

Potential Climate-Friendly Food System Measures

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A working list of many of the ways to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. See the [Resource-Efficient Food Production](#) page, [Climate Resources](#), and [Food System Tools](#) on this HCFS website for references and implementation resources. Note: This list is about reducing greenhouse gases and resulting climate change, although many measures are good for adapting to climate change as well. Send questions and suggestions to [Jim Dyer](#).

Producers

- Reduce synthetic fertilizer use
- Reduce synthetic pesticides, etc.
- Reduce tillage/direct seed
- Increase soil organic matter & biodiversity
- Use crop rotations, cover crops, and legumes
- Use organic methods
- Restore hedgerows and wildlife habitat for beneficials
- Increase use of perennials
- Diversify crops and livestock
- Base livestock feeding on grass and forage
- Reduce livestock methane production as much as possible
- Improve grazing management
- Increase equipment efficiencies
- Design efficient farm buildings
- Use renewable energy sources
- Produce solar & wind energy
- Grow biofuels as appropriate
- Capture methane from manure
- Compost
- Use energy-wise season extension
- Use efficient food chilling and storage
- Sell locally
- (see Marketing items below)

Processors/Marketers/Producer Direct Marketers/etc

- Use local products as inputs
- Increase equipment efficiencies
- Use less transport
- Use efficient transport
- Use less packaging/larger packages
- Use less resource intensive packaging
- Process only as needed

- Use efficient storage
- Use renewable energy sources

Consumers

- Grow your own food
- Buy local
- Buy organic and sustainably produced foods
- Use whole foods, less processed
- Eat no more than you need
- Eat what you take
- Compost “waste” food or feed chickens
- Shift to grassfed/forage-based livestock products
- Eat foods in season
- Avoid air-freighted foods
- Reduce food buying driving trips
- Reduce food storage energy use
- Avoid wasteful packaging
- Increase use of renewable energy sources

Policymakers

- Remove unnecessary regulations on local production and direct marketing
- Provide incentives for local food production, marketing, and appropriate processing
- Provide incentives for sustainable food production practices
- Encourage home growing
- Encourage community gardens
- Encourage school gardens
- Provide and promote food, garden, and agr byproduct reuse/composting
- Promote energy efficiency and renewables in:
 - production
 - driving
 - community design (retail access)
 - processing
 - shipping
- Provide recycling for food packaging
- Educate citizens on ways to reduce greenhouse gases from the food system
- Promote high quality food and grocery access for all community members
- Promote Farm to School & Institution