



News Release

Natural Resources Conservation Service

355 East Hancock Ave., Ste. 212
Athens, GA, 30601
Voice: 706-546-2069
Email: chris.groskreutz@usda.gov
Web: <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov>

Release No.: 010.22

Contact:
Chris Groskreutz (706) 546-2069
Chris.Groskreutz@usda.gov

USDA Climate-Smart Commodities Funding Opportunity Deadlines Approaching

Funding Pools for Applicants Close on May 6 and June 10

Athens, GA, April 29, 2022 – The deadline for partners to apply for the first round of funding through the new [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) is Friday, May 6, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. This funding pool includes large-scale proposals from \$5 million to \$100 million that emphasize the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production, and include direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/or historically underserved producers.

“Don’t miss out on this unique opportunity. These pilot projects will create and expand market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forestry products that use climate-smart practices,” said Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist Terrance O. Rudolph in Georgia. “We want a broad array of agriculture and forestry producers and landowners to see themselves in this effort.”

Applicants with proposals from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999 have until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, June 10, 2022, to apply for the second funding pool. These innovative pilot projects should place an emphasis on the enrollment of small and/or underserved producers, and/or monitoring, reporting and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a climate-smart commodity is defined as an agricultural commodity that is produced using agricultural (farming, ranching or forestry) practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon. Funding will be provided to partners through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) [Commodity Credit Corporation](#).

How to Apply

The primary applicant must be an entity, not an individual. A range of public and private entities may apply, including:

- County, city, or township governments

- Special district governments
- State governments
- Small businesses
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education, or
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education.

[Frequently asked questions](#) are available on the website to help answer questions.

USDA is committed to equity in program delivery and is specifically seeking proposals from entities serving all types of producers, including small or historically underserved producers. Providing sufficient incentives to encourage producer participation and generating both verifiable greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration benefits are critical to project success and will be considered in the evaluation criteria.

More Information

USDA published a [Request for Information](#) in September 2021 seeking public comment and input on design of this new initiative and used the nearly 400 comments received to inform this funding opportunity.

Visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov) for additional information, including details on Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities and resources to support your application.

Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is engaged in a whole-of-government effort to combat the climate crisis and conserve and protect our nation’s lands, biodiversity and natural resources including our soil, air, and water. Through conservation practices and partnerships, USDA aims to enhance economic growth and create new streams of income for farmers, ranchers, producers, and private foresters. Successfully meeting these challenges will require USDA and our agencies to pursue a coordinated approach alongside USDA stakeholders, including State, local and Tribal governments.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America’s food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.