



Shelburne Farms

Drawdown Planning & Action

Climate change is a daunting challenge, but we are tackling it with optimism and hope. Here's some of what we've been doing, along with a bit of context for why we're doing it—for what's possible if we all take action.

Investing in solar power

With solar panels on our campus and new agreements with other providers, we are close to offsetting 100% of our electricity needs with renewable solar power. We're drawing on this electricity with new technologies, like heat pumps.

Shifting to electric vehicles

We've invested in several mowers and utility vehicles that emit zero direct carbon emissions. Our fleet will continue to expand.

Reducing mowing

We've reduced our mowed acres by 50% since pre-pandemic, mow less often, and "raise the blade."

Experimenting at the dairy

We are covering our manure pits with biochar to control nitrous oxide emissions and installing a methane monitor in our dairy barn to see whether a new cow feed will reduce the cows' methane emissions.

Educating! Education is an often forgotten strategy in working for Drawdown. All our programs weave in questions about climate, the systems involved and affected, and active, hopeful responses to it.

IF WE ALL PITCH IN:

1/6 global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 if buildings are electrified using renewable sources.

50% drop in emissions with EVs. 95% drop in CO₂ emissions if the electricity is solar powered.

20 lbs of CO₂ saved for every gallon of lawn mower fuel not used. Turf-grass is the largest U.S. ag crop!

19 gigaton drop in CO₂ emissions by 2050, potentially, if 16% of high school students receive climate change education—more CO₂ than the world's forests absorb annually.

article, Shelburne Farms 2022 newsletter

Drawdown is the point in the future when levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to steadily decline.

— Drawdown.org

Shelburne Farms Drawdown Plan

GOAL: Achieve carbon drawdown by 2028

FOCUS AREAS:

- Use energy efficiently
- Switch to renewables
- Cut livestock emissions
- Boost carbon sequestration

PHASE 1: Design Development

- Collect baseline data for tracking progress
- Finalize strategies, processes, and priorities
- Initiate pilot projects

PHASE 2: Implement Projects

SOURCES: Drawdown.org; Paul Hawken, *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*; Lenore Hitchler, *Grass Lawns are an Ecological Catastrophe*, ONE, 2018; Cordero, et. al., *The role of climate change education on individual lifetime carbon emissions*.