

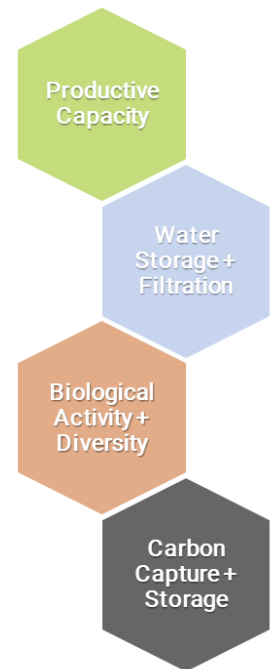
FY'24 HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM BUDGET SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION:

The Healthy Soils Program (HSP), established in 2021 and guided by the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan of 2023, aims to increase soil health as a way to improve food security, environmental justice, and climate resilience across the Commonwealth.

The budget requests outlined below constitute the priorities of the Healthy Soils Advisory Group* to the State Commission for Soil, Water, and Related Resources - the body tasked with administering the HSP.

Each element of the budget request aims to increase the capacity of land managers, farmers, planners, and the general public to understand and steward soil health at a higher level. If granted, this funding will also build the capacity of the State Commission and its advisory group to develop the HSP and support soil health in the forests, wetland, farms, and developed lands of Massachusetts.



HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM LINE ITEMS | FY'24:

- A. Expanded funding for MA Coordinated Soil Health Program (MACSHP, via MDAR). **\$500k** for each year. FY24-FY25
- B. Educate, Train, + Provide Stakeholder Engagement in Soil Health to build capacity and increase effectiveness of actions in each land cover sector (EOEEA, via contractor) **\$140k**
- C. Update and distribute tools for assessment and planning for MA Soil Health (EOEEA, via contractor). **\$245k**
- D. Staffing + Funding for Organizations that provide direct services to landowners + stakeholders. (Div. of Conservation Services via MACC + MACD) **\$130k**

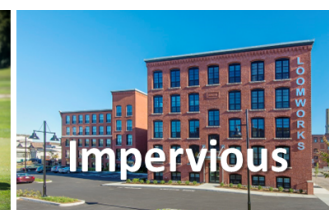
TOTAL FY24 REQUEST: \$1.02M | EEA Admin (2000-0100)

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS FOR SOIL HEALTH:

Several state planning projects have put the draft recommendation of HSAP to work. These include:

- Release of Massachusetts Healthy Soils Action Plan (EEA, 2023)
- The MA Coordinated Soil Health Plan (*administered by MDAR and operated by AFT and NOFA/Mass, 2022-2023*)
- Integration of soil-based functions in the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap (EEA, 2020) and The Resilience Lands Initiative (EEA, 2023)
- Soil Function for Municipal Climate Resilience Assessment Framework (SuAsCo Natural Climate Solutions MVP Project, 2023)

* Members of the Healthy Soils Program Advisory Committee include: Carolyn Shore Ness, Franklin Conservation District, Michael Leff, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts, Dorothy McGlinchy- Mass. Assoc. Of Conservation Commissions, Dorothy Suput, Marty Dagoberto Driggs- NOFA/Mass, and Caro Roszell- American Farmland Trust

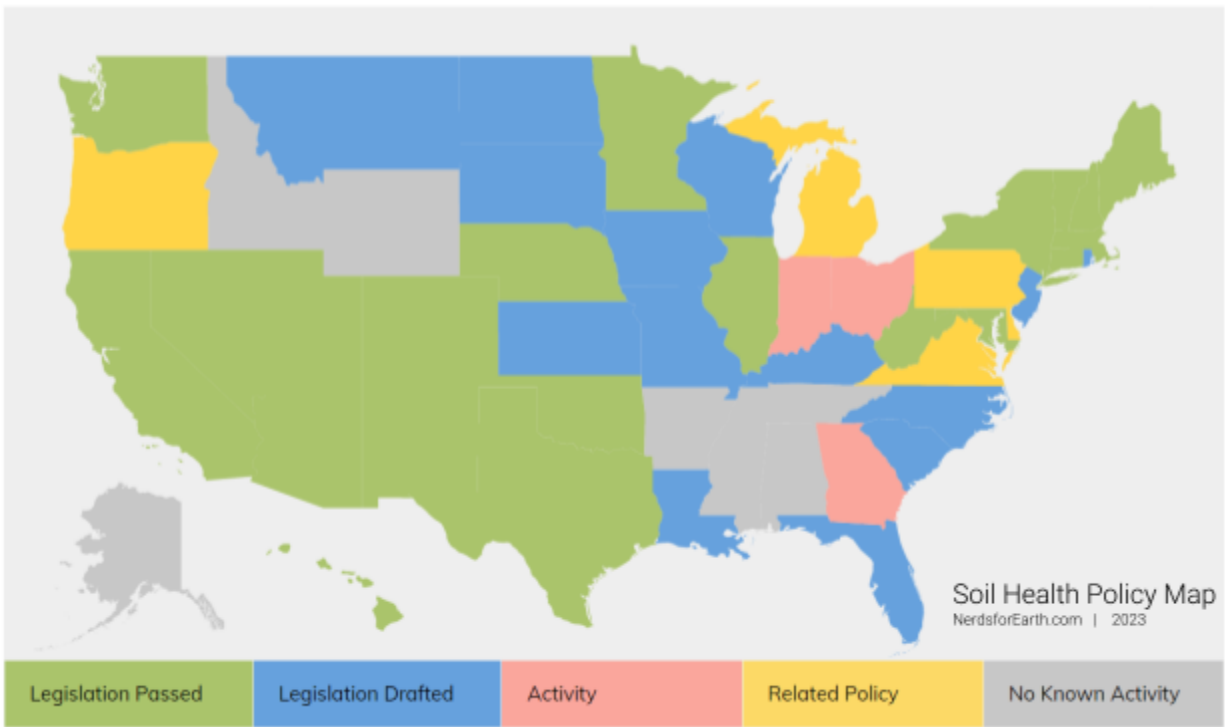


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BUILD ON SUCCESS

Massachusetts is the first state to complete a healthy soils plan for all of its land use types. The proposal for Phase 2 builds on the successes of recent actions shown to effectively improve soil health of the Commonwealth. The proposed funds will increase staffing at EEA, aid stakeholders in planning for soil health, provide technical assistance to farmers and other land managers, offer education on the importance of soil health to the general public, and improve local food system and climate resiliency.

HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM FUNDING IN OTHER STATES



- MAINE: Governor Mills has a proposal to direct **\$3M to Maine's Healthy Soils Program**.
- CONNECTICUT: **\$7M to CT Department of Agriculture** to support **climate-smart agriculture and forestry with an additional \$7 million in bond funding** that is awaiting approval from Governor Lamont.
- NEW YORK: 2022 allocated **\$16.75M for Climate Resilient Farming Grants Program, 500K for Cornell Soil Health Program, and \$14.5M for Soil and Water Conservation Districts**.
- PENNSYLVANIA: dedicated **\$154M** in unused ARPA funds **to provide cost shares for farmers enrolling in CSP and EQIP to do soil health practices**, or as a stand-alone reimbursable grant.
- CALIFORNIA: Governor's proposal for FY 2023-24 includes **\$10M for their Healthy Soils Program**.

