop vs. another).

Encouragement or incentivisation of crops could be undertaken at the market. **(2)** There are several concerns associated with both measuring crops and practices; some practices were not examined as of yet (e.g. quantitative assessment of practices, and comparative quantitative value), the same can be said of certain types of crops. Furthermore, there are equity issues within the work that's happened to date, therefore we should take advantage of data in existence, and begin looking at outcomes (e.g. incentivize those storing carbon, by examining annual soil tests which include organic matter numbers). **(3)** Is it too late to update the language of this recommendation, to indicate the task force will review the work of the last 4 years to determine a benchmark with baseline data, to create programming alternatives or strategies?

II. Pilot Farm Conservation Transition Program to Mitigate Climate Change



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- conduct the baseline assessment (voting will be based on the alternative project needed for 70,000).
- IV. Increase prioritization of and funding for enforcement and technical assistance around existing state environmental protection laws for agriculture, including water pollution control permits, nutrient management plans, and the phosphorus management tool.
 - Suggestions/ Comments: (1) There are three reports cited within the recommendation, one report confused compliance mandates for farmers, the report mischaracterized the amount of farmer entities not in compliance. More information needed from MDA. (2) The citations for the reports should be removed for language consistency, and more discussion is needed to further understand this topic. (3) There are other reports that demonstrate non-compliance with nutrient management plans, which also indicate compliance can be improved.
 - V. Support Maryland Agricultural Marketing and Urban Agriculture
 - Suggestions/Comments: (1) This recommendation illustrates the intention of the committee to support these efforts, however this can be introduced in another section of the report, and be removed as a recommendation.
- B. Subcommittee Recommendation Voting using Polling Activity
- I. Task Force on Climate Change Mitigation Metrics for Agriculture - **Move to Parking Lot: 11**
 - II. Pilot Farm Conservation Transition Program to Mitigate Climate Change - **Move to Parking Lot: 7**
 - III. Baseline Assessment and Reduction of Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Public Food Purchasing - **Supported: 9**
 - IV. Increase prioritization of and funding for enforcement and technical assistance around existing state environmental protection laws for agriculture, including water pollution control permits, nutrient management plans, and the phosphorus management tool. - **Move to Parking Lot: 4**
 - V. Support Maryland Agricultural Marketing and Urban Agriculture - **Not Supported: 8**

3. Next steps and adjourn



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