

Carbon Farming and the Compost Connection

Through our sustainable landscaping and gardening program, StopWaste has long promoted the benefits of compost as a way to reduce organic waste while creating healthy soils and saving water. Now scientists are recognizing compost as a tool to fight climate change. Carbon farming refers to practices — including the application of compost — to increase the ability of soil and plants to pull carbon from the atmosphere and sequester it deep in the soil. Carbon farming also increases water-holding capacity, reduces erosion, creates healthier plants, increases forage production, and reduces costs for supplemental feed, making it one of the most cost-effective carbon capture strategies available.

Carbon farming on our property

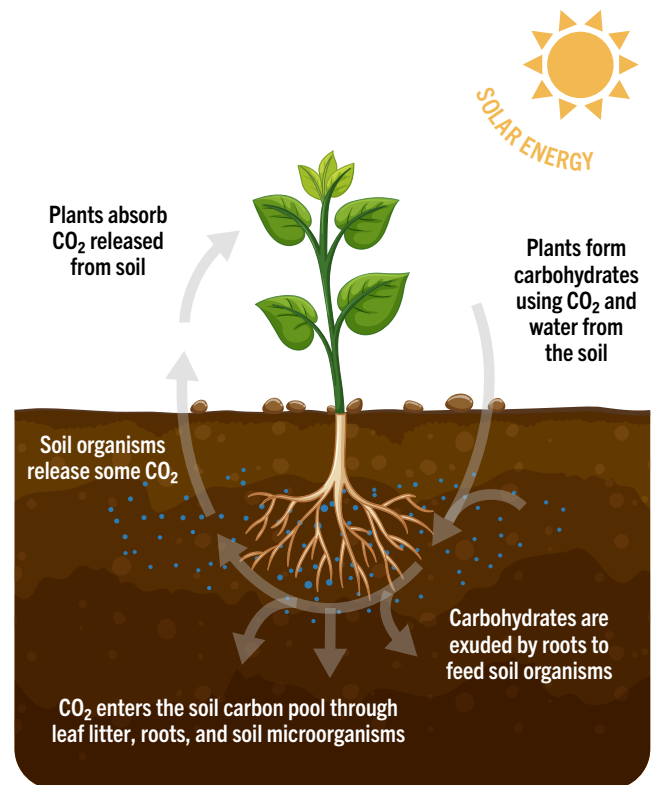
For the last few years, we have partnered with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) to develop a carbon farming plan for StopWaste's rangeland property (1,600 acres) in the Altamont Hills near Livermore. ACRCD and StopWaste have received a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy to begin implementation of the plan, which will provide a model for other public and private landowners in the area to see the benefits firsthand.

Carbon farming in the community

StopWaste is working with cities in Alameda County to identify areas of city landscapes to apply carbon farming practices and measure carbon sequestration as part of cities' climate action plans. We're encouraging residents to become carbon farmers at home by using compost in their garden instead of fertilizers and pesticides. In addition, we are working with urban farms throughout the county to conduct soil tests and measure carbon in areas with and without carbon farming practices. Our initial results suggest that carbon farming benefits can occur across a variety of landscapes.



Partner scientists collecting soil samples on Agency land in the Altamont Hills.



Learn more about using compost at home at www.StopWaste.org/gardening.