

# USDA Building Blocks for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry

- **What is a “Climate Smart” approach?**
  - Enhance sustainable productivity improvements
  - Build resilience to climate change
  - Reduce emissions, increase sequestration, and generate renewable energy

## Principles of the USDA Building Blocks

- **Voluntary and incentive-based** – Building on existing legislation and our history of “cooperative conservation.”
- **Focused on multiple economic and environmental benefits** – Through efficiency improvements, improved yields, or reduced risks.
- **Meet the needs of producers** – By focusing on working farms, ranches, forests, and production systems.
- **Assess progress and measure success** – Through quantitative goals and objectives.
- **Cooperative and focused on building partnerships** – With industry, farm groups, and conservation organizations.

# USDA's 10 Building Block Goals

Building Block	Goals (by 2025)
Soil Health	Promote soil conservation practices that improve soil organic matter, reduce emissions from soils and equipment, and promote healthier soils nationwide <b>ES</b>
Nitrogen Stewardship	Reduce nitrous oxide emissions and provide cost savings through application of 4 "Rs"
Livestock Partnerships	Install 500 anaerobic digesters; install impermeable covers on 10% of dairy cattle and swine operations
Conservation of Sensitive Lands	Enroll 400,000 acres of CRP with high GHG benefits; protect 40,000 acres through easements; transfer expiring CRP acres to permanent easements <b>ES</b>
Grazing and Pasture Lands	Establish grazing management plans on an additional 9 M acres for a total of 27 M acres <b>ES</b>
Private Forest Growth and Retention	Through FLP and CFP, protect almost 1 M acres of working landscapes <b>ES</b>
Stewardship of Federal Forests	Reforest 32,000 acres per year on National Forest System lands
Promotion of Wood Products	Increase the number of building projects supported through technical assistance from 280 in 2014 to 2,000 in 2025
Urban Forests	Plant 100,000 additional trees in urban areas <b>ES</b>
Energy Generation and Efficiency	Promote renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency through EECLP, REAP, and NOFEI (EQIP), and RHS programs