

Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force: Action Proposal Template

Please fill out this Action Template to the best of your ability. Some of the questions are technical or require research. If you do not know the answer to any of the questions below, respond "N/A" or share any considerations or uncertainties in your answer. Your proposal will be considered even if you leave questions blank. The Task Force, its committees and advisory groups, and staff will conduct research and fill knowledge gaps as needed.

For each recommendation, please complete one Action Template. Each subsequent page includes guidance and prompts to help you develop effective components that make up an Action and that will support its evaluation.

Submit completed action proposals through this Form by April 30, 2021. To submit an action, you may also utilize the fillable PDF found on our website at <https://gov.louisiana.gov/page/climate-initiatives-task-force>, which can be submitted to climate@la.gov or mailed to 1051 N 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802.

Background

The Louisiana Climate Initiatives Task Force, set forth by an Executive Order of Governor John Bel Edwards, aims to identify strategies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors of the Louisiana economy and society. The Task Force's Final Climate Report will lay out these strategies through compiling multiple actions and their implementation pathways that collectively set Louisiana on a path to meet its goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

An Action is based around a specific policy, program, or project that will result in a net reduction in GHG emissions and/or comprehensively address a cross-cutting implementation priority (Climate Equity, Economic Transition, Scientific Advancement, Governance).

Action recommendations can be developed and submitted by Sector Committee members, Climate Task Force Members, Advisory Group members, the Governor's Office, state agency partners, local organizations, and the public. We encourage Actions to be developed collaboratively. Each Action will follow a consistent format and include a title, description, impact on net GHG emissions, co-benefits, consequences, timeframe, lead and partners, climate equity priorities, and other implementation and feasibility considerations.

Action proposals submitted through this process will be reviewed and considered and may be modified or combined with other Action recommendations. Actions will be collectively evaluated against the Fundamental Objectives of the Climate Initiatives Task Force (see full list at the end of this document) and included in a trade-off analysis to inform decisions by the Climate Task Force on the best path forward for achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

Proposed Action Overview

Please note your name(s) and, if applicable, your affiliation(s) and any partners involved in development of your proposed Action, including any Sector Committee, Advisory Group, or Task Force members. *

Jacob pohlman / Dig Easy Compost

Please provide a short, descriptive title for this Action. *

Support Composting and gardening efforts to reduce GHG

Please describe this Action in one to two paragraphs. Include a brief overview of the specific policy, program, or project that you are proposing as well as important context on why this Action is needed. *

Louisiana needs a streamline way of starting small/large scale compost and neighborhood gardens. Currently, running a compost business is not in most City Plans. We are advocating for NOLA to implement it. It's related to Hazardous Waste and Trash at the moment. Compost can divert food waste, methane gas and carbon dioxide by breaking down aerobically instead of in a landfill. It also allows people to grow healthy food in the compost soil. Which helps with food deserts, reduce mileage from food to plate, increase health, and decrease waste disposal.

What sector emission sources or sinks does this Action target? (Check all that apply.) *

- Agriculture
- Buildings & Housing
- Conservation
- Forestry
- Land Use
- Manufacturing & Industry
- Mining
- Oil & Gas
- Power
- Transportation
- Waste
- This Action does not directly reduce net GHG emissions, but addresses cross-cutting implementation priorities.

Which type of greenhouse gas does this Action target? (Check all that apply.) *

- Carbon Dioxide
- Methane
- Nitrous Oxide
- Fluorinated Gases
- N/A

Impacts of Proposed Action

How does your Action reduce Louisiana's greenhouse gases? How do you know this? Do you have quantifiable evidence or research on how the Climate Task Force team can examine the emissions associated with your Action? *

Yes Dig Easy's compost piles that we process can be measured for gas and then food waste diverted can be as well. We collect up to 7 32 gallon totes weekly. From restaurants and community drop off. So a potential of 224lb of food waste diverted weekly or 896lbs per month. We are ready to expand as well. Composting is also easy and fun! The microorganism really do most of the work!

Achieving Other Fundamental Objectives

While the focus of this effort is on meeting the state's GHG targets outlined in the Executive Order, the Climate Initiatives Task Force identified additional factors essential for consideration in emission reduction actions. Fundamental Objectives of the Task Force encompass these factors. Please reference the list of DRAFT Fundamental Objectives provided in the image below.

Fundamental Objectives

Fundamental objectives are the essential goals of this effort and will guide the development and evaluation of actions and strategies. The fundamental objectives (in bold) are grouped here by theme. The Task Force, its Sector Committees, and Advisory Groups have already begun to develop means objectives as they progress towards developing strategies.

REDUCING NET GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS

- **Minimize greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **Maximize greenhouse gas capture and sequestration.**

The ultimate goal of the Task Force is to reduce net GHGs in Louisiana. The Task Force will consider all means by which GHG emissions can be reduced or captured and sequestered.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES

- **Maximize quality of and access to essential goods, services, and infrastructure for residents.**
- **Maximize positive public health outcomes and public safety.**
- **Maximize the preservation of cultural heritage.**

The Task Force will consider the impacts of GHG emissions reduction strategies on quality of life in Louisiana and craft strategies that improve quality of life in Louisiana.

CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY

- **Reduce socioeconomic, demographic, and geographic disparities in future opportunities and outcomes.**
- **Maximize reduction and mitigation of historic and structural inequities and their impacts for underserved and marginalized communities, including communities of color and Indigenous peoples.**
- **Maximize engagement with and participation of communities in decision-making and implementation.**

The Task Force will consider the impacts of GHG emissions reduction strategies across socioeconomic, demographic, and geographic groups and craft strategies that ameliorate historic and structural inequities to create a more equitable Louisiana.

MANAGING FOR SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SUCCESS

- **Maximize confidence of the public and stakeholders in the outcome of emissions-reduction strategies to increase support for their implementation.**
- **Maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of emissions-reduction strategies.**
- **Maximize timely implementation of emissions-reduction strategies.**
- **Maximize the durability of emissions-reduction strategies in an uncertain future.**

The Task Force will consider the pathways and obstacles to implementing GHG emissions reduction strategies and craft strategies that are durable and supported by Louisianans.

STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

- **Maximize job creation and support for Louisiana workers.**
- **Maximize economic growth.**

The Task Force will consider the impact of GHG emissions reduction strategies on the economy and workforce and craft strategies that support Louisiana workers, foster free enterprise, and spur economic growth.

CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES & PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Maximize preservation of natural resources and ecosystem services.**
- **Maximize environmental stewardship and support of healthy ecosystems.**

The Task Force will consider how GHG emissions reduction strategies can also conserve, protect, or replenish the state's natural resources.

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

- **Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to climate change.**
- **Increase the resilience of communities to climate change.**

The Task Force will consider the impacts of climate change on GHG emissions reduction strategies and craft strategies that increase climate resilience.

Emissions don't happen by themselves - they impact our lives, health, economy, and culture. What other benefits does the proposed Action have? (Please list all that apply.) How do these co-benefits help to achieve the DRAFT Fundamental Objectives of the Climate Initiatives Task Force? Describe the significance of these co-benefits and potential ways to measure them. *

Composting allows you to grow your own food, which for many reasons can increase your happiness and health. It also can create community and bring people together. It is also an untapped resource that could generate income. THERE IS NO HIGH QUALITY SOIL PRODUCED IN BULK IN THIS STATE. The closest you can get is when a soil yard makes a blend of horse manure, wood chips and sand. Which is decent but not as quality as Compost soil.

EQUITY LENS: What groups primarily benefit from this Action? (Industry, socioeconomic, demographic, geographic) Are there ways to ensure more equitable access to these benefits? How can traditionally marginalized communities be prioritized in the distribution of benefits? How will the Action improve equity in the state? How do marginalized populations benefit from the Action? *

Depending on the support program to jump start compost production it could include everyone of all backgrounds. If capital is not an issue or education is provided for free. Any group can start composting or teaching about compost. It's a product that can be started and completed with minimum resources. Since compost is self digesting. You just need access to land, human/machine power, tools, and the education to create a valuable product.

Are there potential negative consequences associated with implementing these Actions? How might these negative consequences impact the DRAFT Fundamental Objectives identified by the CTF? Describe the significance of these negative consequences and potential ways to measure them. *

Compost can generate methane, albeit at a lower rate than a landfill, if it becomes anaerobic (lacking oxygen.) Proper turning of the pile and space of land to move piles around would fix that. Therefore, Compost must be monitored for many reasons and only educated/certified people should manage the operation. Smell, spontaneous combustion, diseased soil or unhealthy soil can be a negative outcome of composting, as well, if not done correctly. The US composting council offers trainings as well as other Master Compost Certifications.

EQUITY LENS: Who primarily bears the burden of the potential negative consequences associated with this Action? (Industry, socioeconomic, demographic, geographic) Is the burden placed disproportionately on specific group(s) (particularly lower income, minority, Indigenous, or rural communities)? Does this burden exacerbate historic and structural inequities? Are there ways this burden can be mitigated or distributed more equitably? *

That burden would be placed on all aspects of those involved in the compost cycle, the producers, the buyers, and the neighbors. Yes it can easily be mitigated by assisting those involved with proper education, maybe even a quality assurance inspector.

Are there potential concerns with transferring emissions or negative consequences to other states? If so, how might this be mitigated? *

Not that I'm aware of

Feasibility of Proposed Action

What research, data, or experience support this Action? Is further research, additional data, and demonstration needed to better understand the Action, its emission reduction potential, and potential challenges before adoption? *

There is plenty of research on composting and GHG. Epa has info in it saying composting reduces methane gases. No further research needed except in individual situations.

Does this Action require supporting investments in infrastructure or other systems to work? If so, can those investments support other GHG reduction Actions? *

Acquiring land would be the largest hurdle. Other than that, human power/machine power, tools for turning/shredding/sifting compost, and a vehicle/transportation for picking up if necessary.

Has this Action been successfully implemented elsewhere? Describe. *

Yes. California has multiple compost operations that pickup up neighborhoods and restaurant waste. It is even incentivized to compost. Many other states as well. Not to mention the small private compost business that exist.

Does this Action build on existing successful efforts in Louisiana? Explain. *

No. There is no ground work for composting. Most city's dont even have them in their city plan so you cant get a permit to start a business without it being considered hazardous waste!

Implementation Pathway

Recognizing the state's short, medium, and long-term emission reduction goals, how quickly can the proposed Action be implemented or scaled up to meaningfully reduce net GHG emissions? Please factor in the time needed to develop, design, permit, and construct (if applicable). Please select one timeframe. *

- Short Term (0-5 years)
- Medium Term (5-10 years)
- Long Term (>10 years)

What entity would lead adoption and implementation of this Action? Who is ultimately responsible for this Action's successful reduction of GHG emissions? *

I think it is up to the people to take this initiative but if the state and city can help educate people and assist people to be trained and certified. Even LSU Ag could assist.

Who are key public, private, nonprofit, and civic collaborators necessary for successful adoption and implementation? *

Same answer as above.

Does adoption, implementation, and/or acceleration require or benefit from government action (e.g. executive or legislative; federal, state, local, or tribal)? *

Yes. As described before

How does this Action align with and leverage existing efforts, concurrent public or private initiatives, and existing partnerships? *

Not sure.

What are the necessary steps to adopt and implement this Action? *

Panels and initial reach out to all organizations that are interested in Composting.

Describe the potential scientific, legal, economic, and political hurdles associated with successful adoption and implementation of the Action. How could these challenges or opposition be addressed? How can support be expanded (e.g. partnerships, messaging, etc.)? *

I'll leave this up to the lawyers and experienced in that. The only challenge I know of is not having laws in favor of compost and people not knowing what it is or capable of.

What are the estimated costs to implement this Action, are those costs expected to change over time, and do they change with scale? What is the basis for the provided estimate? *

They can be close to none if it's just educational promos that go out with newsletters or announcements. That promote composting and all the information that has been collected.

What sources are available or could be used to fund implementation of this Action? *

Us compost council, dig easy compost, schmellys

Given the distribution of costs, benefits, and consequences associated with this Action as well as historic, structural, and geographic contexts, are there specific equity concerns that should be addressed in how this Action is implemented? *

It should be a community effort. Not just top down. Spread the word in community circles that reach misrepresented people.

What stakeholder or community engagement is recommended to support further development and implementation of this Action? *

A goal for production of composting city wide and reducing food waste!

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