

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Kevin Atticks, Secretary
Steve Connelly, Deputy Secretary



Greenhouse Gas Reduction Efforts Annual Report

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SUMMARY

The Climate Change Solutions Now Act of 2022 requires that each year the Maryland Department of Agriculture submit to the Maryland Climate Change Commission and the Governor an annual report on greenhouse gas reduction efforts and climate change mitigation efforts.

Maryland's agriculture sector primarily emits non-CO₂ GHGs from sources such as manure management and agricultural soils. The Department, in addition to promoting increased soil carbon sequestration, is focused on encouraging agricultural best management practices to decrease emissions in the sector more generally. Emissions categories include enteric fermentation, manure management, agricultural soils, agricultural burning, and urea fertilizer usage and liming.

The Department of Agriculture spent \$59.9 million on GHG reductions in FY24, which was approximately 30.9% of our budget. The spending went towards emissions in agriculture and emissions in waste management through our Office of Resource Conservation (ORC). This office works with Maryland farmers to plan and implement conservation practices and programs that balance crop and livestock production with the need to protect natural resources. The ORC's Nutrient Management program works to regulate the appropriate nutrient application (fertilizer, manure, and other organic sources) for production that would contribute to decreased emissions from agriculture.

Other ORC programs include District Operations, Conservation Grants, and Program Planning & Evaluation. These programs administer technical and financial assistance directly to farmers to advance the adoption of conservation (cover crops, conservation plans, urban and small farms, Healthy Soils Program) that would contribute to decreased emissions from agriculture or increase soil carbon sequestration. Of the total amount spent on GHG reduction activities 28%, or \$16.9 million, went to disproportionately affected communities.