



## THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA POSITION PAPER

*The Garden Club of America supports independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of responsible public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results.*

THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

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### CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

The Garden Club of America recognizes that global climate change is affecting the natural world, our economies, national security, and human health. Rapid loss of biodiversity, species extinction, ocean acidification, sea level rise, droughts, floods, storms, along with threats to clean air, to clean water, and to the health of our national parks are all risks we face if we do not address the human activities that create global warming. Because individual and collective action can modify the course of climate change, The Garden Club of America is committed to educating members and communities about its causes and about constructive responses to them. The Garden Club of America is particularly concerned about the influence of climate change on biodiversity. Native vegetation is the matrix that sustains plant biodiversity and supports wildlife and ecosystem services. Therefore, The Garden Club of America supports federal, state, and local legislation and policy to address the following:

#### FUNDING

- Strategies to protect biodiversity, especially at-risk species, to safeguard habitat, and to preserve options for future restoration
- Research to address the increased incidence of disease and invasive species and the disruptions of co-involved relationships (such as those between plants and pollinators)

#### LEGISLATION, REGULATION, AND PRIVATE INITIATIVES

- International, federal, state and local greenhouse gas reduction legislation and regulations that reflect the social cost of carbon and have their basis in peer-reviewed science
- Individual, corporate, and community initiatives to develop green infrastructure
- Initiatives to support sustainable forest and wilderness areas (including National Parks), as these open lands sequester carbon, help ensure clean air, and protect watersheds
- Accelerated promotion of renewable energy and advanced battery storage, as well as promotion of energy efficiency measures in the building and transportation sectors
- Initiatives to protect, conserve, and maintain water quality and quantity, to prevent stormwater runoff, and to safeguard oceans
- Promotion of carbon footprint reduction techniques such as carbon offsetting
- Support the use of alternative energy systems such as wind, solar and geothermal and the conservation of energy through efficiency and green construction that minimize the use of fossil fuels which account for the majority of greenhouse gases
- Support the reduction of methane gas from the oil, natural gas and farming industries as it is the second highest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions

#### ADAPTION

- Adaptation strategies for human, animal, and plant communities
- Re-vegetation and re-forestation of disturbed areas, including green buffers near waterways
- Development of sufficient supplies of native plant materials to meet this need
- Water management initiatives to conserve water and maintain water quality in response to the expected challenges of climate change to riparian systems and in-stream flow
- Promotion of more localized systems of food production and consumption

#### EDUCATION

- Public education about climate change, including the changing conditions for gardens, sustainable landscape design and gardening practices, and the reduction of energy-intensive products and maintenance practices
- Recognition of implications of changed hardiness zones for agriculture and horticulture, including changes in phenology (date flowers emerge), migratory patterns, productivity, and crop yield
- Awareness of individual energy use in day-to-day activities, as well as exploration of social, economic and environmental opportunities that become available through research and development of new technologies.

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*The purpose of The Garden Club of America is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, to share the advantages of association by means of educational meetings, conferences, correspondence and publications, and to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.*