Best of Drawdown: Some Ways We Can Reverse Global Warming

First set: Solutions that build healthy soil and thus store more water and carbon in the ground, moderate the microclimate, grow healthy plants that make more oxygen, and reduce erosion

(1) No tilling: clip weeds and crops at ground level, and leave roots & soil in place.
(2) Compost everything (aerobically) that can boost soil health. [This also keeps organic material out of (anaerobic) landfills, a second-set solution.]
(3) Grow good soil in more places:
-within porous paving, including on lots, alleys, driveways, and parts of playgrounds
-within garden boxes acting as schoolyard projects, parking lot curbs, little free food stands, alley beautifiers, protectors of walkers & bikers, &c.
-on green, "living" roofs
(4) Protect Forests
(5) Protect Coastal Wetlands: allow meadows of sea-grass to sequester CO2 and buffer us from waves, even as they migrate inland
(6) Silvo-pasture: intermingling of trees and livestock
(7) Managed grazing: avoid over-grazing and under-grazing, both of which hurt soil
(8) Other elements (besides #'s 6 and 7) of Regenerative /Conservation agriculture: Use diverse cover crops, multiple crop rotations, and no poisons.
(9) Drip irrigation
(10) Grow Bamboo: it's FAST to sequester CO2, strong as steel & concrete, & able to thrive on degraded soil
(11) Traditional indigenous land-management practices (home gardens, pastoralism, agroforestry, fire management, communal forest management...)
(12) Multi-story reforestation (plant diverse species of multiple heights together)

Second set: solutions that reduce the POTENCY of the green-house gases we put into atmosphere. Carbon dioxide (CO2) is an abundant greenhouse gas, and methane is up to 34 times more potent than CO2.

(13) Methane digesters: decompose organic wastes in an anaerobic environment and collect the biogas to burn into CO2 + water, and the digestant for fertilizer.
(14) Landfill methane: burn the methane arising from the landfill into CO2 + water before it escapes into the atmosphere as methane.
(15) Refrigerant management: contain and chemically treat gases from older A/C and refrigeration units, and replace units with those that use less potent gases

Third set: **Solutions that reduce the AMOUNTS of greenhouse gases we put into atmosphere by SUBSTITUTING clean-source electricity for fuel-burning**

(16) Distributed Solar, with some of its storage in e-vehicle batteries
(17) Distributed Wind, with some of its energy storage in water pumped upward
(18) Electric vehicles including cars, bikes, tractors, buses, charged by solar/wind

Fourth Set: Solutions that reduce the AMOUNTS of greenhouse gases we put into atmosphere by WISE USE of our resources (efficiency, conservation, making a little go a long way)

(19) Reduce imports and exports and thereby spend less energy transporting things.
(20) Buy less, but borrow & share.
(21) Use Insulation on people (sweaters, hats etc.) and buildings.
(22) Build/retrofit Zero-Energy Buildings, Zero-Water Buildings, Living Buildings, & buildings meeting the "2030 Challenge."
(23) Eat food that is mostly local, made mostly of plants and free-range animal products.
(24) Reduce travel, especially by plane, with or without using tele-health &tele-work as substitutes or rewards for INfrequent flying, etc. as motivators.
(25) Boost walkability in towns, between towns, and through forests and farms, by maintaining safe routes and new & old rights-of-way.
(26) Boost bike-/trike-/stroller-ability of neighborhoods.
(27) Boost occupancy of vehicles (for example by using Uber Pool, Lyft Line, BlaBla Car, other dispatcher-or smartphone-assisted ridesharing, traffic-guard-style carpooling).
(28) Expand Public Transit and its connections to hubs.
(29) Re-use, Repair, Upcycle, Recycle Close To Home:
choose high-post-consumer content paper; separate the waste streams; welcome industries that mine nothing but trash piles; enact Extended Producer Responsibility policies; teach children to mend cloth and work with metal.
(30) Make better plastics such as bio-& recycled, not from newly mined fossils.

Fifth set: Solutions that Mostly Mitigate

(31) Collect rainwater on every roof and store water at least on every block, if not at every building.
(32) Even in buildings that are not Water Net Zero, use water-saving devices, policies and habits.
(33) Move people up and out of harbors and other low-lying areas for their safety as oceans rise and heavier storms bring wilder waves and more erosion.
(34) Increase the setback between buildings/new roads and riverbanks/ocean cliffs.
(35) Build businesses and other groups to assist landowners to create fire-defensible space while also building soil. Build porous-paved fire-truck driveways in lawns and let grass grow through.
(36) Assist people to prepare and maintain "go-bags," first aid kits, escape routes and trails.
(37) Identify high-altitude points between every two rivers and equip them as flood refuges and windmill sites.
(38) Decentralize all resources so that climate refugees can pitch in, help and share rather than organize take-overs.

The above list is made up of my personal favorites from a variety of sources, most notably the book Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming edited by Paul Hawken, Penguin Books, New Your 2017. In order to become a favorite of mine it had to be something that people in Mendocino County could work on without sacrificing their health.
--Jennifer Kreger