

USDA Northeast Climate Hub— University Partners Network

Plan of Work and Activities

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Aug. 2014- Aug. 2015 Main Tasks:

As stated within our individual agreements with each University, we will work toward accomplishing each of these tasks. All tasks fall under the category of: Information Sharing and Exchange

1. Capacity Discovery—Capacity assessment survey to identify current research and extension activities- what is happening relative to climate change and agriculture and where are the gaps. (Cornell and Penn State will lead this process; Sub-hub will lead forestry portion)
2. Vulnerability Assessments—Review and summarize the existing assessment reports conducted in the NE States on climate change and agriculture. (Penn State will take the lead; Sub-hub leads forest vulnerability portion).
3. Stakeholder Literature Review—Conduct literature review of stakeholder views on climate change and agriculture. (Cornell will lead this task and Sub-Hub will contribute forestry part).
4. Stakeholder Risk Assessment—A survey to assess perceived risks of climate change for key stakeholders in the agricultural sector across the Northeast. (Penn State and Cornell lead; forestry piece unknown).
5. Agricultural Resilience in a Changing Climate Initiative-- Expand the use of an established trans-disciplinary, participatory approach, to develop and deliver curricula and tools to states in the region. (UVM leads).
6. Organic Farming— Develop content focusing on farmer-adaptation success stories and research-based management practices for farm resiliency and distribute across the region. (UVM leads).
7. Hub Website Content— Suggest content and links for NE Hub website, assist with reviewing web content. (UNH content manager, will communicate with Sub-Hub content manager).
8. Engagement—As partners, through participation on bi-weekly conference calls and in person meetings with other University partners in the Hub. Lay the groundwork for developing, implementing and evaluating decision support tools and knowledge systems.

Engage Stakeholders—Organize stakeholder focus groups or outreach meetings with key participants; identify stakeholders. Learn about their priorities and needs, communicate results. Seek input on innovative solutions.

Engage Students—Assess academic programs and engage students in climate adaptation on studies and outreach.