



Brief Description of Catalog of State Actions Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management (AFW) Technical Work Group (TWG)

Note that this listing is incomplete and will be fleshed out during the AFW TWG process. TWG members are encouraged to provide input on policies and programs in place in Arkansas to assist in defining baselines. The “Notes” column of the AFW Catalog of State Actions should be used to record recently enacted policies and programs in Arkansas relevant to a state action in the catalog.

AFW-1 PRODUCTION OF FUELS AND ELECTRICITY

1.1 Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity or Steam Production

Increase the amount of biomass available for generating electricity and displacing the use of fossil energy sources. Local electricity or steam production yields greatest net energy payoff.

Recent Actions in AR:

1.2 In-State Liquid Biofuels Production

Increase production of ethanol and/or biodiesel fuel from agriculture and/or forestry feedstocks and/or municipal solid and other waste (raw materials) to displace the use of fossil diesel. Promote the development of cellulosic ethanol technologies and ethanol production systems that use renewable fuels to improve the embedded energy content of ethanol. Increased production and consumption in state gives the highest benefits.

Recent Actions in AR:

Biodiesel Suppliers and Producers

Act 1287 (SB 363)—The act provides a tax credit for biodiesel suppliers in the state. The act provides incentives in the form of grants for biodiesel producers in the state.

Alternative Fuels Development Program

Act 873 (HB 1379)—The act creates the Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Program to be administered by the Arkansas Agriculture Department with the purpose of providing grant incentives for alternative fuels producers, feedstock processors, and alternative fuels distributors. The act also creates the Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Fund and repeals obsolete sections of the Arkansas Code related to alternative fuels.

1.3 Manure Digesters/Other Waste Energy Utilization

Reduce the amount of methane emissions from livestock manure by installing manure digesters on livestock operations. Energy from the manure digesters is used to create heat or power, which offsets fossil fuel-based energy production and the associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

Poultry Litter

Act 1061 (HB 1654)—The act declares various areas of the state to be nutrient surplus areas for phosphorus and nitrogen. The act authorizes the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission to make rules concerning management of nutrients in nutrient surplus areas. The act also creates penalties for violations of the act.

Poultry Feeding—Management Plans

Act 2294 (SB 1160)—This act requires that, after January 1, 2007, application of poultry litter to soils or associated crops within a nutrient surplus area shall be done in accordance with a nutrient-management plan or poultry-litter management plan.

AFW-2 AGRICULTURE—LIVESTOCK

2.1 Manure Management

2.1. Implement manure management practices that reduce GHG emissions associated with manure handling and storage. Potential practices include but are not limited to manure composting (to reduce methane emissions) and improved methods for application to fields (for reduced nitrous oxide [N₂O]emissions). Application improvements include incorporation into soil instead of surface spray/spreading. Also, implement digester and energy recovery projects at confined animal operations to reduce methane emissions and to utilize the energy to displace fossil fuels. To date, most of these projects have been implemented at dairies and swine operations.

Recent Actions in AR:

2.2 Changes in Animal Feed

Livestock emit methane directly as a result of digestive processes (enteric fermentation). Research suggests that changes in the energy content of feed and other dietary changes can reduce methane emissions from enteric fermentation. By optimizing nitrogen (protein) utilization in the feed, nitrogen levels in the manure can be reduced which, in turn, reduce the potential for nitrous oxide emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

2.3 Rotational Grazing/Improve Grazing Crops and/or Management

Heavy grazing can cause significant soil disturbance and result in carbon losses from soils. Rotational grazing where animals are moved from field to field on a regular basis reduces soil disturbance and maintains soil carbon levels. Rotational grazing also can improve plant vigor and enhance soil carbon levels.

Recent Actions in AR:

2.4 Utilize Biofilters to Control CAFO Emissions

The utilization of collection and control equipment such as biofilters at confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) can reduce methane emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

2.5 Increase Pasturing and Lower Densities

Increasing the area over which manure is deposited has the potential to reduce emissions of methane, since the manure is more likely to be decomposed aerobically than anaerobically.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-3 AGRICULTURE—CROP PRODUCTION

3.1 Soil Carbon Management

The amount of carbon stored in the soil can be increased by the adoption of practices such as conservation and no-till cultivation. Reducing summer fallow and increasing winter cover crops are complementary practices that reduce the need for conventional tillage. In addition, the application of biochar (i.e., charcoal) may also increase soil carbon content and stabilize soil carbon. By reducing mechanical soil disturbance, these practices reduce the oxidation of soil carbon compounds and allow more stable aggregates to form. Other benefits include reduced wind and water erosion, reduced fuel consumption, and improved wildlife habitat.

Recent Actions in AR:

3.2 Nutrient Management

Improve the efficiency of fertilizer use and other nitrogen-based soil amendments through implementation of management practices. Excess nitrogen not metabolized by plants can leach into groundwater and/or be emitted to the atmosphere as N₂O. Better nutrient utilization can lead to lower nitrous oxide emissions from runoff.

Recent Actions in AR:

3.3 Technology Improvements to Increase Efficiency

New technologies and cultivation methods have the potential to reduce GHG emissions when fossil fuel or electricity consumption can be reduced. Auto-steer guidance systems are an example as well as auto swath technology, which uses a global positioning system (GPS) to automatically turn the spray boom sections on or off when coming to an area of the field that has been sprayed or needs to be sprayed. This can be used for planting, fertilizing, and so on. On odd-shaped fields, it can be a 3%–5% savings: http://www.agleader.com/products.php?Product=directcommand_1.

Variable rate fertilizing and liming is also becoming more popular among farmers. The farmer has a local co-op grid sample the field and then, using a variable rate, applies the appropriate amount of fertilizer or lime in the areas of the field that need it. The areas of the field that do not need the fertilizer or lime have none applied, which can result in a reduction of as much as 50%–60% in the amount of lime or fertilizer needed. http://www.agleader.com/products.php?Product=directcommand_g.

Green Seeker NDVI technology: A farmer applies 50%–70% of his nitrogen at planting and then, in season, uses the Green Seeker to apply what the corn or wheat plant needs when it is growing. This method is a more efficient way of applying nitrogen and will result in less nitrogen being over-applied. This new technology is still in its early testing stages, but it looks promising. <http://www.ntechindustries.com/greenseeker-RT200.html>.

Note that this option has a similar counterpart in Option 5.1.

Recent Actions in AR:

3.4 Water Management

Improve the efficiency of water use through implementation of best management practices. Excess water can lead to runoff of nitrogen with subsequent emission to the atmosphere as N₂O. By managing and improving water consumption and nutrients spread on crops, there will be a minimal loss of carbon from the soil. Reduced water consumption can result in lower energy use for water pumping.

Recent Actions in AR:

3.5 Drainage Management

Improve drainage on agricultural lands to prevent ponding, which could lead to anaerobic soils and GHG emissions (methane).

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-4 AGRICULTURE—LAND USE CHANGE

4.1 Land Use Management That Promotes Grassland Cover

Convert marginal agricultural land used for annual crops to permanent cover, such as grassland/rangeland, orchard, or forest, where the soil carbon and/or carbon in biomass is higher under the new land use. Includes opportunities to keep Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands covered in perpetuity.

Increased demand for corn-based ethanol and biodiesel feedstocks can act as an incentive for converting grassland to cropland. Adopt mechanisms to prevent these acres from either returning to conventionally tilled production or to suburban/urban development.

Recent Actions in AR:

4.2 Preserve Open Space/Agricultural Land

Reduce the rate at which agricultural lands are converted to developed uses, while protecting private property rights and responsibilities. This retains the above- and belowground carbon on these lands, as well as the carbon sequestration potential of these lands. Transportation emissions will be reduced indirectly through more efficient development and lower vehicle use. Agricultural land conversion may be prevented through conservation land grants and conservation easements facilitated through nonprofit land preservation organizations.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-5 AGRICULTURE—FARMING PRACTICES

5.1 Reductions in On-Farm Energy Use

Renewable energy can be produced and used on-site at agriculture operations. For example, installation of solar or wind power, use of hydro-powered generators for irrigation, and converting diesel farm equipment to liquefied natural gas/compressed natural gas (LNG/CNG) or hybrid technology will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by displacing the use of fossil based fuels.

Recent Actions in AR:

5.2 Promotion of Farming Practices that Achieve GHG Benefits

Provide incentives to farmers for using production processes that achieve net GHG benefits. For example, some organic farming practices could achieve reduced GHG emissions compared with conventional farming, depending on the specific practices implemented (e.g., use of no-till cultivation and fewer chemical inputs).

Recent Actions in AR:

Nutrient Management Certification Program

Act 1059 (HB 1652)—The act creates a nutrient management education, training, and certification program within the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The act defines “nutrient surplus area” and makes the program mandatory inside nutrient surplus areas and voluntary outside nutrient surplus areas.

5.3 Programs to Support Local Farming/Buy Local

Promote the production and consumption of locally produced agricultural goods, which displace the consumption of those transported from other states or countries. GHG reductions occur from reduced transportation-related emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-6 FORESTRY—PRODUCTION OF FUELS AND ELECTRICITY IN FORESTRY

6.1 Expanded Use of Biomass Feedstocks for Electricity, Heat, and Steam Production

Increase the amount of biomass available from forests for generating electricity and displacing the use of fossil energy sources.

Recent Actions in AR:

Electric public utility; renewable energy resources

Act 755 (HB 2812)—The act authorizes the Arkansas Public Service Commission to require a regulated electric public utility to consider renewable energy resources as part of its resource plan. If the commission approves the renewable energy resource, it may allow the utility to implement a surcharge to recover a portion of the cost of that resource.

6.2 In-State Liquid Biofuels Production

Increase production of ethanol and/or biodiesel fuel from agriculture and/or forestry feedstocks (raw materials) to displace the use of fossil diesel. Promote the development of cellulosic ethanol technologies and ethanol production systems that use renewable fuels to improve the embedded energy content of ethanol. Increased production and consumption in-state give the highest benefits.

Recent Actions in AR:

Alternative Fuels Development Program

Act 873 (HB 1379)—The act creates the Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Program to be administered by the Arkansas Agriculture Department with the purpose of providing grant incentives for alternative fuels producers, feedstock processors, and alternative fuels distributors. The act also creates the Arkansas Alternative Fuels Development Fund and repeals obsolete sections of the Arkansas Code related to alternative fuels.

6.3 Improved Energy Capture from Wood Waste Combustion

Reduce emissions and increase heat efficiency from heat sources such as wood-burning stoves and furnaces.

Recent Actions in AR:

6.4 Improved Commercialization of Biomass Gasification and Combined Cycle

Improve the rate of technology development and market deployment of biomass gasification and combined cycle (BGCC) technologies. These technologies expand the application of renewable fuels derived from biomass.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-7 FORESTRY—BIOMASS PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 Forest Protection—Reduced Clearing and Conversion to Non-Forest Cover

Reduce the rate at which existing forests are cleared and converted to developed uses. Much of the carbon stored in forest biomass and soils can be lost as a result of such a land use conversion.

Recent Actions in AR:

7.2 Urban Forestry

Maintain and improve the health and longevity of trees in urban and residential areas to protect and enhance the carbon stored in tree biomass. Indirect emissions reductions may also occur by reducing heating and cooling needs as a result of planting shade trees.

Recent Actions in AR:

7.3 Afforestation/Reforestation

Establish forests on land that has not historically been forested such as agricultural land (“afforestation”). Promote forest cover and associated carbon stocks by regenerating or

establishing forests in areas with little or no present forest cover (“reforestation”). In addition, implement practices such as soil preparation, erosion control, and stand stocking to ensure conditions that support forest growth.

Recent Actions in AR:

7.4 Forest Management for Carbon Sequestration

Forest management activities that promote forest productivity and increase the rate of carbon dioxide sequestration in forest biomass and soils and in harvested wood products. Practices may include increased stocking of poorly stocked lands, age extension of managed stands, thinning and density management, fertilization and waste recycling, expanded short rotation of woody crops (for fiber and energy), expanded use of genetically preferred species, modified biomass removal practices, fire management and risk reduction, and pest and disease management.

Recent Actions in AR:

7.5 Mitigation of Forest Carbon Sequestration Loss and Emissions Due to Wildfire

Programs that reduce the potential for and severity of wildfires also reduce GHG emissions by lowering the forest carbon lost during the fire in addition to the subsequent losses of carbon sequestration potential in the area impacted by wildfire.

Recent Actions in AR:

7.6 Mitigation of Forest Loss Due to Insects/Disease

Programs that reduce insect damage to forests also reduce GHG emissions by maintaining the carbon sequestration achieved in healthy forests.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-8 FORESTRY—WOOD PRODUCTS AND WASTE

8.1 Improved Mill Waste Recovery—Utilization of Sawmill Residues and Emissions

Improve treatment and cleaning of waste materials from paper mills, which can then be reused to manufacture additional wood products. Ensure that sawmill byproducts are recycled or beneficially used for energy. Promote opportunities for using mill CO₂ emissions to create chemical products, such as carbonates.

Recent Actions in AR:

8.2 Improved Logging Residue Recovery

Use more efficient logging methods to fully utilize harvested trees, which will minimize carbon losses from wood damaged during harvesting and maximize the potential for carbon sequestration in harvested wood products. Process the logging remains efficiently.

Recent Actions in AR:

8.3 Expanded Use of Wood Products for Building Materials

Increase the amount of renewable wood products used for residential and commercial building. The use of wood products in place of other building materials can increase carbon sequestration in wood products and displace GHG emissions associated with processing high-energy input materials such as steel, plastic, and concrete. Reduction potential is enhanced by promoting the use of locally grown wood due to lower transport-associated emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-9 WASTE MANAGEMENT—WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

9.1 Advanced Recycling

Increase recycling and reduce waste generation in order to limit GHG emissions associated with landfill methane generation and with the production of raw materials. Increase recycling programs, create new recycling programs, provide incentives for the recycling of construction materials, develop markets for recycled materials, and increase average participation/recovery rates for all existing recycling programs.

Recent Actions in AR:

Recycling Goals

Act 94 (HB 1055)—The act adds a new goal to the year 2000 recycling goals for the state of Arkansas, which is to recycle 40% of the municipal solid waste by the end of 2005 and 45% of the municipal solid waste by the end of 2010. The term “municipal solid waste” is defined.

Solid Waste Management and Recycling Fund

Act 1325 (SB 575)—This act provides that grants from the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Fund may be used for the cost of “recycling programs.” Previous law permitted grants to be used for “recycling programs and market development.”

9.2 Promotion of Bioreactor Technology

A bioreactor landfill is essentially in-landfill composting activity at a Subtitle D sanitary landfill in which liquid, temperature, and air (for aerobic processes) are managed in a controlled manner to achieve rapid stabilization of the food, green waste, and paper waste constituents. To optimize the rapid stabilization of these wastes, moisture, gas composition, gas flow, and temperature

must be carefully maintained and monitored. Bioreactor technology is used to accelerate waste stabilization, enhance gas production and collection, control leaching, reduce volume, and minimize long-term liability of waste.

Recent Actions in AR:

9.3 Source Reduction Strategies

Reduce the volume of waste from residential, commercial, and government sectors through programs that reduce the generation of wastes. Reduction of generation at the source reduces landfill emissions as well as upstream production emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

Revolving Loan Program

Act 213 (HB 1255)—The act expands the use of the Revolving Loan Fund administered by the Department of Environmental Quality to include waste reduction practices and increases the maximum amount of loans available.

9.4 Resource Management Contracting

Unlike traditional solid waste service contracts, resource management (RM) compensates waste contractors based on performance in achieving an organization's waste reduction goals rather than the volume of waste disposed. As a result, RM aligns waste contractor incentives with the goals to explore innovative approaches that foster cost-effective resource efficiency through prevention, recycling, and recovery.

Recent Actions in AR:

9.5 Waste Coal Recapture

Promote research and implementation of recovering waste coal. Waste coal is a usable material that is a byproduct of previous coal processing operations. Emissions are reduced relative to the mining of new coal.

Recent Actions in AR:

9.6 Enhanced Management of Organic Waste

Reduces methane emissions associated with landfilling by reducing the biodegradable fraction of waste emplaced. Recently, an area of focus in the solid waste industry has been in increasing the recycling of organic wastes (e.g., lawn and garden waste, food waste, wood, and paper) using different conversion technologies, including composting, anaerobic digestion, or hybrids of these technologies.

Recent Actions in AR:

Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan

Act 1376 (SB 970)—Act 1376 titled “The Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan Act” requires the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to develop a statewide solid waste management plan to establish minimum requirements for all regional solid waste management plans.

9.7 Promotion of New and Existing Technologies for Waste Energy Conversion

New processes include biomass gasification and pyrolysis. A range of renewable products can be developed from these processes, including gaseous and liquid fuels, biochar, and chemical products. Existing processes include waste combustion and energy recovery (as electricity, steam, or both).

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-10 WASTE MANAGEMENT—LANDFILL GAS STRATEGIES

10.1 Flare Landfill Methane at non-NSPS (smaller) sites

Encourage smaller landfills that do not fall under environmental protection regulations to capture and flare methane gas. Flares are used to safely combust toxic and volatile gases from landfills, and they convert methane gas, which has a relatively high global warming potential, to carbon dioxide.

Recent Actions in AR:

10.2 Methane and Biogas Energy Programs

Encourage and promote the use of anaerobic digesters and energy recapture for waste materials other than municipal solid waste at landfills (e.g., food processing waste). These projects will help prevent the emission of methane while producing clean energy. Anaerobic digesters make a two-fold contribution to climate protection: the usual unchecked discharge of methane into the atmosphere is prevented, and the burning of fossil fuels is replaced with renewable energy (biogas).

Recent Actions in AR:

10.3 Landfill Methane Energy Programs

Use the renewable energy created at landfills by anaerobic digesters (methane) to make electric power, space heat, or liquefied natural gas.

Recent Actions in AR:

AFW-11 WASTE MANAGEMENT—WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

11.1 Energy Efficiency Improvements

Provide incentives for efficiency improvements. Encourage the setup of energy policies, energy audits, and energy cost tracking. Identify and implement energy improvements such as using energy efficient equipment and generating on-site power (e.g., solar power).

The term “efficiency improvements” is defined, within the scope of wastewater management activities, as

- Conversion of secondary aeration processes to fine bubble diffusion and optimization of oxygen transfer efficiencies.
- Research and development of diffuser cleaning protocols.
- Research and development to increase removal of chemical oxygen demand (COD) in primary treatment tanks and clarifiers.
- Evaluation of steam usage in plant processes and biofilters. Optimize use and find alternatives.
- Research and development of options to optimize denitrification in secondary treatment.

Financial and performance analyses that may be conducted to assist the implementation of this option include

- Creation of a leveraged state revolving loan fund program to capitalize energy efficiency in municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs).
- Establish a “fair cost of service” pricing tariff for transmission and distribution of remotely sited wind power.
- Facilitate optimization of energy management by requiring all utility meter data to be available without extra charge on a monthly basis.
- Provide incentives to install interval meters to get a whole-load profile and make data available online and in real time.
- Conduct benchmarking of energy use per million gallons treated in Arkansas to showcase good and deficient energy performance in this specific climate.

Recent Actions in AR:

11.2 Lower Waste Processing Needs

Develop and implement best practices for lowering water consumption and lowering waste production in the industrial, commercial, and residential sectors. Encourage and create incentives

for research and development on methods/technologies to reduce water consumption and waste production. Provide education to reduce water consumption and waste production. Lower water consumption and waste production lead to lower GHG emissions.

Recent Actions in AR:

11.3 Install Digesters and Turbines or Engines

Provide incentives to install anaerobic digesters to treat municipal waste and create methane. Install turbines or reciprocating engines to generate electricity from the methane. Reductions occur via methane control and offsetting fossil energy use.

Recent Actions in AR:

11.4 Restoration of Soil Organic Carbon from Application of WWTP Biosolids

Evaluate the restoration and sequestration of carbon in soil through land application of biosolids. Research and develop a mechanism to remove algae from WWTP ponds and apply solids to restore/sequester soil carbon.

Recent Actions in AR:

11.5 Heat Recovery

Provide incentives to recover heat from wastewater influent or effluent through the use of heat pumps.

Recent Actions in AR:

11.6 Algae and Bio-Oils

Provide financial incentive to research the production of bio-oils from algae grown in wastewater effluents (would reduce carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus).

Recent Actions in AR: