



American Climate Partners

Rural resilience through environmental restoration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL VIRGINIA NONPROFIT EXPANDS PROGRAMS TO ENTIRE SOUTHEAST U.S. WITH \$2M AWARD FROM USDA

American Climate Partners today announced the expansion of its environmental and climate restoration programs to the entire Southeast region of the U.S.

The organization, which previously only provided programs in Virginia, recently launched its new Southern Climate Restoration Solutions program (SCRS).

“The goal of the program is to work with landowners and other partners in the Southeast United States to develop natural solutions to restore our climate” said Michael Collins, Executive Director of American Climate Partners. “The South has unique landscapes that with proper management can provide meaningful restoration of the carbon, nitrogen, and water cycles our world depends upon.”

Paving the way for this expansion is the inaugural project of SCRS: the Southeast Region Soil Carbon Stock Partnership and Monitoring Project, funded by a \$2 million four-year award from the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). The purpose of the project is to support and increase soil carbon monitoring throughout the Southeastern Region of the United States through partnerships with local offices of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), land grant universities and historically black universities with agriculture programs and cooperative extension services, Agriculture and other non-profit organizations providing technical assistance to historically underserved farming communities, and other organizations reaching farmers interested in climate-smart agricultural methods.

Michael Carter Jr., a member of the board of directors for American Climate Partners, said “the overarching goal of the project is to educate producers on how to assess and monitor the effects of climate-smart practices on soil carbon sequestration and on the benefits of these practices.”

According to Thomas Salley, the chair of the board of directors for American Climate Partners, “the new program is an outgrowth of our SoilKeepers program which has been conducting and evaluating soil health-based tests for residential, agricultural, and solar energy clients since 2014. This effort led to an agreement in 2022 with a major utility company to test methods for sequestering atmospheric carbon in the soils under solar arrays.”

The states in Southeast region as defined by NRCS are Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Puerto Rico.

ABOUT AMERICAN CLIMATE PARTNERS

American Climate Partners is an entrepreneurial 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working since 2006 to develop natural solutions for environmental and climate restoration. The organization designs, creates, and manages projects, programs, and businesses which help rural America become more resilient in the face of pollution, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. The programs of American Climate Partners include SoilKeepers, which provides regenerative landscape services to estate, residential, agricultural, and commercial landowners in Virginia; StreamSweepers, an award-winning, state-wide river restoration, job training, and work experience program for young adults and veterans; The Rapidan Institute, which focuses on comprehensive fisheries and floodplain habitat restoration in the Rapidan and Robinson River valley; and the new Southern Climate Restoration Solutions program.



Cattle grazing in native warm season grass pasture established by SoilKeepers, a program of American Climate Partners.