

WHAT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN DO

Smart Growth: Create comprehensive plans, embrace zoning approaches that encourage compact growth, and proactively plan for agriculture.

Farmland Protection: Identify agricultural resources and protect the agricultural land identified as a community priority.

Smart Solar: Incorporate smart solar siting into local land-use decisions; develop solar land-use laws and permitting through inclusive processes; ensure solar strengthens farm viability; and ensure best practices for soil health are followed when siting solar on farmland.

Farmland Access: Make municipal and county-owned lands available for agriculture and help match farm seekers with agricultural landowners.

WHAT STATES CAN DO

Smart Growth: Adopt smart-growth principles within state agencies, support local alignment with state smart-growth goals, and plan for agriculture across state agencies.

Farmland Protection: Identify priority agricultural resources, require mitigation for conversion, accelerate farmland protection efforts, incentivize keeping land in agricultural use, and enact the Uniform Partition of Heirs’ Property Act to address heirs’ property issues.

Smart Solar: Incentivize solar development on the built environment, previously disturbed, and marginal agricultural land; require mitigation for solar that displaces farming from productive agricultural land; and provide guidance and resources

to communities for smart solar, including best practices for construction and decommissioning. Fund research on dual-use solar (agrivoltaics) and, pending proof of concept, define and incentivize it.

Farmland Access: Invest in land access and farm transfer assistance to landowners and farm seekers, including FarmLink programs. Establish transition incentives, address farmland affordability through state farmland protection programs, and make state-owned land available for leasing to producers.

WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN DO

Smart Growth: Provide additional support for smart-growth planning and implementation grants, couple broadband funding with support for community planning, and encourage rehabilitation and conversion of commercial spaces.

Farmland Protection: Increase funding for USDA’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and improve its function, strengthen the Farmland Protection Policy Act, and increase funding for the Heirs’ Property Relending Program.

Smart Solar: Incentivize solar development on existing structures, brownfields, and marginal lands; fund research on best practices for developing solar on agricultural lands, including advancing dual-use; equip local, state, and regional leaders with smart solar resources; and expand interagency cooperation.

Farmland Access: Create tax incentives for lifetime farm transfers, improve Buy-Protect-Sell in ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements, provide additional support for business technical assistance that includes farm transfer, and allow producers to reduce Farm Service Agency debt in exchange for keeping land in agriculture.