

CARB:

'Regenerative Agriculture' includes farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter with compost and biochar, and restoring degraded soil biodiversity, resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle. Lawrence Livermore Lab's January 2020 report, 'Getting to Neutral – Options for Negative Carbon Emissions in California', featured natural solutions, including compost and biochar application sequestering carbon into the soils, leading to carbon neutrality by 2045; these programs are noted among the most cost-effective solutions. CARB needs to include the information from this report into the AB 32 Scoping Plan modeling and metrics.

Compost production and use is being viewed as contributing to carbon neutrality at CARB's Natural and Working Lands Workshops and in policy documents. The 'Draft California 2030 Natural and Working Lands Climate Change Implementation Plan' looks to double agricultural compost and mulch use. It is important that the CARB Board prioritize healthy soils in its climate change and environmental policy leadership to provide long-term resiliency and position California for economic recovery. California's recycling and composting industry can drive significant investment and job growth, creating 125,000 new green jobs on the pathway toward stabilizing the falling statewide recycling rate, while concurrently reducing between 20 and 30 million metric tons of greenhouse gases. According to established research, soil can act as a vast carbon sink to help balance out greenhouse gases, withholding up to three times as much carbon as is found in the atmosphere

To get to carbon neutrality, compost and biochar use present carbon negative options that need to be included into the modeling and metrics for 2030 and 2045.