Composting and Climate Action Plans: A Guide for Local Solutions

Model Measures and Template Language

April 2024
Introduction and Background

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR) is providing guidance for the inclusion of local composting in climate action plans (CAPs). Local, decentralized composting is a nature-based climate solution with cross-cutting benefits that fight climate change, advance equity, and cultivate self-reliant communities.

Food and waste systems are among the most significant contributors to climate change, as evidenced in our breakthrough report, Stop Trashing the Climate. Still, climate action plans generally omit the cross-sectoral benefits of composting and rarely highlight the need for decentralized systems. Composting strategies rooted in and serving local communities will protect the climate while enhancing social equity, economic opportunities, food systems resilience, and quality of life. The path to meeting net-zero carbon emissions offers a unique opportunity to adopt sustainable, far-reaching climate protections while transforming food security and our trash-dependent society.

This guide outlines model language to use as a template for incorporating local, decentralized composting into climate action plans. In this guide, you can find:

- Background information on climate action plans, along with current opportunities and strategic considerations to advance composting as a climate solution
- Template language for CAPs on local, decentralized composting, including core tenets, climate impacts, and cross-cutting benefits
- Model composting CAP measures centering equity and community prosperity
- Equity considerations that serve as core values with a particular emphasis on community benefits, inclusion, accessibility, and environmental justice
- Example measures and equity language from existing CAPs plus additional resources

This guide was adapted from our “Community Composting and Priority Climate Action Plans Guide” to provide universal guidance on incorporating local, decentralized composting into climate solutions and climate action plans.
Background on Climate Action Plans

With the dire impacts of our climate crisis already surfacing, communities are developing strategic plans to guide protective action. One effective tool is a climate action plan (CAP), a comprehensive policy plan for communities to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and minimize adverse effects. The plan organizes a community’s priorities and maps out specific policies, programs, projects, and strategies with action steps for implementation. CAPs also offer a platform for communities to document their commitment to climate action formally.

Climate action plans have become a widely adopted standard for documenting and facilitating adaptation and mitigation strategies across jurisdictions. State, local, and regional governments and academic institutions use this planning tool to steer efforts and investments. By 2022, most U.S. states had climate action plans.

Climate action plans often include targets for GHG emissions reductions and a current emissions inventory. They typically organize policies and projects by sector, such as transportation, electric power, agriculture, industry, buildings, natural and working lands, and waste, water, and sustainable materials management.

Recent Federal Support

In 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a $5 billion grant program to facilitate the development and implementation of climate action plans. Non-competitive planning grants were the first awarded under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. These funds provided $250 million for government and tribal jurisdictions to develop climate action plans. All eligible applicants were awarded funding, including 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, 80 metropolitan statistical areas, and 85 tribal nations and territories. Each entity produced a priority climate action plan in 2024 as the first grant deliverable. Every participating jurisdiction must next create a more detailed Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due two years from the award date.
As the initial deliverable for CPRG’s non-competitive planning grants, Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) only required the inclusion of near-term, high-priority measures (e.g., projects, policies, activities, and strategies) to reduce GHG emissions. Jurisdictions chose which measures to include and were not required to submit them for each sector.

Still, most jurisdictions participating chose to include waste, composting, and agricultural strategies as priorities in their submitted PCAP:

- **78% of states included composting** strategies, projects, or policies
- More than half of these states incorporated community, local, decentralized, or on-farm composting strategies
- 51% of metropolitan statistical areas included composting in their PCAP
- 38% of these incorporated community, local, decentralized, or on-farm composting

The growing momentum around composting and zero waste for climate action has elevated to meet national attention. The EPA and other federal agencies are increasingly recognizing the connections between food and waste systems, composting, and climate. In 2023, federal government agencies published several reports and a draft strategy highlighting the climate benefits of reducing wasted food and recycling organics.

- **From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste Management Pathways (Part 2)** (Environmental Protection Agency, October 2023)
- **Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste** (Environmental Protection Agency, October 2023)

The heightened visibility of these community-driven solutions, the growing use of climate action plans for decision-making, and the imminent creation of 200+ Comprehensive Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) present a powerful platform to further document, uplift, and prioritize local, decentralized composting in the fight for climate protection.
Comprehensive Climate Action Plans

All non-competitive planning grant recipients must develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due in 2025. Unlike Priority Climate Action Plans, CCAPs require more robust information, including GHG emissions reduction measures for all seven key sectors: transportation, electricity generation, commercial and residential buildings, industry, agriculture, natural and working lands, and waste and materials management. States and metropolitan statistical areas must involve stakeholders and the public when developing plans. Further details on CCAP requirements can be found on page 49 of EPA’s Planning Grants Guidance.

CCAPs present two key opportunities to deploy composting as a climate solution:

- Add composting projects, strategies, policies, and activities to CCAPs in jurisdictions that did not include them previously in their Priority Climate Action Plan
- Ensure composting measures already included emphasize local, decentralized, distributed, and diverse solutions and highlight their cross-cutting benefits

Jurisdictions will likely rely on the detailed information and comprehensive strategies of CCAPs in governance decisions and activities long after the CPRG program is complete. Additional funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are also upcoming, including grants focused on organics recycling and recycling education. CCAPs will offer applicants a roadmap to inform project proposals.

Beyond Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

Climate action plans are expected to remain crucial tools for communities to address the climate emergency. Localities in a state or metropolitan statistical area for the CPRG may be interested in creating or updating a plan solely focused on their specific city or municipality. Several states and many local communities did not participate in the CPRG program and did not create a PCAP or CCAP. We have also seen jurisdictions update their climate action plans over time, creating another window to influence content.
Local, decentralized composting offers unique cross-cutting benefits and strengths that should be leveraged for its advancement as a core climate solution. Framing the benefits of distributed composting to align with established climate objectives and priorities can help uplift its potential. These benefits are built out in more detail in the next section of this guide. Key areas to maximize potential:

### Quick GHG Reductions
- Methane’s quick impact
- Carbon sinks
- Climate resiliency

### Cross-Cutting Benefits
- Benefits stay local
- Local businesses and jobs
- Community self-reliance

### Justice40 Goals
- Community investment
- Address EJ & systemic injustices
- Supports a just transition

### Transformative Impact
- Builds food security
- Nature-based solution
- Shifts wasting paradigm

### Logistical Efficiency
- Less expensive
- Replicable & adaptable
- Can be scaled up
A Local Approach to Unlock Solutions

Local, decentralized composting is the process of sourcing and composting wasted food and organic materials within the same community where the materials are generated. It serves two purposes: (1) keeping the operation local and ensuring the community reaps its economic, environmental, and social benefits, and (2) engaging residents through education and participation.

Contrary to climate actions prioritizing large waste management haulers and processing facilities, anaerobic digestion and composting can remain local. (Repair and reuse are measures that also tend to be local with myriad community benefits.) Both anaerobic digestion and composting are biological processes that can be implemented in a wide range of sizes and technologies. Too often, policies and investments privilege large industrial sites over a distributed infrastructure. Composting, in particular, can be done through a decentralized network of businesses, worker cooperatives, non-profit organizations, and local governments.

Community-based and decentralized initiatives can include composting at home, community gardens, urban farms, schools, non-profits, micro-scale facilities, social enterprises, on-farm composting, and government sites. Key priorities include:

- **Resources recovered**: Wasted materials are reduced; food scraps and other organic materials are diverted from disposal and composted.
- **Locally based and closed loop**: Organic materials are a community asset and are generated and recycled into compost within the same neighborhood or community.
• **Organic materials returned to soils:** Compost is used to enhance local soils, support local food production, and conserve natural ecology by improving soil structure and maintaining nutrients, carbon, and soil microorganisms.

• **Community-scaled and diverse:** Composting infrastructure is diverse, distributed, and sustainable; systems are scaled to meet the needs of a self-defined community.

• **Community-engaged, empowered, and educated:** Compost programming educates the community in food systems thinking, resource stewardship, or community sustainability while providing solutions that empower individuals, businesses, and institutions to capture wasted organic materials and retain them as a community resource.

• **Community supported:** Aligns with community goals (such as healthy soils and healthy people) and is supported by the community it serves. The reverse is true, too; a community composting program supports community social, economic, and environmental well-being.
Composting for the Climate

ILSR’s Stop Trashing the Climate found that a zero waste approach is one of the fastest, cheapest, and most effective ways to protect the climate. The report shows that 37% of U.S. GHGs are tied to how we produce and consume and that trash incinerators emit toxic pollutants and more CO2 per ton than energy produced by burning coal. “Preventing waste and expanding reuse, recycling, and composting are essential to put us on the path to climate stability.” Local composting fights climate disruption in many ways.

Methane emissions are responsible for roughly one-third of warming impacts in the U.S. Landfills make up 14% of methane emissions in the U.S. – wasted food accounts for 58% of these emissions Wasted food – if it were a country – would be the third largest source of GHGs in the world

Quick GHG emissions reductions from many angles

- Diverts wasted organic materials from landfills and reduces methane, a potent and short-lived greenhouse gas with more than 84 times the impact as CO2 over 20 years. Tackling methane is one of the most effective ways to curb warming quickly
- Cuts incinerator use, which decreases CO2 emissions and other harmful pollutions
- Reduces use of carbon-intensive fertilizers by amending soil with compost
- Requires less travel, reducing hauling transportation emissions. Community composters also increasingly use clean energy modes of transportation

Enhances soil quality and carbon sequestration

- Creates a “carbon sink” and increases crop yield and vegetation, both of which increase carbon storage
- Restores degraded soil, which actually releases carbon
- Increases soil water retention, reducing irrigation costs and energy for pumping water

Builds climate resiliency

- Builds soil resiliency to extreme heat and flooding
- Prevents soil erosion and runoff, protecting and restoring waterways
Cross-Cutting Benefits for People and Climate

Prioritizing composting and compost use can accelerate reaching net-zero goals while building prosperous, equitable, and resilient communities. Local composting:

**Benefits local communities**

- Stimulates local economies by creating more jobs than landfills or incinerators, promoting innovation, developing green markets, and supporting local farmers and small businesses
- Keeps profits and benefits nearby, creating a sustainable ecosystem responsive to community needs with greater personal investment and higher-quality product
- Spurs community and youth engagement, education, and hope; connects neighbors to earth, food, and each other; uplifts the social fabric with inclusive gathering spaces, connection, social support, and local stewardship

**Accelerates Justice40 goals**

- Breaks dependence on landfills and incinerators disproportionately harming low-income and BIPOC communities
- Addresses disinvestment and environmental injustices by employing and serving BIPOC, LGBTQ+ communities, and youth while filling hunger gaps in food apartheids
- Improves climate resiliency against extreme weather and natural disasters like flooding and heat island effects that hit frontline communities the hardest

**Brings transformative impact**

- Offers an alternative path to wasting that can shift the trash paradigm, rescue organic resources, and build soil health
- Builds healthy soils and supports farmers, cultivating a more economical and resilient food system, encouraging community reliance, and enhancing food security
- Promotes public health and safety with improved air and water quality, more green space and natural environments, and physical and outdoor activity, especially in underserved neighborhoods

**Offers logistical efficiencies**

- Launches and scales up more quickly and is less expensive than landfills or incinerators
- Offers replicable model adaptable to community needs
HOW COMPOSTING COMBATS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

1. AVOIDS WASTE OUTCOMES WITH HIGH EMISSIONS
   Landfilling food scraps produces 20x the CO₂ emissions (as methane) as composting.
   Landfills are the third-largest source of human-related methane emissions in the U.S.

2. ENHANCES SOIL QUALITY
   Compost increases:
   - Nutrients in soil
     • Grows healthier, more nutritious plants & food
     • Reduces use of synthetic nitrogen & fossil-fuel-intensive fertilizers
   - Water holding capacity
     Increases soil resiliency to extreme heat & flooding
   - Soil aggregation
     Prevents erosion & runoff, thus protecting & restoring waterways
   Synthetic nitrogen accounts for 80% of human-related nitrous oxide emissions.

   Normally it takes 1,800 years to build 6 inches of topsoil, but with compost, it takes only 6 months.

3. SEQUESTERS CARBON
   World soils hold 1.5 trillion tons of carbon in the form of organic matter.
   What's one of the best ways to build soil organic matter? Compost!

   Degraded soil actually RELEASES carbon.
   But a 1-time application of compost can make soil a carbon sink again.

   Just 1 acre amended with compost can sequester up to 75% of a car's annual emissions.
   Compost also increases crop yield & vegetation, leading to even more carbon sequestration.

4. BUILDS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY
   Healthy soil =
   - Food security
   - Profitable farms
   - Enhanced habitat & biodiversity
   - Resilient ecosystems
   Community composting =
   - Local jobs
   - Environmental education
   - Community bonds & safety
   - Physical activity & healthy diets
   - Social inclusion & empowerment

ilsr.org/compost-climate
Model CAP Measures for Local Composting

This section details model measures to strengthen climate action plans with composting strategies. The model measures in this template highlight local, decentralized composting as a cross-cutting climate strategy with far-reaching community benefits. Feel free to copy and paste directly from this text. See Appendix B on page 20 for existing measures and language from the sample climate action plans referenced.

Recommended CAP measures are organized by six central strategies:

1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators

2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure

3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs

4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost

5) Leverage compost for climate adaptation and resiliency

6) Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource
1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators

- **Adopt zero waste and organic diversion goals** as cross-cutting solutions that build equity and local economic development opportunities
- **Commit to closing any trash incinerators** that emit GHGs and poison the air disproportionately in underserved communities
- **Ban landfilling of organic materials** (e.g., yard trimmings and wasted food) and mandate diversion to reduce methane emissions and capture wasted materials as a resource
- **Establish disposal fees and fines**, including pay-as-you-throw policies or a fee per ton on wasted materials, that discourage wasting organic materials through disposal in landfills and incinerators

Example Measures:
- **Baltimore CAP** pg. 77 & 78, **Albuquerque PCAP** pg. 266, **Oregon PCAP** pg. 18, **King County CAP** pg. 139, **Hawaii PCAP** pg. 19, **Detroit CAP** pg. 25, **New York CAP** pg. 326, **Oklahoma PCAP** pg. 24, **New Mexico PCAP** pg. 150 & 164-166

2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure

- **Create and expand local, decentralized organics collection, recycling, and composting programs** for wasted food and yard trimmings to build capacity for increased waste diversion (including supporting farmers to compost)
- **Fund, contract, and partner with local composting operators** (including local independent enterprises and mission-driven nonprofit organizations) to expand services while keeping benefits in the community
- **Update permitting and zoning policies to remove barriers** to local composting operations and facilities
- **Develop incentives and programs to encourage** increased recycling and local composting, such as fee charges or industry-themed competitions
- **Require waste diversion stations** in all businesses and municipal buildings

Example Measures:
- **Baltimore CAP** pg. 73-76, **Albuquerque PCAP** pg. 80, 256, & 261-262, **Oregon PCAP** pg. 45 & 64, **King County CAP** pg. 225, **Hawaii PCAP** pg. 19, **Montana PCAP** pg. 49, **New York CAP** pg. 325 & 327, **Maryland PCAP** pg. 62, **Montgomery County CAP** pg. 194, **Providence CAP** pg. 65 & 67
3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs

- **Launch outreach and education campaigns** to inform the community about resource conservation; the impacts of wasting; composting's ability to capture wasted materials as a resource; and the health, environmental, economic, and community benefits of composting

- **Partner with schools, urban gardens, farms, non-profits, and community organizations** for educational presentations and curriculum on wasting and composting to engage youth and residents

- **Promote behavioral changes for waste reduction and conscious consumerism** to reduce consumption, increase recycling compliance, and increase local composting

- **Build an understanding of connections between wasted materials, climate, healthy soils, and food system resilience and the cross-sectoral benefits of community composting**

**Example Measures:**
- Baltimore CAP pg. 74-75 & 82, Memphis CAP pg. 158, Phoenix CAP pg. 108, New York CAP pg. 326, Maryland PCAP pg. 62, Montgomery County CAP pg. 194, Oklahoma PCAP pg. D-18, Santa Monica CAP pg. 28

4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost

- **Expand access to funding, training, technical assistance, and equipment** for local farmers to cultivate resilient food systems and strengthen community food security

- **Promote composting for materials recycling and compost application** to build healthy soils and provide an alternative to carbon-intensive and polluting fertilizers

- **Recognize compost application as a soil health-building practice** and support its inclusion in healthy soil policies (e.g., compost-amended soil requirements)

- **Increase land security for urban agriculture** by offering long-term leases, prioritizing use for government-owned land, simplifying permitting processes, and updating land use regulations

- **Develop government partnerships with the local farming community** to connect food production with local needs

**Example Measures:**
- King County CAP pg. 164 & 225, Phoenix CAP pg. 133 & 144, New York CAP pg. 325, Maryland PCAP pg. 62, Montgomery County CAP pg. 192-193
5) Leverage compost for climate adaptation and resiliency

- **Advance local utilization of high-quality compost** to sequester carbon through direct application and increased vegetation through soil enhancement.
- **Allow compost application on public lands** to advance sequestration of carbon.
- **Advance compost utilization for stormwater management**, erosion and runoff prevention, water quality protection, and soil resiliency to extreme heat and flooding (e.g. nutrient management policies).

**Example Measures:**
- Baltimore CAP pg. 82, King County CAP pg. 153 & 165, Memphis CAP pg. 135,
- Montgomery County CAP pg. 291, Oklahoma PCAP pg. 24, Providence CAP pg. 67

6) Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource

- **Establish and develop decentralized markets for compost** in partnership with farming communities and local composting enterprises.
- **Support local compost production and application** by establishing a production tax credit, providing financing mechanisms and incentives, and offering business development support.
- **Develop government procurement requirements**, sustainable purchasing policies, technical assistance programs, and mandates to prioritize local compost.
- **Institute quality standard requirements for soil amendments to eliminate contamination** (e.g., require anaerobic digestion byproducts be subject to the same standards and testing as composting).
- **Mandate source separation of organics at the point of generation** to prioritize clean feedstocks for compost soil amendments.
- **Study the consequences and advantages** of utilizing de-packaging equipment for composting.

**Example Measures:**
- Baltimore CAP pg. 76, Albuquerque PCAP pg. 273 & 276, King County CAP pg. 137, 139 & 150,
- Memphis CAP pg. 127 & 129, Phoenix CAP pg. 109, New York CAP pg. 327-328, Santa Monica CAP pg. 26
Equity Considerations for CAPs

The equity and community implications of climate action plans and projects must be prioritized. Incorporating equitable strategies into climate action plans is a crucial step in planning for a just transition. The language below serves as a template for centering frontline and local communities in climate action plans. Model language and guidance cover equity considerations for local community benefits, sustainable materials management, environmental justice issues, accessibility and inclusion, and plan development.

Keeping Benefits in the Community

- To ensure benefits accrue to Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDACs) and other community members, programs should be kept local and not privatized by large monopoly companies
- Programs and efforts should be developed through partnerships with local composters, schools, non-profits, farmers, and more
- Composting programs should establish a plan to improve local food security
- Programs should highlight the workforce benefits of community composting – landfills and incinerator operations employ three to six times fewer jobs than community composting

Equity in Sustainable Materials Management (SMM)

- SMM programs should follow a local circular economy model involving consumption reduction and the recovery, conversion, reuse, and recycling of materials
- Food scrap collection and recycling services must include and expand access for traditionally underserved communities, such as multi-family buildings and rural areas
- Composting and SMM programs must not be relegated to high-earning communities but must be established in low-income communities
- Focus programs on LIDACs, food apartheids, and affordable housing developments
Equity in Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) cont.

- Establish a community-led local food council or advisory board focusing on accountability and community partnerships, elevating the voices of BIPOC-led or BIPOC-serving composting programs, and democratizing funding decisions
- Redesign, reduce, reuse, recycle and compost, and recirculate would-be waste into the local economy

Addressing Environmental Injustices

- Purposefully address policies and initiatives that target the systemic causes of climate change
- Address systemic injustices of landfills and incinerators, which are disproportionately located in poor neighborhoods and communities of color
- Address health and environmental disparities of trash incinerators, which emit toxic pollutants harmful to the environment and humans, causing poor air quality and respiratory health issues
- Acknowledge gentrification and commit to ensuring that any composting program does not lead to the displacement of vulnerable populations
- Acknowledge the environmental injustices marginalized communities have faced and meaningfully incorporate residents into composting solutions to right these wrongs
- Prioritize action and investment in communities structurally excluded

Ensuring Accessibility and Inclusion

- Prioritize language access in conjunction with community partners
- Historically marginalized communities, including people of color, low-income, immigrants, people with impairments, and limited English proficient individuals, should be given meaningful opportunities to engage in the planning and operation of any composting or SMM program requiring outreach and accessible means of participation
- Outreach and education campaigns must reach underserved and disadvantaged communities
- Make green spaces and parkland accessible for all community members - identify barriers to access and improve equity
Developing an Equitable Plan

- All community members, regardless of race, age, sex, gender, income, or ability, should have full access to participate in the planning, decision-making, and implementation of priority climate action plans
- Create inclusive language for residents so they understand how this process benefits their daily lives, future, and community
- Engage a diverse range of stakeholders early in the process
- Ensure marginalized communities have access to the decision-making processes that impact them by cultivating an ongoing relationship between community members and those in power
- Conduct early and continued public engagement with partners, community leaders, frontline communities, and the public to gather input, understand community perspectives, build trust, and prioritize action that responds to the community’s needs
- Solidify an end goal and a continual course of action toward a shared vision that results in the prosperity of those involved and a more equitable system
- Promote the plan in a way that does not create disadvantages
- Hire staff who understand systemic change and racial injustice or have lived experience with disadvantaged communities

Climate Action Plans with Strong Equity Language

- Baltimore, Maryland [2024 Climate Action Plan Update](#)
- King County, Washington [2020 Strategic Climate Action Plan](#)
- New York State [Climate Action Scoping Plan 2022](#)
- Providence, Rhode Island [Climate Justice Plan 2019](#)
- San Diego, California [Climate Action Plan 2022](#)
- San Francisco, California [Climate Action Plan 2021](#)

See Appendix C on page 30 for details on the equity language in each of these plans. If you have additional examples of climate action plans with strong equity language, please share them with us here.
Appendix A.
Additional Resources and Information

Composting & Climate Resources

- Composting Policy Resource Hub and Model Policy Library (Institute for Local Self-Reliance)
- CPR Campaign: Resuscitate the Climate (Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Zero Waste USA, and National Recycling Coalition, 2023)
  - CPR Campaign’s Vision Statement Connecting Waste to Climate Change
  - Webinar Recording: Funding Zero Waste Projects Under EPA’s CPRG Program
- Compost Is a Climate Solution (Natural Resources Defense Council, 2020)

Climate Action Plans

- A Toolkit for Incorporating Food Waste in Municipal Climate Action Plans (Environmental Law Institute, 2021)
- Climate Action Toolkit (King County and King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, 2021)
- Developing a Climate Action Plan (C40 Knowledge, 2021)
- How to create a climate action plan through community engagement (CitizenLab, 2022)
- U.S. State Climate Action Plans Map (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions)

Supporting Research

- Assessing the climate change mitigation potential from food waste composting (Pérez, Vergara & Silver, 2023)
- How the US Economy and Environment can Both Benefit From Composting Management (Farhidi, Madani & Crichton, 2022)
- Composting: The way for a sustainable agriculture (Pergola et. al, 2018)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Resources

- Example Government Climate Action Plans that Address Materials Management and Waste
- Composting & Community Composting
- From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste Management Pathways (October 2023)
- Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste (October 2023)
### Appendix B.

**Example Measures from Climate Action Plans**

This chart includes text directly quoted from the publicly available climate action plans. Text from each plan is organized to align with the corresponding strategy number where the plan is referenced in the guide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate Action Plan</th>
<th>Guide Strategy and Existing Model Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W10. Support Expansion of Waste Diversion and Reduction Programs: Support the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan, particularly actions focused on waste diversion and reduction programs that will reduce or eliminate municipal dependence on waste incineration and develop pathways to address construction and demolition diversion that promote the use of recycled or reused salvaged materials in new construction. <em>Added in response to community feedback</em> (pg. 77)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W14: Support and Expand upon Legislation that Bans Recyclable Materials from Landfill and Incineration: Support legislation that bans recyclable materials from landfill and incineration. Consider how this legislation may be expanded in Baltimore to include compostable materials. <em>Added in response to community feedback</em> (pg. 78)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reducing trash and building a circular economy can reap benefits that lead to job creation and job training opportunities. Efforts to reduce water use and incorporate more energy efficient wastewater treatment processes can reduce water bills. Further, diverting biodegradable materials from landfills not only reduces landfill methane emissions but can help increase the amount of compost we produce and use in communities. Compost can be used locally to aid in plant growth and beautify neighborhoods, help with food production, improve habitat areas, and help soils absorb more carbon. (pg. 73)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W1. Introduce City-wide Composting: Plan and implement a city-wide organic waste composting program and provide compost for free to residents and businesses. Additionally, compost more of the yard waste currently collected by the City. Inform and educate people about how and why to compost. Community Benefits: public health &amp; economic prosperity (pg. 74)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W4. Develop Waste Diversion Incentives: Encourage recycling and reuse over disposal of waste by developing incentives for reducing waste-derived emissions, increasing recycling, and diverting waste from landfills and incineration. Examples include save as you throw programs (an economic incentive-based program that would save residents and businesses money for producing less waste), recycling or organic waste bin capacity upgrades, and bottle return programs, among others. Community Benefits: public health, social cohesion, and savings to residents and businesses (pg. 75)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure (continued)
W6. Promote and Partner with Circular-Economy Local Businesses: Promote and/or partner with local businesses that use local recycled materials, avoid single-use materials, or pursue other actions outlined in the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Plan (2023). Educate businesses on how to participate in a circular economy and use the Sustainable Business Guidelines to help them to use local materials and reuse service providers. Explore opportunities to help local businesses and local government pursue Environmentally Preferred Purchasing options. Community Benefits: public health, economic prosperity, resilience, and social cohesion (pg. 76)

(3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs
W2. Enhance Existing Organic Waste Diversion Policy Awareness, Compliance, and Enforcement of MD HB-264 - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion Law: With leadership from Baltimore Department of Public Works, the Maryland Department of the Environment and other partners, coordinate actions and publicly communicate strategies being implemented to enhance existing organic waste diversion policy awareness, compliance and enforcement. Explore opportunities to improve the rules for separating and using organic waste, like food scraps. Community Benefits: public health (pg. 74)

W5. Establish Waste Community Leaders: Establish or expand programs where community members, students, green space site managers, faith-based institutions, nonprofit organizations, and others promote waste management at a neighborhood level through direct action and by educating the community on how to reduce waste. Community Benefits: public health, economic prosperity, and social cohesion (pg. 75)

N5. Partner with Community-Based Groups to Increase Neighborhood Nature-Based Solutions and Educate Communities About Climate Resilience: Seek opportunities to partner with existing green space stewards, urban farms, and other nonprofit and community-based groups to advance local understanding of climate resilience, climate-friendly techniques, and interventions such as installing native plants and soils and encourage the installation and maintenance of more nature-based solutions in Baltimore neighborhoods. Community Benefits: public health, savings to residents and businesses, and resilience (pg. 82)

(5) Leverage compost for climate mitigation and resiliency
N4. Increase Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Use the Nuisance Flood Plan and other relevant planning processes to identify flood-prone locations that would benefit from the installation of green infrastructure, particularly in flood-prone and frontline communities. Encourage best practices that include use of native plants and high-quality soil to improve carbon removal potential. Review existing policies and identify opportunities to reduce impervious surfaces in redevelopment and transportation infrastructure. Community Benefits: public health, savings to residents and businesses, and resilience (pg. 82)

(6) Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource
W7. Establish Sustainable Procurement Protocol: Revise existing municipal procurement rules to add a sustainable procurement protocol and incentives to align contracts and agreements with the principles of the CAP Update. As feasible, adopt the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program. (pg. 76)

Please note:
Baltimore currently has a municipal trash incinerator. There are active efforts to close it down, which ILSR maintains is necessary to reaching their climate action goals.
(1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators
WR2: Tribal Landfill Diversion: Food and Green Waste diversion, composting and local soil application:
To create solutions to divert food waste and green waste from the Pueblo of San Felipe's transfer station to landfill waste stream, this measure will create opportunities for returning to sustainability, soil building, and best use opportunities for low-greenhouse gas composting solutions. (pg. 266)

Co-benefits: This greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measure has the “create transformative opportunities or impacts that can lead to significant additional GHG emissions reductions by reducing or eliminating the significant volume of food and green waste from the Pueblo of San Felipe (Pueblo) that are taken to the landfill. Additionally, soil building efforts are needed as the region has been in longstanding drought conditions. Further, there is a significant cost-savings potentially associated with this diversion project as our hauling and tipping fees are material. Finally, the Pueblo of San Felipe has a very high unemployment rate ... bringing jobs to San Felipe Pueblo raises the quality of life in the Pueblo. (pg. 266)

(2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure
WR1: Food Waste Prevention & Composting: This food waste prevention-focused measure is grounded in community support, and focuses benefits on LIDAC communities. This translates to a cleaner, healthier planet for generations to come. This 3-year pilot project includes workshops and technical assistance services for food waste prevention, food rescue, and food waste recycling in small, local restaurants that are located in and serve frontline communities. This project builds on the successes of an existing Food Scrap Pilot project. (pg. 256)

- Air Quality Benefits: Aerobically recycling the nutrients in food and green waste locally (by composting the remaining waste) avoids methane emissions that occur when food waste and green waste is deposited in the landfill. Local collection, processing, and application also avoids GHG emissions from transportation. Applying the finished compost locally builds healthy soils, which also reduces erosion and airborne particulate matter during and after high wind events. (pg. 261)

- Water Quality/Quantity Benefits: increasing access to local, high-quality soil amendment material (made from composted restaurant waste) and encouraging local application of the material will provide much needed water quality and quantity benefits. Local application of finished compost increases the soil’s ability to absorb and retain water, which reduces runoff and erosion during rain events, giving the soils more capacity to soak up and hold water, reduces erosion and increases water conservation. As water infiltrates into soils, the soil acts like a filter, cleaning the water. (pg. 261)

- Land & Soil Benefits: Applying finished compost adds much needed organic matter to the depleted, semi-arid soils, which increases nutrient content, improves plant growth, and helps regenerate the soils. Using compost as a soil amendment material helps soils retain moisture, which supports water conservation—especially important for semi-arid environments. (pg. 261)

- Ecological Benefits: The composting process cultivates an ecosystem of small organisms that break down the organic material so that nutrients once trapped in the food and green waste will again be available, instead of trapped in a landfill. Finished compost is considered stabilized organic matter, which has a variety of beneficial uses including soil restoration, carbon sequestration, and replacing or reducing the need for synthetic chemical inputs that have negative environmental inputs. Applying compost also increases soil microbe biodiversity, which leads to healthier soils. (pg. 262)

- Health Benefits: Healthy Benefits: Composting has multiple health-related benefits including: (1) Increased outdoor physical activity, (2) Recycles nutrients from input items that is available to grow local food without the need for synthetic fertilizers that contain nitrosamine, a chemical that has been linked to contributing to health issues (Alzheimer’s disease, diabetes mellitus, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, and pro-inflammatory cytokine activation). (3) Creating compost at home can be used on home gardens, which yield more nutritious produce than commercial foods. (pg. 80)
### Albuquerque Priority Climate Action Plan 2024

**Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource**

WR3: To accelerate the diversion of green waste material from local landfills and increase the conversion of this waste into reusable inputs to grow the green infrastructure, this measure will:

* Increase green waste reuse and formation into usable compost material,
* Increase education and outreach of composting methods,
* Create bioreactors and other composting methods infrastructure to produce product,
* Centralize input material dumping point for reuse. (pg. 273)

Environmental Benefits: Improving the health and vitality of the soil found in urban green spaces will have a compounding return to the overall environmental health and benefits these spaces provide to each individual community, and the city overall. Improved soil health will not only benefit the growth realities of plant material but will also improve the soil’s water holding capacity decreasing overall urban storm water runoff and sequestering natural water sources such as rain into the soil where it can be used by plant material. (pg. 276)

### Oregon Priority Climate Action Plan 2024

**Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators**

Food and biological waste diversion...Includes community composting for Tribal communities.

**Co-benefits:**

- reducing soil amendment needs,
- improving soil health,
- improving air and water quality,
- workforce development opportunities. (pg. 18)

**Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure**

Increase food waste recovery infrastructure: Grants to build or expand infrastructure as associated with anaerobic digestors and compost facilities... While there is significant interest in large-scale food waste recovery systems, DEQ would also use CPRG funds to support smaller-scale infrastructure, including in underserved communities, to encourage localized collection of food waste for composting that supports local food production. (pg.45)

Community Composting Grants: DEQ will conduct a competitive grants process to distribute funds to local governments or community-based organizations. Funding will prioritize underserved communities. EPA has documented the benefits of community composting. (pg. 45)

**Co-benefits:**

- Increase in composting means more compost to farmers which produces healthier soils and lower use of chemical fertilizers
- Increased compost use in agricultural production may reduce use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, resulting reduced toxics exposures among agricultural workers.
- Community gardens offer opportunities for public education and community building, as well as access to fresh produce.
- Expanding the infrastructure for food waste recovery could create additional jobs in the collection and management of food waste through composting and digestion. Many of these industries are located in rural and underserved communities. Community composting operations also could create jobs in underserved areas, both through the composting activities themselves and through support for local food production. (pg. 45)

Grants to support smaller-scale infrastructure, including in underserved communities, to encourage localized collection of food waste for composting that supports local food production. (pg. 45)

Improving food access while reducing food waste reduces household expenses. It may also increase economic opportunity in underserved communities that develop highly localized composting businesses and food production. (pg. 64)
| (1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators | Achieve a circular economy, whereby waste is minimized through prevention, reuse and recycling, and materials stay in use longer through improved product design and shared responsibilities for end-of-use material management. (pg. 139) |
| (2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure | Develop a circular economy framework and deliver a zero waste of resources plan that identifies opportunities to support community food banks, community-based compost initiatives, and community-owned food businesses. (pg. 225) |
| (4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost | Explore Compost Benefits: King County will support farmers on King County-owned farmland in the application of compost to their lands in order to improve their soils and to demonstrate compost’s value. This program will establish compost environmental benefits on farmlands, encourage land stewardship, and offer information and training to these farmers...support research into the climate benefit of compost to help provide clear evidence of climate impacts of using compost on King County lands, including agriculture and seeks to better understand the carbon sequestration potential of compost. (pg. 164) |
| Partner with frontline communities to support a regenerative and sustainable local zero waste food economy that prioritizes the physical and economic vitality of communities, health of food ecosystems, and well-being of food/farm workers. |
| - Develop a Good Food purchasing policy or guidelines that prioritizes and supports local, sustainable, small business and WMBE (women, minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurship) food vendors to purchase from for county-led and sponsored events (pg. 225) |
| (5) Leverage compost for climate mitigation and resiliency | Resilient Local Agriculture: King County and partners will support farmers and farmland owners to implement climate resilient agricultural practices to both enhance potential for farmland to sequester carbon (e.g., expanded use of compost) and to better respond to predicted changes in climate (e.g., greater availability and use of recycled water). (pg. 153) |
| Quantifying GHG Reductions: Sustainable farming techniques, especially organics practices, can enhance soil health, reduce fossil fuel-based resources, and increase the potential for agricultural soils to serve as a carbon sink. Alternative forest management can increase carbon sequestration potential. Efforts to increase access to and availability of locally produced low-impact food and timber can help reduce GHG emissions associated with transportation and storage. (pg. 165) |
| (6) Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource | Stakeholders highlighted the opportunity to create and support a local circular economy around the organics and composting program...including local government purchase of compost. (pg. 137) |
| Deliver Regional Organics Plan: There is significant opportunity to develop a regional self-sustaining circular system, where organic material is processed and returned to the soil, helping absorb and store more carbon. Adopted in 2019, this plan sets out to expand and enhance the regional market for compost, reduce wasted resources and contamination, and expand regional organic materials processing. (pg. 139) |
| Build markets for compost and other recycled content materials. To achieve a circular economy, to improve the health of the recycling system and to achieve the maximum GHG reductions, materials that enter the recycling system need to be made into new products. King County can affect the marketplace through policies and programs and further support the demand for recycled materials in the region because it purchases a wide range of goods and services. King County will further develop its procurement and technical assistance programs for the purchasing of products with recycled content, which will include developing standard specifications for a suite of materials. King County will also use compost on pilot projects starting in 2020 through 2025. It will baseline compost’s carbon sequestration potential by 2021 and reduce contamination through ongoing educational campaigns. (pg. 150) |
| Hawai’i Priority Climate Action Plan 2024 | **(1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators**  
Cardboard and Composting Waste Diversion Center, Hawai’i Island, Recycle Hawai’i: The proposed project aims to introduce and popularize waste diversion strategies aimed at reducing carbon pollution and providing direct benefits to the Hilo community.  
This project scope includes two initiatives: 1) A cardboard reuse project and 2) Partnering with Sustainable Coastlines to set up an in-vessel composting system to divert food waste and provide centralized compost for local use. (pg. 19) |
| --- | --- |
| **(2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure**  
Decentralized Compost Network for Hawai’i, Statewide, Sustainable Coastlines Hawai’i: This measure will expand the production, distribution, and application of compost within the islands of Hawai’i by building a decentralized, community-based compost network with an automated compost mixing system. This measure addresses the lack of locally produced, nutrient-rich compost, and will help reduce incineration and landfilling in Hawai’i. This project will elevate a compost network model as a way to inspire a new relationship with “waste,” reconnect communities to their resources and build more meaningful local agriculture by showing the scalability of this concept. (pg. 19) |
| Detroit, Michigan Climate Action Plan 2017 | **(1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators**  
End City contract with Detroit Renewable Power (incinerator) by 2021 (pg. 25) |
| Memphis Area Climate Action Plan 2020 | **(3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs**  
Expand Education & Outreach Efforts to Encourage Behavior Change: Waste outreach and education plans should aim to influence the behavior of a target audience. This will make them more likely to minimize their waste and recycle, take advantage of the programs available in Shelby County, and understand the importance of diverting waste from landfills, reducing litter, and the connection between solid waste and climate change.  
Education and outreach can also lead to greater support of public policy changes that can improve waste management and reduce GHG emissions. (pg. 158) |
|  | **(5) Leverage compost for climate mitigation and resiliency**  
Health: More efficient waste practices help improve air quality and create agricultural opportunities that decrease dependence on chemical fertilizers, improving food production practices, and reducing contamination of stormwater runoff. (pg. 135) |
|  | **(6) Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource**  
The major goals and related priority actions on waste offer the chance to positively impact our community in terms of public health, environmental health, neighborhood aesthetics, quality of life, and increased economic opportunity. It is important to consider context and locally relevant solutions...  
Another key recommendation involves supporting a circular economy through incentivizing and creating markets for the waste generated from one practice or industry to benefit the needs of another. (pg. 127)  
Incentivizing practices to use waste products in the local economy and generate revenue from these waste streams is central to these efforts. (pg. 129) |
| State                | Climate Action Plan                                                                 | Measure Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Impacts on LIDACs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Additional Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Montana              | Montana Climate Pollution Reduction Priorities 2024                                  | (2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure Develop or Expand Local Recycling and Composting Capacity: This measure supports the development or expansion of local recycling and composting programs through infrastructure investments and equipment purchases. Eligible projects support waste reduction, diversion, and/or reuse and may include enabling measures such as capacity building and education and outreach.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Expanding the infrastructure for recycling and food waste recovery could create additional jobs in the collection and management of recyclables and food waste through composting and digestion. Many of these industries are located in rural and underserved communities. Residents on fixed incomes in low-income and disadvantaged communities are disproportionally impacted by rising rates of waste services and trash pickup. Therefore, any program addressing waste management should be careful not to result in substantial local increases to rates for waste management and trash services. Siting waste or composting facilities should include all stakeholders, recognizing that LIDACs have received a disproportionate amount of this burden and the pollutants that come with it. (pg. 49) |
| City of Phoenix      | City of Phoenix Climate Action Plan 2021                                            | (3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs WR3.1 Provide outreach and feedback to residents what can and cannot be recycled through presentations to schools and communities. The Zero Waste team provides education on proper recycling, including group tours of the city’s North Gateway Transfer Station and MRF, educational presentations to schools, neighborhood and community meetings, and hosting informational booths at community events. (pg. 108)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LFS3.1 Update codes and ordinances where appropriate to eliminate barriers and encourage developing a healthy food infrastructure. (pg. 144)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                      |                                                                                      | (4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost WR3.2 Increase organic diversion from the landfill. Waste diversion efforts include diversion of organic materials. Through the Green Organics Residential Collection program, organic material, like yard trimmings, untreated wood, tree fruit, and cactus, is collected from residential properties…Program goals include establishing value in the local compost market by manufacturing a high-quality compost, reducing environmental and climate impacts from landfiling, and creating more community awareness around organic commodities and waste. (pg. 109)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| New York State       | New York State Climate Action Scoping Plan 2022                                     | (1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators W2. Fee per ton on waste: As stated in Strategy W1, the State should enact legislation in 2023 to establish a disposal disincentive (fee per ton) on all waste generated in New York to provide financial support for reduction, reuse, and recycling. (pg. 326)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

26
### New York State Climate Action Scoping Plan 2022

#### (2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure

W1. Financial assistance for organics recycling infrastructure: The State should expand existing financial assistance programs for organics recycling facility infrastructure, including collection and processing, for small-scale and larger-scale operations. (pg. 325)

W1. Expand food scraps collection and recycling at multi-family buildings: DEC and appropriate housing authorities should expand and replicate successful models of organics collection and recycling programs inclusive of multifamily buildings and public housing. (pg. 325)

W2. Support for local facilities: The State should provide financial support from new funding provided to implement the Climate Act and other sources, for local reuse centers, material exchanges, and repair shops to move beyond volunteer-run operations. (pg. 327)

#### (3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs

W2. School curriculum: The State should educate students on the connections between waste and the environment through curriculum development and use. (pg. 326)

#### (4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost

W1. Engagement with the farming community: The State should work with the farming community to increase the use of organic products, explore the potential for organics recycling facilities on farms, increase the use of food scraps for animal feed, and explore the potential for increased food donation from farms. (pg. 325)

W2. State procurement standards: The State should codify its GreenNY procurement program in statute to ensure the long-term success of the program and continued progress on issuing new green procurement standards for products that reduce GHG emissions, are energy-efficient, produce less waste and are made with recycled content, and reduce the usage of toxic chemicals in State operations. (pg. 327)

W2. Reduce toxics in products: The State should enact additional legislation to ban materials and chemicals that may be found in products that are of concern for human health or environmental impacts. DEC should support research and activities that will lead to less toxic alternatives. (pg. 328)

### State of Maryland Priority Climate Action Plan 2024

#### (2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure

Sustainable Materials Management: The focus is to reduce the amount of GHG emitted from landfills, provide edible food to people at a free or low cost, and improve Maryland’s soil and water quality.

Supporting local initiatives include:
- The creation and expansion of local, decentralized organics collection and composting programs through distributed infrastructure in partnership with local operators. (pg. 62)

#### (3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs

- Public outreach and education programs to promote compost as a resource, reduce food loss and waste, and connect waste and food systems to climate change. (pg. 62)

#### (4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost

- On-farm composting and compost utilization with technical assistance, financial support, and reduced barriers to operating which will support urban and rural farmers, build healthy soils, and enhance local food security. (pg. 62)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Montgomery County, Maryland</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Action Plan 2021</td>
<td>Priority Climate Action Plan 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### (2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure
S-5 All levels of composting must be implemented, including backyard, on-farm, and on-site composting, and collection of food scraps from the government, commercial, and residential sectors. The County will also need to establish legislation in support of a countywide healthy soils program and review relevant state and local law to address the use of compost as a nutrient supplement for lawn care. (pg. 194)

Ensure that municipal composting is available to apartment dwellers and community members who do not own land (pg. 194)

### (3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs
Engage with residents to share the benefits of healthy soils, provide guidance on how to improve soil health, and ensure engagement efforts are undertaken in multiple languages. (pg. 194)

### (4) Support urban and rural farmers in producing and utilizing compost
S-4 Regenerative Agriculture:
The County should work with local farmers to increase regenerative agriculture practices in the County. Regenerative agriculture practices should be incentivized for farmers, such as...healthy soil practices (including use of compost on degraded soils)... These systems increase carbon sequestration on farmland while improving biodiversity, the water cycle, and natural ecosystems. To support this, the County should work with the Montgomery County Green Bank to develop incentive financing and revolving loan funds to maximize local, sustainable agriculture efforts. (pg. 192)

- Launch this action through a pilot project partnership with local farmers to facilitate and incentivize the adoption of farming practices that are carbon neutral and sustainable
- To eliminate barriers to farming, prioritize incentives for lower-income farmers and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) farmers based on need and in partnerships that encourage both tenant farmers and landowning farmers

Sustainably farmed, local food has the co-benefits of sequestering carbon through the use of regenerative agriculture practices, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with transporting agricultural products over long distances, and building greater self-sufficiency in the face of supply chain disruptions associated with climate change. (pg. 193)

### (5) Leverage compost for climate mitigation and resiliency
For a local jurisdiction like Montgomery County, focusing on carbon farming is the most viable option right now. By adopting nature-based solutions such as composting, biochar, and other smart agriculture practices addressed in the Carbon Sequestration Actions section, the County can contribute positively to reducing its GHG emissions. (pg. 291)

- Please note: Montgomery County currently has a municipal trash incinerator. There are active efforts to close it down, which ILSR maintains is necessary to reaching their climate action goals.

### (1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators
Reforestation, Urban Forestry, and Composting: Support and incentivize composting programs that divert food and yard waste and increase beneficial use of organic waste. (pg. 24)

### (3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs
Composting at schools: Expand current school compost programs in area schools (pg. D-18)

### (5) Leverage compost for climate mitigation and resiliency
Sustainable Farming Practices: Support current Oklahoma Conservation Commission programs which boost activities that promote carbon sequestration through regenerative agriculture practices including cover crop, no-till, and soil amendments. Harness technology and science that brings sustainable farming and value in Oklahoma’s agricultural supply chain. (pg. 24)
### State of New Mexico

**Priority Climate Action Plan 2024**

#### (1) Increase organic waste diversion from landfills and incinerators

J1. Organic Waste Diversion Programs: In a groundbreaking initiative, four prominent New Mexico entities – Santa Fe County; South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA); Los Alamos County; and the City of Albuquerque are forming a coalition to tackle climate change by composting food scraps and green waste and implementing food waste prevention initiatives. This statewide composting revolution aims to dramatically reduce GHG emissions... to a cleaner, healthier planet for generations to come.

- Los Alamos County: Divert 4,500 tons of food scraps and green waste annually from the landfill into a municipal composting operation. Provide conveniently located dropoff sites for residents and curbside collection for commercial customers. Provide the community with educational materials and workshops on how to compost correctly and how to reduce food waste. (pg. 150)

- Albuquerque: Provide outreach and technical assistance to educate residents and local restaurants about food waste prevention and composting, particularly low-income areas: residential food waste prevention, technical assistance for small restaurants, and increase community composting. (pg. 150)

**Health Benefits:** Composting reduces the risk of water contamination by diverting organic waste from landfills, where leachate can seep into groundwater supplies and render water unsuitable for drinking. Diverting organic materials and eliminating the need to transport materials to distant landfills contributes to healthy air quality and avoids harmful air pollution along the transportation route. By composting organic material locally, the county minimizes transportation emissions and improves air quality in local communities, benefiting everyone’s respiratory health. Compost produced will be available locally and provide more nutritious produce than commercial foods, as well as reducing the use of chemical fertilizers that can lead to nitrosamine in foods. (pg. 164)

**Economic Benefits:** Generating compost locally improves access to soil amendment material that supports a resilient food system and can spur the local, small-scale agricultural economy...keeps profits and benefits nearby, creating a sustainable ecosystem responsive to community needs with greater personal investment and higher-quality products. Launches and scales up more quickly and is less expensive than landfills or incinerators. (pg. 166)

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### Providence, Rhode Island

**Climate Justice Plan 2019**

#### (2) Invest in diverse and distributed local composting infrastructure

A growing number of local composting businesses and nonprofits are providing residential and commercial food scrap collection or drop-off options. Providence’s Office of Sustainability, in partnership with the Zero Waste Providence group, are exploring neighborhood-scale composting solutions and working on a campaign to get 100 business in Providence to compost by the end of 2020. (pg. 65)

Work with local community groups to pilot community composting throughout the City. Use various models of neighborhood composting that incorporate curbside pickup, multiple drop-off locations, incentivize at-home composting, etc. Ensure that the resulting composting program will not economically or otherwise burden communities of color. (pg. 67)

#### (5) Leverage compost for climate mitigation and resiliency

Explore the benefits of adding compost to soils to increase carbon sequestration and stormwater runoff treatment capacity. Continue to promote local use of finished compost. (pg. 67)

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### Santa Monica, California

**Climate Action & Adaptation Plan 2019**

#### (3) Conduct public outreach and expand education programs

ZW2: Zero Waste Outreach & Education: increase material sorting compliance in multiunit dwellings and businesses through education, waste audits, and enforcement. Recommend ways to reduce consumption and increase composting and recycling. (pg. 28)

#### (6) Promote local production and utilization of high-quality compost as a resource

Compost: The Next Frontier: Organic materials, like food scraps and yard waste, are extremely valuable natural resources that can be transformed into earth-enriching compost. However, businesses and residents have historically been provided limited options to sort and manage their organic materials. State regulations now require all commercial properties and large residential properties to utilize composting services. (pg. 26)
## Appendix C.
Examples from Climate Action Plans with Strong Equity Language

This chart includes text directly quoted from the publicly available climate action plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Climate Action Plan</th>
<th>Model Equity Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Guiding Principles (pg. 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• #1 Center equity by addressing mitigating, or alleviating unequal environmental burdens placed on environmental justice communities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• #2 Recognize that environmental, social, and economic well-being is interconnected and take advantage of the transition to sustainable practices and to protect both our communities and the natural environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>• #4 Seek to create co-benefits for the people, economy, and environment in Baltimore through climate action</td>
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<tr>
<td>• #9 Redesign, reduce, reuse, recycle and compost and recirculate would-be wasted materials into the local economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In our outreach and engagement process, we sought input from communities too often left out of climate conversations, decisions, and planning: frontline; environmental justice; black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC); and under served communities (pg. 26)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Waste generates 13% of our GHG emissions, but the environmental burdens and health impacts of waste-related facilities are not equally shared across the city. For instance, South Baltimore residents, families, and children shoulder an unequal, unjust burden of living near waste facilities that pose public health threats. Preventing, diverting, and recirculating the value of waste items in our local economy is imperative to protecting the health and well-being of environmental justice communities and all people in Baltimore. (pg. 29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• To put this plan into action, we will partner with communities to find the tools and resources needed to secure the right solutions for each community, with priority given to frontline communities. We will work to empower and uplift young people, businesses, institutions, and other stakeholders to do their part in carrying out the actions in this plan (pg. 31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Frontline, fenceline, or environmental justice communities are more likely to be located near sources of pollution such as waste incinerators, coal-fired power plants, or other polluting industries; have poorer air quality, fewer trees, and less green space or foliage; and are more affected by extreme heat. BIPOC populations often live in environmental justice and frontline communities, as race is the greatest predictor of unfair, unjust exposure to environmental toxins (pg. 33)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In the past and today, neighborhoods in Baltimore receive different levels of resources and investment. Climate change-related hazards have the potential to cause the most strain for low-income residents, who have fewer resources and face greater barriers to safety, adequate medical aid, and economic recovery after a climate event. Frontline, fence-line, or environmental justice communities face climate change challenges more than other neighborhoods (pg. 36)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<td>-------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
<td>• This plan was developed using a lens of equity and climate justice... we were careful to make choices that would help reduce problems for frontline and environmental justice communities and to balance our decisions with high-impact actions that will benefit everyone in Baltimore (pg. 37)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• W6. Promote and Partner with Circular-Economy Local Businesses: Promote and/or partner with local businesses that use local recycled materials, avoid single-use materials, or pursue other actions outlined in the Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management Plan (2023). Educate businesses on how to participate in a circular economy and use the Sustainable Business Guidelines to help them to use local materials and reuse service providers. Explore opportunities to help local businesses and local government pursue Environmentally Preferred Purchasing options. Community Benefits: public health, economic prosperity, resilience, and social cohesion (pg. 76)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• N5. Partner with Community-Based Groups to Increase Neighborhood Nature-Based Solutions and Educate Communities About Climate Resilience: Seek opportunities to partner with existing green space stewards, urban farms, and other nonprofit and community-based groups to advance local understanding of climate resilience, climate-friendly techniques, and interventions such as installing native plants and soils and encourage the installation and maintenance of more nature-based solutions in Baltimore neighborhoods. Community Benefits: public health, savings to residents and businesses, and resilience (pg. 82)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County, Washington</td>
<td>• We must ensure that frontline communities benefit from the transition to a clean energy economy, have the knowledge, skills, resources, capacity, and the social and political capital to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and can equitably recover, adapt, and thrive in a changing climate (pg. 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• We value the expertise of our communities, base decisions on the best available science, embrace innovation, and lead with racial justice and equity (pg. 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• There cannot be climate justice without racial justice. Systemic social, environmental, racial, and economic inequities in our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities will only be exacerbated as climate impacts occur and contribute to the risk of our communities being left out of the transition to a sustainable future (pg. 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provides stronger support to frontline communities and a more sustainable future for all, which will only be achieved with a commitment to racial justice and accountability to the most impacted communities (pg. 6)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Prioritize collaborative language access in partnership with trusted community partners (pg. 13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Advance frontline community leadership by investing in long-term community and tribal partnerships, community capacity development, and improved infrastructure for community driven policy and decision-making (pg. 13)</td>
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<td>• Prioritize and elevate the needs of BIPOC communities, immigrants and refugees, people living with low incomes, people with disabilities, limited-English-speaking communities, and other frontline communities in climate action (pg. 20)</td>
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<td>New York State</td>
<td>• Centering equity, environmental justice, and a just economic transition (pg. 33)</td>
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<td>• Seek to lift up New Yorkers in the transition to a low-carbon economy (pg. 72)</td>
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<td>• Reduce methane emissions by implementing practice systems specifically planned and designed for each farm, including composting (pg. 288)</td>
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<td>• Equity should be integrated into the design of any economy-wide strategy (pg. 339)</td>
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<td>• Promote equity in a way that does not unduly burden New Yorkers or create disadvantages (pg. 339)</td>
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<td>• Develop investment programs that ensure at least 35%, with a goal of 40%, of the benefits of investments flow to Disadvantaged Communities (pg. 343)</td>
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| Providence, Rhode Island | • We choose to lead with equity and partner with those who are most impacted by the climate crisis and other environmental injustices (pg. 3)  
• Make sure climate action doesn’t lead to displacement, and that we prioritize reducing carbon emissions that harm Providence’s most vulnerable populations (pg. 3)  
• We worked with a cohort of frontline community members for a program to understand how our energy system currently works, and what a more equitable, just, and carbon-free system might look like (pg. 18)  
• Frontline communities are autonomous and have the right to craft decisions that impact their lives and their communities (pg. 20)  
• Acknowledge gentrification and commit to stopping the displacement of indigenous and people of color, especially by developers and universities (pg. 20)  
• To effectively partner with community organizations, local government staff should be resourced with anti-racism, anti-bias and cultural competency trainings and institutionalized practices (pg. 31)  
• Allocating resources appropriately to ensure the commitment to equity is supported and implemented with concrete solutions. Hire staff who have a system-change and racial equity analysis, as well as lived experience conducive to collaborating effectively with impacted communities (pg. 31) |
| San Diego, CA | • The City is committed to leading on climate equity by involving more community voices in the decision-making process and exploring ways to shift toward a shared decision-making model (pg. 6)  
• We must prioritize action and investment where the need is greatest by involving impacted community members in the City’s decision-making process early and through continual partnerships (pg. 11) |
| San Francisco, California | • The CAP identifies actions to address inequities across sectors, including in housing and transportation. It supports communities that have been most impacted by climate change yet have not historically benefited from climate solutions. By centering racial equity and focusing on what matters most to San Francisco’s diverse communities, implementing the CAP will create good jobs that are tied to meaningful work (pg. 24)  
• In addition to eliminating emissions, equity is a co-equal priority for the CAP. To support transparency and rigor, SF Environment created the Racial and Social Equity Assessment Tool (R-SEAT) especially for the CAP (pg. 29)  
• In addition to reducing emissions to zero over the next 20 years, the CAP strives to ensure all San Franciscans have the skills, knowledge, and resources to meet interconnected challenges that lie ahead, including climate change. To do so, the proposed strategies leverage community strengths, advance racial and social equity, and provide critical benefits to the entire community (pg. 43)  
• Equity can be advanced by ensuring inclusive access to benefits, for example by providing subsidies for green technologies such as solar panels, electric vehicles or energy efficiency upgrades to those who cannot afford them. In this example, strategies deliver benefits to populations who may lack access to them while also promoting new technologies (pg. 44)  
• Climate solutions that fail to address racial inequity are less likely to be successful while those that advance multiple goals and provide sustainable solutions for many years (pg. 45)  
• In keeping with its commitment to equity and consideration of those who will impacted the most by climate change, this plan integrates actions to reduce emissions from production and consumption, recognizing the effect local and regional purchasing decisions have all over the world (pg. 102) |