

Public Lands to Regenerative Soils

Tipping the Scales/Game Changer Solution

15% of California is public lands or approximately 50 million acres. The bay area is 7000 square miles and has approximately 80% of agriculture/open space with 26% protected. This equates to approximately 1.1 million acres protected public open space as a potential source of enhanced carbon sequestration.

1. Transition public open space/ land to optimized CO² sequestration
2. Integrate the existing data to be able to use make the policy case
3. Identify projects and partners: i.e., EBMUD, EBRPD, Contra Costa County, Alameda, San Francisco, SF Presidio, City of Fremont, Marin County, Parks, GGNRA, Point Reyes National Seashore

Goal

- 100 - 4,000 hectares (2.5 acres) of public lands are transitioned to carbon farming
- CO² to be sequestered in acres to be determined in next years
- Model policy structure, workforce and marketplace
- Enable public agencies to access the Cap and Trade market to fund and support practice

Important/ Impactful Activity

- Captures atmospheric carbon (50 metric tons per acre) using natural systems
- Restoring healthy soils, assuring air and water quality

How to Achieve the Goal

- Build on best practices and expand practice to all public owned land agencies
- Create carbon farming, regenerative and urban landscapes policy for adoption by agencies
- Connect carbon farming and urban landscaping to current restoration and land management practices

Timeline

6 months

- Identify State funding
- Identify specific demonstration sites to monitor
- Gather tools
- Build partnerships with key agencies

1 year

- Conference in 1 year hosted by City of Fremont – FACT sheet and list of metrics
- Develop Public Lands Carbon Farming Policy
- Establish tools to link to cap and trade market

2 year

- Establish and monitor sites equaling a minimum of 500 hectares.
- Complete CO² farming/garden planning process and resources

Completed in 5 years

- 22,000 hectares (5% of public open space) are utilizing carbon farming practices
- Expand to provide technical assistance to urban areas – every county in Bay Area

Anticipated 5 Year Climate Change Impact? Cap and Trade assigns 1 metric tonne of CO₂ to 1 hectare of soil. Impact may be greater.