

Governor's Commission on Climate Change
 Supplemental Revisions
 November 12, 2008

Under protecting/enhancing natural carbon sequestration capacity and researching/promoting carbon capture and storage technology:

B	48	AS	<p><i>Both the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries have established planning documents (ex. Natural Heritage Plan and the Wildlife Action Plan) that identify important habitat types, specific habitat sites, areas important for maintaining biodiversity, and conservation actions needed to conserve all of Virginia's wildlife and native habitats. Using these plans to identify critical conservation areas, Virginia should implement a statewide effort to conserve 5% of these areas that are currently unprotected by 2015 and 20% of these areas that are currently unprotected by 2025. This effort should utilize an assortment of management tools including education, financial incentives, appropriate regulations, and additional state investments.</i></p>
B	49	AS	
B	50	TLU	
B	51	CCR	
B	52	AS	<p><i>Virginia, like all states, is struggling with estimates of natural carbon sequestration rates and sources, and as a result, the current GHG emissions inventory does not account for the carbon currently sequestered in Virginia's forests, farmland or wetlands. Virginia's universities should supply the research that is necessary to incorporate this information into the next iteration of the GHG emissions inventory. This research will provide a quantitative basis to recognize emission reduction benefits associated with land conservation and management policies and to further the development of best practices.</i></p>
B	53	AS	
B	55	AS	
B	56	AS	
B	54	AS	<p><i>The Commonwealth should develop a natural sequestration carbon crediting system for carbon storage and sequestration projects (including forest conservation, afforestation, reforestation, and other working forest and agricultural lands management). Additionally, Commonwealth should seek certification for such a system by the Voluntary Carbon Standard (http://www.v-c-s.org/index.html) or a similar program. Lastly, the Commonwealth should pursue integration of its own natural sequestration carbon crediting system with current or future programs of this nature at the federal or regional levels.</i></p>