



State Technical Committee



The NRCS State Technical Committee (STC) is an advisory committee for the NRCS State Conservationist or designee. Many important decisions about conservation programs are made at the state level, and NRCS professionals give strong consideration to the Committee's recommendations. The Committee's role is advisory in nature, and the Committee has no implementation or enforcement authority. NRCS reserves the authority to accept or reject the Committee's recommendations. Members may be polled, but voting on issues is not suitable. Meeting summaries or notes may be made, but official Committee minutes are not proper.



How do State Technical Committees operate?

The NRCS State Conservationist or designee is the chair of the Committee and ensures that:

- The Committee meets at least twice a year at a time and place designated by the State Conservationist. Other meetings maybe held at the discretion of the State Conservationist. Any USDA agency, however, can make a request of the State Conservationist for a meeting.
- The Committee and subcommittee meetings are open to the public.
- Meetings are conducted as open discussions, with or without time limits, and are focused on USDA programs and activities.



Who is eligible to participate?

The Committee should include members from a wide variety of natural resource and agricultural interests, such as agricultural producers, owners and operators of nonindustrial private forest land, American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes or Corporations, agricultural and environmental organizations, and other professionals

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who represent a variety of interests and disciplines in the soil, water, wetlands, plant, and wildlife sciences.

How do you become a member?

The Committee is chaired by the NRCS State Conservationist or designee, and the State Conservationist decides who will be offered representation on the Committee. Individuals or groups who want to become members may submit requests to the State Conservationist explaining their interest and relevant credentials. Decisions of the State Conservationist concerning membership on the Committee are final and not appealable. In the Caribbean Area, Committee meetings are open to all and official membership is not required.

What kinds of issues does the Committee address?

The Committee provides input on the following federal conservation programs:

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), including special projects, like Working Lands for Wildlife
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Technical Service Providers (TSPs)

The Committee may:

- Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.
- Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.
- Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications.
- Recommend State program policy based on resource data.
- Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests from local working groups.
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify producers' educational or training needs.

The statute authorizing State Technical Committees is found in 7 CFR §610.24. NRCS policy on State Technical Committees is found in 440 General Manual 501 Subpart C

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=27719>



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