

Take Action!

Take action in humanity's campaign to reverse global warming! In addition to cutting fossil fuel use in support of a rapid transition to a clean energy economy, there are many other actions you can take to help cool the planet.

Restoring ecosystems is the fastest way to pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and put carbon back into soils. Healthy soils are critical in restoring healthy water cycles, increasing productivity of agricultural lands, improving human and environmental health, and building resilience in the face of extreme weather events like flooding and drought.

Nature is our ally! Photosynthesis is our field-tested, inexpensive, “high-tech solution” to climate change. Plants pull carbon from the atmosphere and store or cycle it in plant tissues. Root systems send carbon-based compounds into the soils to feed microorganisms. Water also moves through plants via evapotranspiration, a key process in both small and large water cycles.

Actions You Can Take

In Your Home or Business

- Be strategic in what you eat, where you buy your food, and what you wear
 - Support local regenerative farms, ranches, and food forests
 - Buy organic 100% grass-fed beef/dairy products and free range/pastured poultry and eggs (preferably local) if you're an omnivore, or transition to an organic plant-based diet
 - Buy clothing made of wool from regeneratively-raised sheep, or organic cotton or hemp
 - Learn to eat local wild foods and teach this skill to others
- Join a local CSA and a local farming/consumer organization that supports regenerative agriculture practices
- Make a worm bin and let worms turn your food and paper scraps into rich garden compost
- Collect all plant-based food waste for outdoor compost piles or consider signing up with a compost service company
- Transform your roof or balcony into a “green roof”
- Utilize green infrastructure to collect and infiltrate stormwater into the soils

In Your Front or Back Yard

- Grow a forest or food forest of any size on your land or in your community
- Keep soils covered with plants – don't let your soils go bare!
- Replace turf lawns with plants that have deep root systems
- Stop using fungicides, pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers on your property
- Install rain barrels, rain gardens, and gray water systems (if allowed), to keep water on your property
- Build soil health by using soil amendments, such as high-quality biochar, compost, and compost tea
- Prevent yard clippings and foliage from washing into the storm sewer and nearby water bodies
- Plant multi-species cover crops and native plants, including plants that attract pollinators or provide habitat for beneficial insects
- Don't contaminate your groundwater and soils – minimize or eliminate use of synthetic chemicals, maintain your septic system, and properly dispose of hazardous materials, such as batteries, anti-freeze, etc.

In Your Community and Organizations

- Ask local businesses, homeowners associations, and city or county officials to implement or promote practices outlined under “In Your Home or Business” and ‘In Your Front or Back Yard”
- Protect and restore wetlands – these ecosystems sequester and store large quantities of blue carbon
- Support and participate in community-driven programs for green initiatives, such as tree plantings, or start one! Work with your community to increase urban trees and vegetation to create an expanded urban tree cover, which is vital for cooling cities, managing water, improving air quality, and decreasing stress!
- Support urban gardening and composting
- Visit local efforts started by others in your community who have put these actions into practice
- Host a discussion or film on forest gardening, urban forests, community composting, rain gardens, or other innovative practices.
- Adopt a vacant lot in your community to create a small forest or urban agriculture project, or to demonstrate green stormwater management
- Inspire residents in your community to make green site improvements
- Look for opportunities to “de-pave”
- Visit a local farm and find out what the farmers are doing to restore carbon and biology to the soils
- Host a talk at the library or local coffee shop to educate your neighbors on the vital importance of wetlands, grasslands, and forest ecosystems
- Work with local schools to incorporate lessons relating to organic gardening, urban forestry, wetlands, green infrastructure, and healthy soils

Blue carbon is carbon captured by living coastal and marine organisms and then stored in coastal ecosystems, such as wetlands and marshes. For more information, visit The Blue Carbon Initiative.

Take Action!

Talk, talk, talk! Let everyone know the benefits of restoring water cycles, drawing carbon back into soils, and supporting biodiversity and wilderness everywhere!



A rain garden at Glencoe Elementary School in Portland, OR.

Photo: [WERF](#)

Related to Guidance, Policy, Standards, and Legislation

- Support organizations that are working to promote regenerative soil practices and sound water management, such as those listed in the *Resource Addendum*
- Get active in your local government
- Set up issue briefings for candidates running for public office and then invite them to a public forum (with media invited) where they are asked how they will implement these practices
- Join or start a Task Force in your community to make policy recommendations
 - Support requests for funding and ordinances favorable to ecosystem restoration, such as for stormwater utilities, tree preservation, planting of native plants, restoring wetlands, creating living shorelines, and other policies that protect natural systems
 - Encourage parks and roads departments to discontinue the use of herbicides and pesticides on lawns, in parks and along roadsides
- Urge your legislators to support legislation at local, state, and federal levels to incentivize healthy soils and regenerative organic farming practices. The Federal Farm bill needs strengthening in this area.
- Support international efforts to stop deforestation, to expand eco-restoration, to rebuild healthy soils, and to increase biodiversity everywhere

Take Action!

Educate your elected officials—and candidates for office—on the benefits of healthy soils, biodiversity, and regenerative organic agriculture for the climate, environment, human health, and farm incomes.

Take Action!

How to create local legislative change

Plan – Learn about the issue and network with others who care about the issue. Set a goal and create a plan to reach that goal.

Meet Local Officials – Find out who has the power to make or change a law or ordinance. Meet with your local officials to discuss and educate them on the issue and your proposed solution. If proposing a bill, find a bill sponsor. Continue to keep the issue in front of lawmakers by respectfully engaging your local officials on social media and in public gatherings.

Petition – Gather community support with a petition and letter-writing campaign.

Grow and gain momentum – Reach out and connect with diverse organizations in your community that can join as partners or coalition members. Be sure to engage your partner organizations to share issue updates, events, and calls-to-action. Attend local events and community meetings to share information about the issue with a wider audience and continue to engage on your issue with local lawmakers.

Keep trying! Be persistent! – Most bills don't pass with the first attempt. Re-evaluate. Listen to objections. Make changes, if necessary. Continue to engage others to build support and political power. Keep moving forward!

General

- Visualize yourself as part of the ecosystem that you occupy
- Spread the idea that people can and must eat from thriving ecosystems
- Educate yourself, your neighbors and your elected officials about the strategies presented in this conference
- Support beavers!
- And of course, reduce your carbon footprint and support policies that promote such reductions
 - Fly less, drive less, use electric vehicles or public transportation, walk more
 - Implement energy efficiency strategies at home and work, e.g., insulate your house
 - Sign up for 100% renewable energy from your utility
 - Put solar on your roof, or, if you have shade over your roof, sign up with a local community solar provider
 - Divest from fossil fuel, harmful chemical and industrial agriculture corporations, and invest in renewable energy and regenerative agriculture companies/organizations

Take Action!
Get creative and start something new!

Words of Wisdom

- The practice of environmentalism means first and foremost to do no harm. If you don't know how an action (or additive) will impact on the back end, don't use it on the front end.
- We are responsible for making the future. We can't wait for it to come. The more we collaborate, the closer we get to what we want and need together. We are fortified by the energy we get from each other as we all struggle to live meaningful lives in harmony with nature and one another.
- You can't grow healthy food without restoring the environment, instilling habits of collaboration, and teaching and learning what constitutes genuine community health: social, economic, physical, spiritual, and environmental.
- We need more "on the ground think tanks." We need to create an ethic where every person values being both a thinker and a doer. Divisions between "thinkers" and "doers" cannot exist if we are to make our world whole and democratic.

Restoring our ecosystems will benefit all life on Earth by reducing excess atmospheric greenhouse gases, restoring water cycles, and cooling the biosphere. Protecting and restoring our forests, grasslands, wetlands, and all other ecosystems is critical for increasing carbon storage naturally while also cooling the lands where we and millions of other species live.

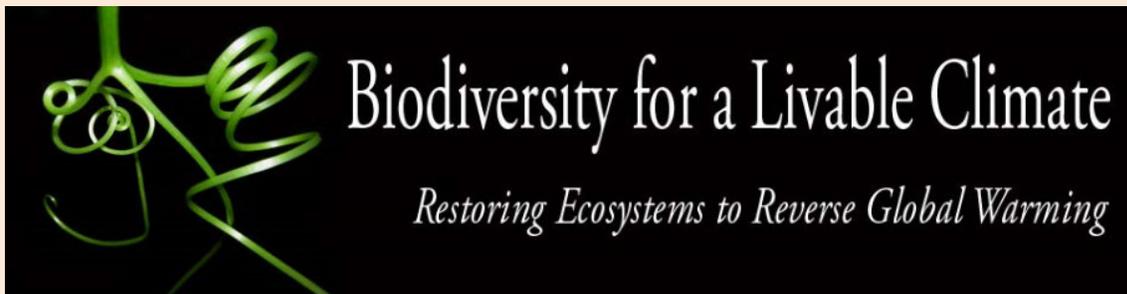
This document is a compilation of ideas from the speakers and participants in BLC's "Scenario 300: Making Climate Cool" conference, held on 30 April 2017 in Washington, DC. We thank everyone for sharing knowledge and wisdom, and we pass it forward with the goal of restoring a bountiful world for all.

Resources

Please note that this is just a sampling of the many creative and helpful resources mostly in the Maryland / Virginia / DC area. There are far too many to list here, but we hope this will inspire you to find others in your area.

- The Blue Carbon Initiative: <http://thebluecarboninitiative.org>
- Maryland Organic Food and Farming Association: <http://www.marylandorganic.org>
- Organic Farmers Association: <http://OrganicFarmersAssociation.org>
- Fair Farms by Waterkeepers© Chesapeake: <http://fairfarmsnow.org/>
- Forested, LLC : <http://www.foresteds.us>
- Polyface Farms in Virginia: <http://www.polyfacefarms.com>
- Nick's Organic Farm in Maryland: <http://nicksorganicfarm.com>
- New Day Farms in Virginia: <http://www.newdayfarms.com/>
- Cottingham Farm in Maryland: <http://www.cottinghamfarm.com/>
- ECO City Farms in Maryland: <http://www.ecoffshoots.org/>
- Resource for transforming over paved regions in your community: <http://depave.org/>
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Grazers Network:
<http://www.cbf.org/how-we-save-the-bay/programs-initiatives/maryland/maryland-grazers-network>
- Future Harvest CASA: <https://www.futureharvestcasa.org/>
- California Climate & Agriculture Network <http://calclimateag.org/>
- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC): <http://sustainableagriculture.net/>
- Regeneration International: www.regenerationinternational.org/
- Center for Food Safety: <http://soilsolution.org/>
- Protect old growth Amazon tropical forest: <http://BioIntegrity.net>

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