

# Opportunities for Agriculture in the Oregon Climate Action Plan

INFORMATION SESSION  
FEB 23 2021



# OrCAN

## Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network

**OrCAN's mission** is to advance climate resiliency on farms in Oregon through collaboration, education, and policy advocacy.

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We work with farmers, researchers, technical assistance providers, non-profits, and policy makers to promote, improve, and better understand farming for climate resiliency in Oregon.

# OrCAN's Programs

1. Network Building
2. Education: farmer-to-farmer and train-the-trainer
3. Policy: producer driven advocacy

# Opportunities for Agriculture in the Oregon Climate Action Plan

1. What's included in the Executive Order
2. What state agencies have planned
3. OrCAN's role and policy recommendations
4. How to get involved

# Governor's Executive Order on Climate (EO 20-04)

Office of the Governor  
State of Oregon



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-04**

**DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE ACTIONS TO REDUCE AND  
REGULATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

Kate Brown  
GOVERNOR





## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-04**

### **DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE ACTIONS TO REDUCE AND REGULATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

WHEREAS, climate change and ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are having significant detrimental effects on public health and on Oregon's economic vitality, natural resources, and environment; and

WHEREAS, GHG emissions present a significant threat to Oregon's public health, economy, safety, and environment; and

WHEREAS, all agencies with jurisdiction over natural and working landscapes in Oregon will need to prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change and take actions to encourage carbon sequestration and storage; and

EQC and DEQ shall take actions necessary to:

- (1) Cap and reduce GHG emissions from large stationary sources of GHG emissions, consistent with the science-based emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order;
- (2) Cap and reduce GHG emissions from transportation fuels, including gasoline and diesel fuel, consistent with the science-based emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order; and

1. **State Agencies.** The following state commissions and state agencies are subject to the directives set forth in this Executive Order:

- A. Business Oregon;
- B. Department of Administrative Services (DAS);
- C. Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division (BCD);
- D. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC);
- E. Environmental Justice Task Force;
- F. Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
- G. **Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA);**
- H. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE);
- I. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW);
- J. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF);
- K. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC);
- L. **Oregon Global Warming Commission;**
- M. Oregon Health Authority (OHA);
- N. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD);
- O. **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB);** and
- P. Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC).



3. **General Directives to State Agencies.** From the date of this Executive Order, the state commissions and state agencies listed in paragraph 1 are directed to take the following actions:
- A. **GHG Reduction Goals.** Agencies shall exercise any and all authority and discretion vested in them by law to help facilitate Oregon's achievement of the GHG emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order.
  - B. **Expedited Agency Processes.** To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall prioritize and expedite any processes and procedures, including but not limited to rulemaking processes and agency dockets, that could accelerate reductions in GHG emissions.
  - C. **Agency Decisions.** To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions. While carrying out that directive, agencies are directed to:
    - (1) Prioritize actions that reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective manner;
    - (2) Prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities adapt to climate change impacts; and
    - (3) Consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force when evaluating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and actions.
  - D. **Report on Proposed Actions.** The following agencies are directed to report to the Governor by May 15, 2020, on proposed actions within their statutory authority to reduce GHG emissions and mitigate climate change impacts: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODOE, ODFW, ODF, ODOT, OWRD, OWEB, and PUC.

- E. Participation in Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. The Governor's Office will convene an interagency workgroup on climate impacts to impacted communities to develop strategies to guide state climate actions, with participation by the following agencies and commissions: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODF, ODFW, ODOE, ODOT, OHA, OWEB, OWRD, PUC, Environmental Justice Task Force, Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Sustainability Board.

- A. In coordination with ODA, ODF, and OWEB, the Oregon Global Warming Commission is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021.

# Governor's Executive Order on Climate (EO 20-04) Oregon Climate Action Plan

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Directs the **Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** and other state agencies to help the state achieve new climate change mitigation and GHG reduction goals by:

- Considering and integrating climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions;
- Prioritizing and expediting any processes and procedures that could accelerate reductions in GHG emissions;

# Governor's Executive Order on Climate (EO 20-04)

## Oregon Climate Action Plan

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Directs the DEQ and EQC to take actions necessary to cap and reduce GHG emissions from the largest sources.

As part of this Climate Protection Program, DEQ and EQC are considering/ exploring offsets as an alternative compliance mechanism, which could include agricultural offsets



# Governor's Executive Order on Climate (EO 20-04)

## Oregon Climate Action Plan

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Directs the **Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** and other state agencies to:

- Propose state goals *for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including agriculture*, based on best available science.

The EO recognizes the important role that agriculture can play in mitigating climate change by drawing down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and sequestering it in soil!

Practices with the potential to sequester carbon in the soil include:

- reduced tillage and no-till
- cover cropping
- compost application
- rotational grazing
- hedgerow and riparian plantings
- silvopasture and agroforestry

# Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Implementation Plan for OCAP

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Conduct research that considers soil health and carbon sequestration, looking at crop types and agricultural practices

Requesting funding for programs and positions:

- Collaborative work with OSU to research soil health and carbon sequestration potential in agriculture....to establish a baseline of soil health.
- Creation of soil health position to promote soil health to the ag community and collaborate with other organizations promoting soil health.

Also research to support reduced nitrous oxide emissions through fertilizer use efficiency

# Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Implementation Plan for OCAP

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ODA will develop an agency-wide policy to add climate mitigation and adaptation lens to all work and engagement done by the agency.

# Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Implementation Plan for OCAP

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*OWEB's existing grants* enable nature-based climate solutions that help:

- communities and landowners plant trees along streams
- ranchers manage their cattle for rangeland health
- agricultural producers reduce water use



# Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Implementation Plan for OCAP

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Climate intersection with Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (administered by OWEB)

OAHP grants (currently unfunded) for working farms and ranches, to support farmland preservation



# Carbon sequestration on natural and working lands

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From the EO: “In coordination with ODA, ODF, and OWEB, the Oregon Global Warming Commission is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of **state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon’s natural and working landscapes, including agricultural lands, based on best available science.**

The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021.”



# Carbon sequestration on natural and working lands

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OGWC will propose goals, *policies, programs and practices* to promote carbon sequestration on Oregon's agricultural lands.

**Our focus is on providing input on these goals, *policies, programs and practices*.**

# Opportunities to provide input on the OGWC's proposal

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- Recent survey of land managers, organizations and technical assistance providers to identify climate solutions for natural and working lands, with 737 responses!

Stakeholder engagement opportunities *between now and June*:

- Participate in focus groups
- New survey for the general public to inform the OGWC's work on sequestration goals for natural and working lands open until May
- Webinars for stakeholders on survey findings, baseline, projections and potential goals
- Public review and comment on their draft proposal

# Upcoming OGWC Meeting Dates and N&WL Discussion Topics:

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March 5: Final survey report and key decisions/ options re: Natural and Working Lands Goal

April 16: Review draft baseline, hear expert input on goals, discuss new stakeholder input, discuss policy and practice priorities

May 7: Review draft report and recommendations, identify any necessary changes

June 4: Finalize the report and recommendations

Report is due to the Governor by June 30, 2021.



# Timeline

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- Initial Implementation Report to the Governor  
May 2020
- Stakeholder engagement on proposed goals, programs, policies and practices through May 2021
- Final report to the Governor proposed goals, programs, policies and practices due June 30, 2021

# OrCAN's role

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- Co-Lead for Ag/Water policy table of the OCAP Coalition:  
Convening monthly calls with partners engaged in monitoring the work of and providing input to agencies
- Promoting public engagement opportunities for ag stakeholders
- Engaging with diverse ag stakeholders to vet OrCAN's policy recommendations --to ensure they actually work for farmers and farmworkers on the ground

# OrCAN's potential policy recommendations

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- Set stage for Healthy Soils legislation, create Soil Health Grant Program
- Expand technical assistance provided by Soil & Water Conservation Districts, OSU, non-profits and/or ODA
- Improve Oregon's Soil Health Inventory to include:
  - ❖ comprehensive report of current implementation of soil health practices
  - ❖ estimates of possible future carbon sequestration on agricultural lands
  - ❖ state-wide mapping of soil health
  - ❖ successes and challenges by region
- Facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration to advance goals above



# How to Get Involved

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- *Participate* in a policy focus group with OrCAN to inform OrCAN's policy recommendations
- *Participate* in a policy focus group with OGWC to inform OGWCs proposed policies, programs and practices
- *Respond* to [OGWC's survey](#) for the general public to inform their work on sequestration goals for natural and working lands
- *Attend* OGWC meetings-- listen in and/or provide public comment
- *Review* the OGWC's interim reports and products related to the directive on carbon sequestration on natural and working lands




# How to Get Involved

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Complete OrCAN's engagement form at:

<https://www.oregonclimateag.org/>

**How would you like to be involved in OrCAN's policy advocacy work?**

- ☐ Receive updates on opportunities for agriculture in OCAP
  - ☐ Submit written comments or testify at a hearing or town hall on OCAP
  - ☐ Respond to public agency surveys for OCAP
  - ☐ Participate in producer discussions about policy priorities
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# Follow up (next week):

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- We'll send you OrCAN's engagement form (if not completed already)
- We'll send a link to [sign up](#) to receive OGWC Commission meeting notices and requests for Public Comment
- We'll send the OGWC's [new survey](#) for the general public to inform their sequestration goals for natural and working lands, open until May
- And we'll send these slides and recording

# OrCAN

## Oregon Climate & Agriculture Network

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