

USDA News

USDA FUNDS CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

The following is an excerpt from the USDA website: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the Biden-Harris Administration through the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing up to \$2.8 billion in 70 selected projects under the first pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity, with projects from the second funding pool to be announced later this year. Ultimately, USDA's anticipated investment will triple to more than \$3 billion in pilots that will create market opportunities for American commodities produced using climate-smart production practices. These initial projects will expand markets for climate-smart commodities, leverage the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production and provide direct, meaningful benefits to production agriculture, including for small and underserved producers. Applicants submitted more than 450 project proposals in this first funding pool, and the strength of the projects identified led USDA to increase its investment in this opportunity from the initial \$1 billion Vilsack announced earlier this year.

Funding for Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will be delivered through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation in two pools. Projects announced today are from the first funding pool, which included proposals seeking funds ranging from \$5 million to \$100 million. USDA received over 450 proposals from more than 350 entities for this funding pool, including non-profit organizations; for-profits and government entities; farmer cooperatives; conservation, energy and environmental groups; state, tribal and local governments; universities (including minority serving institutions); small businesses; and large corporations. Applications covered every state in the nation as well as tribal lands, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The tentative selections announced today reflect this broad set of applicants and geographic scope, and the proposals include plans to match on average over 50% of the federal investment with nonfederal funds.

USDA will work with the applicants for the 70 identified projects to finalize the scope and funding levels in the coming months. A complete list of projects identified for this first round of funding is available at [usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities](https://www.usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities). These include: Climate-Smart Agriculture Innovative Finance Initiative, Scaling Methane Emissions Reductions and Soil Carbon Sequestration, The Soil Inventory Project Partnership for Impact and Demand, The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities, and Traceable Reforestation for America's Carbon and Timber.

The full press release can be found on the USDA website: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases>. 🐾