# RCD Regional Ag & Climate Hubs

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California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

# Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)

#### Over 85 years of conservation experience

RCDs were founded after the Dust Bowl in the 1930s to bring funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers so that they could voluntarily conserve natural resources on their land

Today each RCD's projects and programs are different, and their services often include habitat restoration, forest health, healthy soils, public education, landscape-scale conservation planning, climate resilience, and assisting municipalities and the state in managing water use and preparing for drought and fire.

RCDs always work with their constituents on a voluntary basis — a key reason they are considered a trusted resource in their communities.







# RCDs provide technical assistance to meet climate goals

Technical

Assistance

Provided by

Resource

Conservation

**D**istricts

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT.** RCDs manage grant funding, contractors, project logistics, and implementation monitoring and reporting.

**IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING.** RCDs leverage grant funding from multiple sources to scale project implementation across multiple landownerships and to meet multiple conservation objectives.

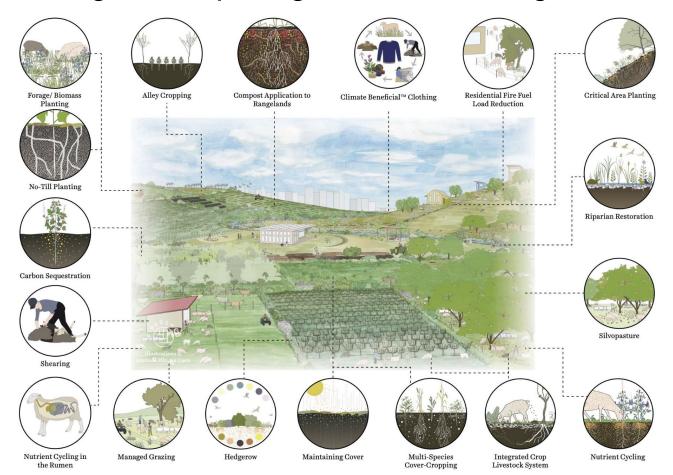
**DESIGN & ENGINEERING.** RCDs ensure projects are designed to meet practice standards and environmental requirements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.** RCDs serve as lead agencies for CEQA and coordinate permit applications and cultural resource surveys as needed.

**DEVELOPING CONSERVATION PLANS.** RCDs work with landowners to develop conservation plans as an educational tool and to increase eligibility for state and federal funding.

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST.** RCDs work one-on-one with landowners to assess natural resources concerns, understand each landowner's unique needs and goals, discuss options, and prioritize actions.

## Carbon farming can help mitigate climate change



# RCD Regional Ag & Climate Hubs

3 year, \$3M granted in 2023 by the Patterson Family Foundation supports the development of our statewide network of RCD Regional Ag & Climate Hubs dedicated to the advancement of climate-beneficial agriculture through investment in soil health, with a focus on carbon farm planning



Carbon Cycle Institute

Partnership between CARCD, The Climate Center, and the Carbon Cycle Institute

Focused on identifying barriers and solutions to the regional scale of climate-beneficial ag work at RCDs to advocate for policy that leads to more conservation on the ground



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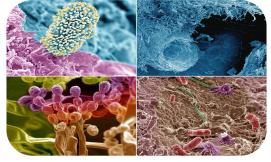
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# Investing in soil has multiple co-benefits



Food security



**Biodiversity** 



Public health



Climate change mitigation



Water conservation



**Profit** 

# Hub Regional Needs and Opportunity Assessment



What does ag look like in each Hub? What past ag & climate assessment work has been done in the region?

How do RCDs support ag & climate work throughout the state? What are the regional climate risks to ag?

Which partners support RCD climate beneficial ag implementation?

What opportunities exist to further develop partnerships?

How much technical and financial assistance is needed to meet regional climate mitigation goals?

What is the net GHG mitigation potential of implementation at scale?

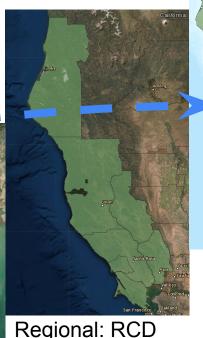
### Scales of conservation

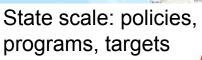
Close collaboration between Hubs and their partners are key to informing policy, programs, strategies & targets



Field and farm scale: carbon farm planning

at the State scale





Regional Ag & Climate
Hub assessments

# Learn more about our RCD Regional Ag & Climate Hubs

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