

# VT Soil Health Policy Network

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Presented by: Jennifer Byrne, District Manager, White River NRCD

- The Soil Health Policy Network brings together farmers, foresters, service providers, researchers, and advocates in a monthly meeting to discuss the past, present, and future of Vermont's soil.
- Topics of discussion include new and existing policy development and implementation, the current status of soil health science and research, and connectivity across sectors, land managers, and programs.
- The Network is organized by a volunteer Steering Committee. The Network meetings include full group discussions and self-selected subcommittees: Policy, Research, and Connectivity.

**Over 60 Current Members:**

- ★ Farmers
- ★ Farmers Alliances
- ★ Conservation Districts
- ★ Rural Vermont
- ★ NOFA Vermont
- ★ Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition
- ★ UVM
- ★ 350 Vermont
- ★ American Farmland Trust
- ★ Vermont Law School
- ★ Conservation Law Foundation
- ★ Vermont Land Trust
- ★ Organic Valley Coop
- ★ DEC
- ★ CLF
- ★ & more

# Policy Subcommittee

The Policy Subcommittee reviews and discusses current and proposed state policies. Network members are encouraged to bring policies and initiatives to the group for consideration. By openly discussing policies across agricultural sectors, we aim to build well-informed policies and movements, led and informed by those most affected.

Ex: Discussion of legislative proposals, Building consensus and support for future policies

# Research Subcommittee

The Research Subcommittee shares and examines current soil health research being conducted in Vermont and nationally. The aim of this subcommittee is to build a thorough understanding of what is known and unknown in the field of soil health, and build on shared knowledge to design future research goals.

Ex: VLS research, State of Soil Health, CIG

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# Connectivity Subcommittee

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The Connectivity Subcommittee seeks to de-silo the people and programs across the state, in order to build cohesion and common knowledge of the many programs, organizations, and efforts that are working to build soil health in the state. Our goal is twofold: 1) to ensure that every person can be involved in the state-wide conversation around soil health and 2) for all stakeholders to understand the availability, similarities, and differences of existing programs and efforts which address soil health in the state.