

# Advancing NFU Climate and Emissions-Reduction Policies

## Eight Ways That You Can Help Grow Our Work

Unless we implement local, regional, national, and global measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, **we risk devastating temperature increases**: 3 to 6 degrees Celsius across Canada this century. **To prevent this, we must slash emissions**, in Canada and around the world, now, and in all sectors: energy production, manufacturing, transport, housing, and farming.

### Emission reductions *are* coming.

The federal government has committed to reduce emissions by 30% by 2030 and make Canada carbon neutral by 2050. Because farms emit significant quantities of GHGs—about 11% of Canada's total—farms are going to experience big changes. **To ensure that farmers' interests are protected, we need to lead those changes.** Most important, as we work to make our food systems climate compatible, we must also advance toward our other goals: higher net farm incomes, revitalized communities, more young farmers, increased sustainability, justice and equity, and democratic control.

**The NFU has developed thorough analyses** of climate impacts, agricultural emissions, emission-reducing practices, needed government policies, and how reducing emissions can increase net incomes. To learn more about our policy work, please see:

- **["Agricultural Emissions: Eight Important Insights and Eight Needed Policies."](#)** a two-page summary of NFU analysis and positions.
- **[Tackling the Farm Crisis and the Climate Crisis](#)**, a detailed hundred-page report
- **[Fact sheets](#)** based on the *Tackling* report:

The following outlines eight ways you can help the NFU advance its policy solutions to reduce agricultural emissions while raising farm incomes and building sustainability.

## Farmers have a lot to lose. Farmers want to contribute solutions. Farmers need to lead.

NFU officials and staff will do all we can, but **it's important that NFU members and associate members also take action.** We need broad-based, intensifying policy advocacy for systems change. We need your help. Here are eight ways you can contribute to advancing farmer-supporting policy solutions:

- 1. Learn all you can on these issues.** The NFU has published analyses of climate change risks and emissions solutions. Please see the reports and fact sheets listed and linked above. Keep up to date at [www.nfu.ca](http://www.nfu.ca)
- 2. Use NFU material and other sources to create public content:** social media posts, letters to the editor, op-eds, or presentations to local groups. **Let people know that climate change is a huge threat, farms are vulnerable, solutions exist, and that farmers want to help and lead.** If you are not confident in creating content yourself, please share NFU social media and publications. You can find tips on how to write an op-ed in the [Union Farmer, Summer 2020 edition](#).
- 3. Help educate and activate your MP or MLA/MPP.** Make an appointment to meet in person or via a conferencing app (maybe include fellow NFU members) or write a letter or email. Let your MP or MLA/MPP know that farmers support policies to reduce emissions from the food system and all other economic sectors. Make regular contact, share credible content, and become a trusted source of information.
- 4. Intervene at the local municipal level.** Support local food policy initiatives, ask about government food procurement, support community gardens, and help build local and regional food systems.
- 5. Work with others in the NFU.** Join the NFU Climate Committee (email [nfu@nfu.ca](mailto:nfu@nfu.ca)); work with NFU Board members in your Region; attend regional and national conventions; and organize meetings on climate change and emissions reduction in your Local or Region—National Office can provide speakers (in-person or via the internet).
- 6. Talk to friends, family, and neighbours.** One-on-one conversations are important. Share NFU analysis and publications. Organize small-group or town-hall meetings—the NFU can provide speakers. **Ask others to become involved and sign them up as NFU members or associate members.**
- 7. Build the movement.** We need to use the classic formula: organize, educate, agitate. **A strong movement is built on trust, shared understanding, personal contact, and collective action.** Build connections and alliances. We must create a broad-based movement that works to refocus agricultural policies, transform energy and food systems, and move our society toward long-term sustainability. This requires a strong, effective grassroots movement and widespread democratic participation.
- 8. Be an example. Make concrete changes in your household or on your farm.** See the NFU's 2-page flyer, [Long-Term Planning for Emissions Reduction on Your Farm: Eight Things You Can Consider](#).

If you are not an NFU member or associate member, please join and become part of our collective work to build a better, healthier Canadian food system. Please go to [www.nfu.ca/join](http://www.nfu.ca/join)

The NFU is a proud, founding member of the coalition Farmers for Climate Solutions. Learn more [here](#).