

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

The agriculture sector currently contributes about 10 percent to overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. In this project, Equitable Farming Initiative (EFI) and its partners will pilot an innovative workforce development approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improved waste management and worker training at three California agricultural facilities. Through this partnership, workers and managers will assess current practices and develop continuous improvement plans for more sustainable management of waste materials. More sustainable waste management will not only reduce emissions, but will also create opportunities for professional development and economic mobility for workers.

Worker and management representatives from the pilot farms will be convened to discuss how to improve EFI's methodology. The goal is to ensure the value created by EFI certification and enhanced waste management practices can equitably be shared to better meet the needs of workers, families & communities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- This project recognizes the importance of shared learning across pilot sites, and the need to amplify the voices of workers to refine and shape any future expansion of the program.
- The project will also support outreach to more California growers through marketing and communications strategies to hold up the efforts of existing high road employers and attract new candidates to EFI certification and to this sustainability program.
- Support to employers, relevant unions, workforce developers, and educational institutions to shape training programs to prepare the workforce.

KEY PARTNERS

- United Farm Workers
- EFI has certified 8 operations in CA & discussed implementation of this project with:
 - Andrew and Williamson Fresh Produce (Oxnard, Santa Maria, & Watsonville)
 - Windset Farms (Santa Maria) Abundant Harvest (Fresno)
 - Misionero (Gonzales)
- Measure to Improve (MTI)
- National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)