



**Recruiting Soil to Tackle
Climate Change:**
A Roadmap for Canada



**Conseil canadien du
COMPOST
Council of Canada**



Recruit Soil to Tackle Climate Change, declare Canada's Soil Conservation and Compost Councils

*Report identifies great opportunity for carbon sequestration
to offset GHG emissions from agriculture*

There is an unsung hero waiting in the wings to tackle climate change. It's our soil.

A new report calls on Canada to recruit the enormous potential of soil to help combat the climate crisis. The report includes detailed, science-based soil-health information, and recommendations.

"Recruiting Soil to Tackle Climate Change: A Roadmap for Canada" was released today by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada and the Compost Council of Canada, with the backing of the Metcalf Foundation. The report includes input from soil health researchers and practitioners from across the nation.

Canada boasts approximately 71 million hectares of managed agricultural and urban soils. The "Roadmap" identifies methods of promoting healthy soils to increase and retain more carbon.

The report identifies that our soils have the potential to completely offset agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions footprint, currently estimated at 73 megatonnes (Mt) annually. But that is not all. A focus on soil health will also deliver many fundamental co-benefits. These co-benefits include increases in crop productivity and profitability.

"It is clear that we have sufficient scientific understanding of soil carbon," declared Jim Tokarchuk, Executive Director, Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC). "We understand the principles of soil management that can maintain and improve the health and carbon levels in our soils.."

"Now, it's time to mobilize the combined might of farmers, municipalities, home gardeners, and all other soil managers. Together we can tackle climate change. We all have the ability to build higher carbon levels in the soils we take care of on a daily basis."

"This report, complete with facts and recommended actions, highlights this great potential. It also identifies a clear path forward. The policies, programs, and practices in this document can be adopted by decision makers at all levels. This includes everyone from the home gardener through the farm level – and up to senior government. By so doing, they will enlist this incredible resource into service."

The Roadmap is a valuable source of information on:

- the basics of soil-carbon science;
- the ways in which that science translates into principles of soil management; and
- the actual practices that manifest these principles on the ground.

It outlines the current soil organic carbon (SOC) status of Canada's soils on a regional basis. As well, it provides projections for the potential to increase these levels. The report also includes case studies of five innovative Canadian farmers. They are seeing substantial SOC increases, while also enjoying greater productivity and profitability.

Finally, the report summarizes the challenges in adopting these practices. It also offers recommendations on how to reduce those challenges going forward.

"Enlisting our soils is a 'no regrets' strategy to tackle climate change. The wins are huge," said Glenn Munroe, Soil Health Manager, Compost Council of Canada and co-author of the Roadmap.

"Soils can effectively store carbon. At the same time, they provide increased fertility, cleaner water, and enhanced biodiversity. For our farmers, they also create greater resiliency and profitability."

The Roadmap is a call to action. More than that, though, it is a plan for Canada to create a partnership. It's a partnership with soil and with soil managers. And it's one that will deliver significant benefits – for generations to come.

[Download a copy of "Recruiting Soil to Tackle Climate Change: A Roadmap for Canada" here.](#)

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About the Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC)

The SCCC is the only national organization to concentrate on the issues of soil health and soil conservation within a broadly-based landscape context. Healthy soils are the foundation of sustainable food production, enhanced biodiversity and cleaner air and water for present and future generations.

About The Compost Council of Canada (CCC)

Compost Council of Canada serves as the central resource and network for organics recycling in Canada. The Council's involvement in standard-setting and regulatory developments, operator training and certification, communication and networking help to support their charter to advocate and advance organics residuals recycling, soil health, digestate and compost use and assist their members to contribute to the environmental sustainability of the communities in which they operate.

About the Metcalf Foundation

The mission of The George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation is to enhance the effectiveness of people and organizations working together to help Canadians imagine and build a just, healthy, and creative society. Change is created by: working at the intersection of climate, biodiversity, and sustainable neighbourhoods; focusing on sustainable economic opportunities for low-income people and communities in Toronto; and supporting individual leadership and organizational innovation in the performing arts.