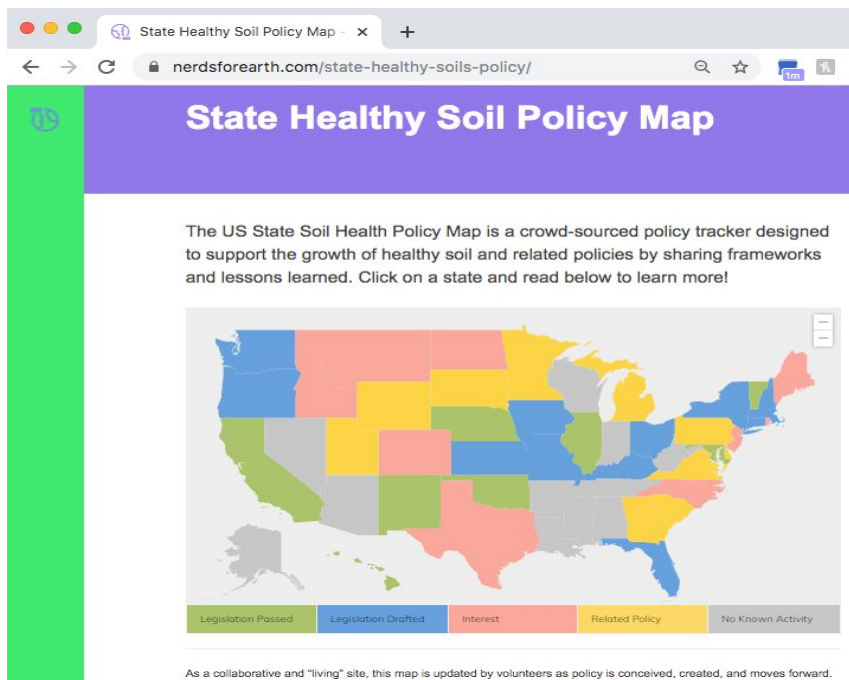


Northeast State Healthy Soil Policy for Regional Agriculture & Climate Change Adaptation

Our land stewards are climate heroes and deserve strong support from state policy in the form of a **Regional Ecosystem Service Initiative strategy for the Northeast.**

Our state agricultural sectors, and the farmers who keep them alive, are often criticized within national rhetoric as climate change culprits. **Yet farms that employ healthy soils practices to care for and build their most precious resource are seeing soil carbon levels increase.**¹ To achieve a strategy to support our soil-building farmers, many conversations with state policymakers and agricultural stakeholders are needed to get buy-in on goals.

You are invited to attend **the Northeast Healthy Soil Network Symposium, on February 20th and 21st, at Tufts University,** for two days of discussion and workshopping of healthy soil legislation models from Northeast states. Our goal is to *advance ecosystem service outcome measurement and incentive schemes.*



Healthy Soil legislation has been passed or is currently pending in 5 Northeast states, and given the potential of **healthy soils programs** to support state climate change adaptation plans and provide much needed **stimulus to the Northeast Farming economy**, the Northeast Healthy Soil Network has helped develop a policy tracking website² providing information on the policy.

¹ from a baseline of 1-2% up to 5-8% in as little as ten years, which add up to 25 to 60 tons of carbon per acre 4.Hawken, Paul (ed.). Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming. New York: Penguin Books (2017)

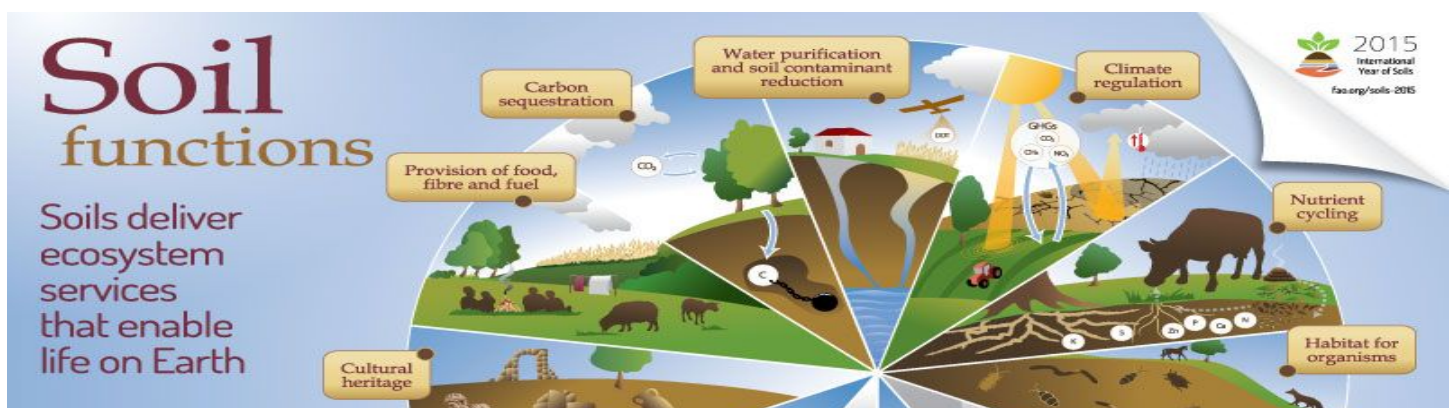
² See the State Soil Health Policy Map for more information on specific policies <https://nerdsforearth.com/state-healthy-soils-policy/>

Friday, February 21st will be a public day of panels on soil health and climate change adaptation, co-hosted by the Global Development and Environment Institute and Institute of the Environment of Tufts University.

On Thursday, February 20th, you are invited to a working group to workshop a Northeast healthy soil legislation strategy

Northeast agriculture stakeholders who comprise the **Northeast Healthy Soil Network**, including American Farmland Trust, Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), Conservation District and state Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office representatives, Farmers Union, the Massachusetts Healthy Soil Action Plan group, the Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group, many engaged regional farmers and more, will gather as a working group to approach the following challenges related to healthy soil legislation in Northeast states:

- **Farm Viability:** In order to employ healthy soil practices, Northeast farmers will need to remain financially viable. What barriers exist to financial viability in the Northeast and how can increased or redirected state agricultural investments towards healthy soil management transcend these barriers?
- **Ecosystem Service Measurement:** Healthy soil management provides critical ecosystem services to our societies, including improved water quality, drought resilience, erosion and nutrient runoff pollution prevention, infrastructure conservation, biodiversity and pollinator habitats and perhaps most importantly, **nutritious, sustainable food crops**. Can we aggregate the data needed to re-shape state farm support policy to directly incentivize healthy soil management by *realizing the value* of the services it provides - spending taxpayer dollars on preserving soils, rather than investing to cleanup the costs of their degradation?



RSVP to Josephine Watson, NEHSN project coordinator at josephinehwatson@gmail.com for more information

RSVP to Josephine Watson, NEHSN project coordinator at josephinewatson@gmail.com for more information