

**Considerations for discussion of 15 Climate Change Advisory Committee  
Recommendations  
Environmental Quality Council  
Draft April 2008**

The information below is a summary of key points from the Montana Climate Change Action Plan and the associated appendices. The legislative and administrative options prepared by staff and participating agencies do not include an economic analysis.

**AFW-4**

**Incentives for Enhancing GHG Benefits/ Farm Bill Conservation**

**(67% of participating EQC members voting 4 or 5 and 51% of the public voting 4 or 5)**

✓ Retain land that is being retired from CRP in some type of management program that protects the soil carbon.

**Conservation Considerations:**

- Pages I-24 through I-27 Appendices

**What's Being Done:**

- CRP is currently capped at 25% of Montana cropland per county.
- NRCS CRP rewards farmers financially for removing highly erodible and marginally productive land from production.
- Program is national in scope and potential actions may be as well.

**Potential Actions:**

\* Legislative or EQC options (not complete, intended to be starting point for discussion):

- Education and training. Workshops or expansion of existing efforts.
- Leverage existing federal and state conservation cost share programs. Have state agencies incorporate USDA-approved carbon sequestration planning criteria into program literature and technical assistance to landowners.
- Provide assistance to conservation districts in discussing terrestrial carbon sequestration.

\* Resolution or recommendation of intent

\* No action

\* Administrative options: