

NOW OPEN - Enrollment for Climate Adaptation Certification



The California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) has announced a new certification program, the Climate Adaptation Certification (CAC), for growers interested in improving their sustainability by reducing their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and sequestering carbon.

In 2021, CLSI and the Sonoma County Winegrowers completed a pilot of the Climate Adaptation Certification program with 20 farms. The success of the pilot gave insights into best management practices for growers to provide the highest levels of carbon sequestration and the most efficient models to use in calculating GHG emissions and carbon sequestration. This new CAC program is now open to growers in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa counties.

During the certification program, CLSI staff will perform a site visit where they collect information on energy use, tillage, fertilizer use, irrigation, and site history. This information is used to complete a detailed model of soil processes in the vineyards quantifying the GHG emissions and carbon sequestration. Most climate plan programs use a simplistic model called COMET Planner that is not site specific, but rather generates numbers based on multiple soil types and numerous assumptions regarding current practices. The new Climate Adaptation Certification program uses **site specific** Tier 3 model COMET-FARM. COMET-FARM is used to model three scenarios (current practices and two others defined by the grower) and provide maps, graphs, and a complete plan for each soil type in the vineyards. Additional modeling includes GHG emissions and carbon sequestration in existing vegetation, energy used in the vineyards such as diesel for tractors and electricity for water pumping, and proposed or existing hedgerows and tree plantings. These sophisticated models provide growers with the data needed to allow flexibility in creating climate benefits.

Why should growers sign up for the Climate Adaptation Certification (CAC)?

The certified climate plans propose easily implementable changes such as planting cover crops, using limited tillage, installing hedgerows or trees, composting, and reducing nitrogen fertilizer; all changes that can be funded by a number of programs, such as Healthy Soils. Overall, any changes proposed emphasize flexibility, as we understand the importance of producing a crop in an economically viable way. If we can incorporate climate benefits in that process, all the better.

The certified climate plan that CAC produces relates the farms' practices to carbon sequestered in soil, trees, hedgerows and habitats, and can define that carbon in relatable terms of car emissions offsets. Climate concerns are front and center for younger wine drinkers, so the CAC will provide growers with trademarked signs to display that will appeal to climate concerned wine drinkers.

If you are interested, please fill out the attached sign-up form and email it to Christopher Kelley at Chrisk@fishfriendlyfarming.org. Please contact Chris at (415) 902-8115 with any questions.

Watch our [latest videos](#) about growers already in the program.





Climate Adaptation Certification Program
Sign up Form 2024

Company Information:

1. Business Name: _____
2. Site Manager who will participate: _____
4. Email Address: _____
5. Phone Number: _____
6. Mailing Address: _____

Vineyard Information:

1. Vineyard Name: _____
2. Vineyard Address: _____
3. 9-digit Assessors Parcel Number(s) for site (so we can create maps): _____

4. Total Site Acreage (not just vineyards): _____
5. Vineyard Acreage on Site: _____
6. Name and phone number/email of landowner if different from above:

7. Any other information you would like to tell us about this vineyard:

Please email form Chrisk@fishfriendlyfarming.org.

Thank you for your interest in Climate Adaptation Certification!

