

## Creating an Action Plan

Action Plans are an important aspect of New York Sustainable Winegrowing's Vineyard Certification process. They serve to ensure continuous improvement amongst certified growers. Sustainability is a journey, not a destination. As such, even a score of 4 on a VineBalance item does not preclude the ability for improvement on that item.

When determining what items to include in your Action Plan, prioritize areas with scores of 1 and 2. Items with a score of 1 *must* be improved to a 2 prior to the second in-person audit if a vineyard wishes to maintain certification. Feasibility should be the next criterion to consider. Not all aspects of a vineyard can be changed, and not all changes are economically feasible. Finally, consider items that have the largest impact on the environment and the community. Once items of priority are determined devise a plan of improvement as well as a timeline for implementation and results. Ensure that your plan of action suits you and your vineyard. What works for one vineyard might not work for another.

Once you have completed your action plan be sure to keep a copy to refer to and gauge improvement as well as share it with your vineyard Auditor.

## Example action Plan

Below is an example of action plans for two items. The first column should contain the objective section in VineBalance under which the area of concern appears. The second column should list the item being addressed. The third column reports your current score on an item that needs improving or lists a general concern not tied to vine balance that needs addressing. The fourth column lists a proposed plan of action to address the area of concern. The fifth column contains a proposed timeline in which the plan of action will be implemented.

Example action plan

Action Plan				
Objective	Item ID#	Score and or area of concern	Plan of action	Timeline
Objective 5. Natural Resource Conservation and Waste	5.3.2 Station Type	1 all mixing and loading is done in the field at the same location	Construction of an impermeable mixing/loading pad at the main winery site.	Construction is planned for the summer of 2024
Objective 2. Soil Health	2.4.5 Cover Crop (undervine)	2 Herbicide is used at the start of the season to control weed growth under vines as well as later in the season.	Use no herbicide under vines allowing for a cover to develop after the initial unhillng of the season.	Will begin their practice starting in spring 2024

## Action plan templates

Action Plan				
Objective	Item ID#	Score and or area of concern	Plan of action	Timeline

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