

BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative

1. Key issues & opportunities
2. Climate Action Initiative

Key issues

Recent media articles

Response to drought is dry run for a response to climate change

(Feb 11, 2009) *San Francisco Chronicle*

Farmers get say in climate change inquiry

(Feb 9, 2009) *ABC News*

Soils group to test on-farm GHG calculator

(Feb 10, 2009) *Alberta Farmer*

Irish beef facing carbon challenge

(Feb 10, 2009) *Irish Independent*

PepsiCo measures carbon footprint of Tropicana

(January 22, 2009) *FoodBusinessNews.net*

Key issues

Agriculture & GHG Mitigation

- BC agriculture is a relatively small contributor to greenhouse gas emissions (4% in 2006 inventory)
- The majority of the industry will *not* be directly regulated (voluntary activity)
- Agriculture has greenhouse gas mitigation potential
 - Management practices
 - Sequestration (soil and trees)
 - Renewable energy production



Key issues

Agriculture & GHG Adaptation

- Agriculture is one of the sectors most vulnerable to changes in climate and extreme weather
- Limited focus on adaptation to date – partly due to uncertainty
- Assessing and understanding vulnerabilities of our food system is critical



Key issues

Emerging opportunities

- Growing interest in on-farm energy production and private sector/government support
 - BC Energy Plan (Bioenergy Strategy)
 - Terasen biogas call for expression of interest
 - ICE fund and federal sources
 - Public/consumer support for “green energy”
- Incentives and offsets for management practices linked to greenhouse gas reduction
 - Potential for EFP to include GHG reduction
 - Evolution of offset systems (regulated & unregulated)



Key issues

Emerging opportunities

- Higher profile for food security (local & global)
 - Regional production (globally) is already being impacted by climate change
 - Growing consumer awareness regarding the importance of secure local food supply
- Marketing niches
 - Food Miles (focus on local)
 - Carbon footprints and labelling

BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative
Who We Are

- A two year project of the BC Agriculture Council – funded by the Investment Agriculture Foundation
- Advisory Committee including representatives from primary agriculture, processing and government
- Committee started meeting in early 2008 – Coordinator in June 2008



BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative

Our Purpose

- To link with government & industry partners to identify and act on climate change issues/opportunities
- To provide analysis of policy and economic opportunities
- To serve as an informational resource & to develop educational materials for sector



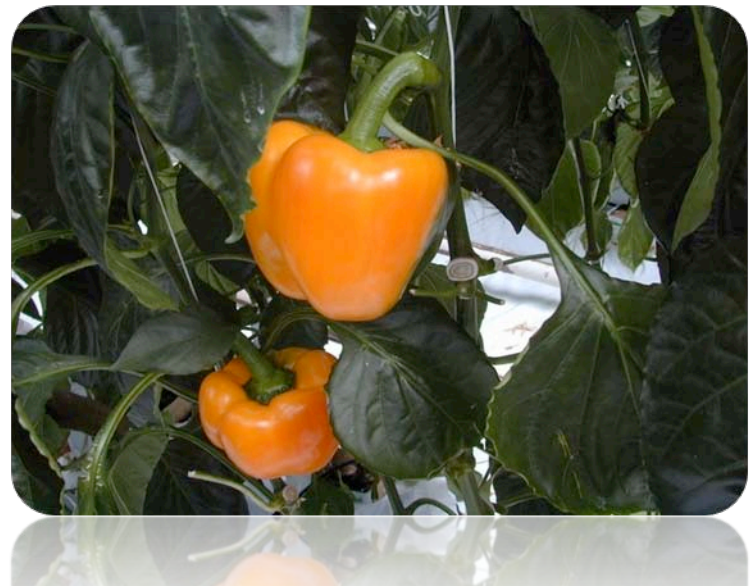
- Support Project development

BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative

Our Purpose

Develop Action Plan for key areas including:

- **Climate change Mitigation (reduce emissions)**
- **Climate change Adaptation (prepare for/adjust to changing climate)**
- **Emerging economic opportunities associated with climate change priorities**





BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative
What have we done so far?

Outreach and education

- Direct Outreach with industry groups
- Fact Sheet Series – 4 completed
- Information about emerging opportunities

Policy dialogue

- Working group of Climate Action Secretariat
- Analysis and response for policy consultations -
 - **Offsets Regulation**
 - **GHG Reporting Regulations**
- Reference materials as needed

BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative
What have we done so far?

Project development

- Funding catalogue
- Identification of strategic priorities and implementation
- Building knowledge of other jurisdictions and trends (industry & government)
- Identification of key research gaps and needs



BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative
Near future activity

Outreach and education

- Continuation of Fact Sheet series
- Website development – launched by June 2009
- Expansion of outreach/education –
 - Potential for Program development in partnership with IAF
- Increase number of informational resources



BC Agri-food Climate Action Initiative
Near future activity

Project development

- Present focus in the area of Mitigation & economic opportunities
- Carbon footprints – background study (potential for pilot with interested commodities)
- Energy efficiency – possibility of pilot
- Renewables – Analysis of barriers (economic and policy)
- Initiative being consulted in next round of EFP

