# Climate Change and the Economy
# Building Resilience through Agriculture

## About the Event

Agricultural practices in the United States remain a significant source of environmental impacts, such as degradation of soil and water quality, and emissions of greenhouse gases. Embracing local agriculture promises to address these problems while building stronger communities. Benefits might include regional cycling of nutrients, preservation of local landscapes, and a more vital economy.

Yet, while the "locavore" movement offers the potential for greater control over our food producing systems, with this comes a responsibility to ensure environmental and economic sustainability. Communities promoting local food systems could lessen the negative impacts of agriculture through increasing the use of perennials (permaculture), shifting toward increased reliance on ecosystem services for crop and soil health, and supporting both planned and associated on-farm biodiversity, all of which will increase agroecosystem resilience in the face of climate change.

This panel discussion aims to uncover the benefits and challenges of local sustainable agriculture from the perspective of climate change, the economy, and our natural resources.

**What** A panel discussion followed by a local food reception

**When** March 21st, 6 - 8pm

**Where** Bard College at Simon's Rock
Fisher Science and Academic Center
Clark Auditorium

**Rsvp** www.bard.edu/cep
845.758.7071
cep@bard.edu

**Reserve your seat, register today!**

# Panelists





**Melissa Adams** Massachusetts Representative, Keep Farming Program, Glynwood

Melissa Adams is the Massachusetts Representative of the Keep Farming Program at the Glynwood Center, a nonprofit organization in Cold Spring, NY with the mission to save farming by strengthening farm communities and regional food systems. Melissa provides guidance to the community based Keep Berkshires Farming teams currently active in Berkshire County. Melissa has been active in agricultural and community planning in Massachusetts for the last 15 years. She is also Program Coordinator for Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' APR Improvement Program, a business planning and grant program for farms that have been protected from development. Melissa has a B.S. in Business Management from Syracuse University and a M.S. in Regional Planning from UMass Amherst with a concentration in Natural Resource Economics.

**Dr. Peter M. Groffman** Microbial Ecologist, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Dr. Groffman's research focuses on microbial processes in an ecosystem context. His objectives are to gain insight into 1) the role that microorganisms play in ecosystem functions related to nutrient cycling, water and air quality and soil carbon storage and 2) environmental regulation of microbes. Developing conceptual and practical ecosystem contexts for this work has required a large number of study sites and strong collaborations with other scientists. Current Projects include: Exotic Earthworms & Northern Temperate Forests, Snow Depth & Soil Freezing as a Regulator of Microbial Processes, Baltimore Ecosystem Study, Base Cation Depletion: Organic Matter Quality & Microbial Processes, and Ecological Homogenization of Urban America.

**Dr. Jennifer G. Phillips** Assistant Professor, Bard Center for Environmental Policy

Dr. Phillips focuses her research and teaching on interactions between farming systems and climate, with a particular emphasis on greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, and soil carbon dynamics. Her primary teaching commitment is in the Bard Center for Environmental Policy's Climate Science and Policy MS degree program. She also runs a grassfed sheep farm in Columbia County, which practices Management-intensive Grazing (MiG), and sells grassfed lamb and wool products locally and in New York City. Her farm serves as a hands-on research and teaching facility for Bard graduate and undergraduate students interested in sustainable farming systems. Prior to joining the Bard faculty, Dr. Phillips was a researcher at the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory and the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, where she worked on the implications of climate change and climate variability for farming systems in the US and Africa.

**Dr. Timothy Randhir** Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Dr. Randhir's primary interests include: watershed management, water quality, ecological economics, dynamic modeling and optimization, spatial analysis and simulation, complex systems, Institutional economics, GIS-Internet-Simulation interfacing, systems modeling, climate change, land use policy, international trade and development, common pool resource management, nonpoint source pollution, and natural resources policy and management. Dr. Randhir earned his Ph.D. at Purdue University, his M.S. in Ag. Economics from Tamil Nadu Ag. University, India, and B. S. in Agricultural Sciences from Annamalai University, India.

**Steffen Schneider** Director of Farm Operations, Hawthorne Valley Farm

Steffen finished his agricultural university studies in Giessen, Germany in 1982. He has been a Biodynamic practitioner since 1983, first in Wisconsin and, since 1989, at Hawthorne Valley Farm. He especially loves working with the livestock and the dairy cows and his passion for Biodynamics continues to grow. He has given workshops at numerous conferences and also teaches at the Biodynamic Course at the Pfeiffer Center in Spring Valley, New York. Presently, Steffen serves as treasurer of the Biodynamic Association of North America.

*This event is sponsored by the Bard Center for Environmental Policy, in collaboration with Bard College at Simon's Rock, and Berkshire Grown.*

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