

US Nature AClimate News Release

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Contact

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U.S. Nature4Climate Launches to Highlight Role of Natural Climate Solutions to Slow Climate Change

New coalition focuses on the potential of farms, forests, grasslands and wetlands in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in the United States

[NEW YORK, NY] — Today, the Nature4Climate initiative announced the launch of its U.S. chapter to help put America's natural and working lands to work in the effort to slow climate change. Since its launch in 2017, Nature4Climate has worked to incorporate Natural Climate Solutions into worldwide efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, alongside the decarbonization of the energy sector. The new U.S. Nature4Climate coalition will highlight the role Natural Climate Solutions can play in efforts to address climate change in the United States.

"The launch of our U.S. chapter will help unleash the capacity of America's farms, ranches, forests, grasslands and wetlands to remove dangerous greenhouse gases from the atmosphere," said Lucy Almond, the Global Director and Chair of Nature4Climate. "With the ever-increasing frequency of climate change-related disasters in the U.S. and worldwide, this effort has taken on new urgency."

Natural Climate Solutions are conservation, restoration and improved land management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help remove carbon from the atmosphere. These practices have the potential to contribute up to 30 percent of the solution to climate change in the U.S., and include activities ranging from cover cropping to tree planting and improved forest management to grassland and sea grass restoration. Private landowners play a key role in implementation of these strategies.

"America's natural and working lands have the potential to store vast amounts of carbon," said Catherine Macdonald, The Nature Conservancy's North America Director of Natural Climate Solutions and Chair of the USN4C Steering Committee. "This coalition will help ensure that Natural Climate Solutions are recognized as an important part of our overall strategy to address climate change, supporting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in other sectors of our economy."

As part of this effort, U.S. Nature4Climate is launching a website, www.USnature4climate.org, to serve as a resource for news media and others interested in learning more about the role of Natural Climate Solutions in the United States. The website includes the latest science on the carbon reduction potential of these climate solutions, profiles of programs that are putting these solutions into action, and stories of farmers, forest owners and communities reaping the economic and environmental benefits delivered by these strategies.

The U.S. Nature4Climate Steering Committee is comprised of a diverse coalition of conservation, sustainability-focused businesses, forestry and agriculture leaders working together to ensure Natural Climate Solutions are integrated into national, state and corporate efforts to combat climate change.

The Nature Conservancy: Catherine Macdonald, North America Director of Natural Climate Solutions

American Forests: Jad Daley, President & CEO **Ceres**: Alli Gold-Roberts, Director – State Policy

Land Trust Alliance: Kelly Watkinson, Land & Climate Program Manager

Outdoor Industry Association: Amy Horton, Senior Director, Sustainable Business Innovation Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: Christy Plumer, Chief Conservation Officer

U.S. Climate Alliance: Jennifer Phillips, Senior Policy Advisor

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action: Erin Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Wildlife Conservation Society: Melanie Stansbury, Policy Advisor

World Resources Institute: Alexander Rudee, Associate – Carbon Removal

Nature4Climate: Lucy Almond, Director

In addition to their climate benefits, Natural Climate Solutions offer a wide array of complementary economic and environmental benefits, many of which were highlighted by U.S. Nature4Climate Steering Committee members:

"America's farmers and ranchers have been and continue to be part of the solution to climate change. That's why many are voluntarily adopting climate-smart farming and ranching techniques that store carbon and improve soil health –making our land more productive and our communities more vibrant." – Erin Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action

"Businesses are deploying and investing in Natural Climate Solutions because they play a key role in capturing carbon, increasing our resilience to climate change, and helping companies meet their ambitious sustainability goals." – Alli Gold-Roberts, Director of State Policy, Ceres

"Trees are natural carbon-removing machines. By protecting forests, planting trees and changing the way we manage forestland, we can kick that machine into high gear, while also creating thousands of jobs. That is why policy makers across the aisle are embracing the role forests can play in our climate change strategy." – Jad Daley, President & CEO, American Forests

"America's outdoor playgrounds — and the jobs and revenue generated by the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy — are at risk from climate disruption. In addition to driving down the outdoor industry's greenhouse gas emissions, protecting our forests and grasslands can mitigate climate change while also preserving the outdoor experience," said Amy Horton, the Outdoor Industry Association's Senior Director of Sustainable Business Innovation

U.S. Nature4Climate is funded by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

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U.S. Nature4Climate is a coalition of 10 leading conservation, sustainability, and business organizations dedicated to ensuring our forests, farms, ranches, grasslands and wetlands are an important part of our overall strategy to combat climate change. Our goal is to create a collaborative platform where conservation organizations, businesses that care about sustainability and agriculture and forestry leaders can work together to help ensure that Natural Climate Solutions are fully integrated into broader climate action strategies. U.S. Nature4Climate is funded by a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. http://www.usnature4climate.org