

## NORTH DAKOTA CLIMATE INITIATIVE – SECTOR STORY 9

### **Sustain. Transform. Authenticate. North Dakota.**

A North Dakota legislative report points out that our state’s wealth of natural resources has solidified its place as a global leader in affordable, efficient and reliable energy, and food production. According to the [STAND report](#), over half of North Dakota’s economy depends on its energy and agriculture sectors. Access to reliable and affordable food and energy is essential for driving the state’s economic growth, prosperity and market competitiveness. The report also highlights that, as an economy dependent on natural resources, sustainable management is key.

In 2023, the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly directed the Bank of North Dakota to lead a comprehensive ESG (environmental, social and governance) study to create a blueprint for how North Dakota can maintain a competitive advantage in a carbon-managed world. This work was on a parallel track with the launch of North Dakota’s Climate Initiative and the development of its first-ever statewide sustainability plan. Together, these collaborative initiatives better position North Dakota for a vibrant and sustainable future.

ESG is a market-driven set of criteria to measure a business’ impact on the environment and society, and to measure a business’ transparency and accountability. North Dakotans are working together to ensure their biggest source of revenue – natural resources – continues to support the thriving economy while adapting to the rising global ESG movement.

The STAND report, released in June 2024, incorporates the valuable insights and contributions of state legislators, government officials, private industry representatives and association stakeholders. It focuses primarily on the environmental aspects of ESG and how they relate to economic growth opportunities and challenges in the state.



At a high level, there are three primary objectives stemming from the report:

1. **SUSTAIN:** Commit to preserving natural resources and enhancing resilience through responsible practices, environmental stewardship, and collaboration for long-term economic health.
2. **TRANSFORM:** Evolve from past frameworks by integrating transformative strategies, rethinking existing processes and embracing sustainable, efficient and adaptive models.
3. **AUTHENTICATE:** Advance transparency and accountability by implementing clear methodologies, verifying data and upholding ethical governance standards to build trust and credibility.

Learn more about these objectives outlined in the STAND report:

<https://stand.nd.gov/publications/>.

As North Dakota moves ahead on its sustainability and competitiveness efforts, positive and practical impacts already can be seen. The Department of Environmental Quality has gathered a series of stories that mirror insights and knowledge presented in the STAND report. Here are a few of North Dakota's ESG success stories:

1. **Cover cropping:** [North Dakota farmers are gaining ground on climate resilience](#)
2. **Turning waste into energy:** [Fargo landfill turns captured gas into energy](#)
3. **Conservation equals revenue:** [North Dakota reduces flaring of oil and gas, increases production, revenue and air quality](#)
4. **Innovation transforms communities:** [Environmental upgrades bring lasting benefits to workforce development, overall health and wellness and more](#)
5. **Renewable energy bolsters the workforce:** [Colleges offer training programs to support significant workforce demands](#)
6. **Preserving and protecting natural resources:** [Protecting North Dakota's unique ecosystems so natural resources continue to thrive.](#)

A lot is happening across the state to protect and preserve North Dakota's natural resources and bolster its economic potential. To learn more about current and future initiatives, and how to get involved or read other stories, please visit:

<https://www.deq.nd.gov/sustainability/>.