

Cross-Agency Priority Goal: Sustainability

FY 2013 Q1 Status Update

Cross-Agency Priority Goal Statement

By 2020, the Federal Government will reduce its direct greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent and will reduce its indirect greenhouse gas emissions by 13 percent by 2020 (from 2008 baseline).

On October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514 on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, to establish an integrated strategy towards sustainability focused on cost-effective projects and programs in the Federal Government and to make reduction of greenhouse gas emissions a priority for all Federal agencies. Agencies report on their status and planned milestones toward meeting specific targets and goals to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, eliminate waste, improve energy and water performance, and leverage Federal purchasing power to support innovation and entrepreneurship in clean energy technologies and environmentally-responsible products.

Goal Leader

Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality.

About this document

The Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals were a key innovation introduced in the FY2013 Federal Budget. These goals focus on 14 major issues that run across several Federal agencies. Each of these historic goals has a Goal Leader who is a senior level White House official and is fully accountable for the success and outcomes of the goal.

Historically, areas of shared responsibility for multiple government agencies have been resistant to real progress. Success in these areas requires a new kind of management approach – one that brings people together from across and outside the Federal Government to coordinate their work and combine their skills, insights, and resources. The CAP Goals represent the President's priorities for which this approach is likeliest to bear fruit. Taken together, they comprise the Federal performance plan.

This report discusses one of these CAP Goals, the Sustainability Goal, in detail, describing the plan for achieving the goal and the current status of progress. To see the full list of CAP Goals and to find out more about them, we encourage you to visit performance.gov.

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Overview

With more than 1.8 million civilian employees, 500,000 buildings, and billions in annual purchasing power, the Federal Government has a responsibility to lead by example when it comes to its environmental, energy, and economic performance. As the largest consumer of energy in the American economy, it is also the Federal Government's responsibility to promote the growth of clean energy industries and jobs in the U.S. Agencies demonstrate their short- and long-term planning and achievements through annual Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans and Sustainability and Energy Scorecards.

In 2010, President Obama announced that the Federal Government will reduce its direct greenhouse gas emissions, such as those from fuels and building energy use, by 28 percent by 2020 and will reduce its indirect greenhouse gas emissions, such as those from employee business travel and employee commuting, by 13 percent by 2020. By meeting these two goals, the Federal Government could save up to \$11 billion in energy costs over the next decade and eliminate the equivalent of 235 million barrels of oil from its own activities. While working towards these goals, the Federal Government has improved energy efficiency across the board, expanded Federal use of renewable energy, and is working to reduce the reliance on petroleum for the Federal fleet.

Strategies

Agencies release their Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans annually and report their progress through annual OMB Scorecards on Sustainability and Energy. The plans detail individual agency strategies for meeting the GHG reduction goals, as well as other energy and sustainability goals in Executive Order 13514. The OMB Scorecards help inform the priority focus areas for Agencies' Sustainability Plans. These tools have helped identify areas where additional support is needed through guidance and implementation instructions, including GHG Accounting and Reporting Guidance, initially released in October 2010 and revised in June 2012.

Progress Update

As Federal agencies continue to make short-term and long-term action plans to meet the goal areas of Executive Order 13514, each Agency is progressing towards the established goals and targets at a different rate. The public Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans demonstrate each Agency's progress and their projections for future goal attainment.

The Federal Government as a whole is benefitting from the efforts of the Federal agencies, offices, installations, bureaus, and facilities. As a whole, the Federal Government is on track to meet the 2020 GHG emissions reduction goal of a 28% reduction for Scope 1 and 2 emissions. In 2011, the Federal Government reduced these emissions by 8.3% from the 2008 fiscal year.

The annual Energy and Sustainability Scorecards help agencies identify, target and track the best opportunities to lead by example in clean energy; and hold them accountable for meeting annual energy, water, pollution, and waste reduction targets. The progress of each individual agency is clearly conveyed through a red, yellow, or green symbol, with explanation of what this means for an individual agency's progress.

Through these two efforts, the progress of the Federal Government is tracked. The Federal Government is making progress in all goal areas, with great success in reducing Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions, increasing renewable energy usage, increasing alternative fuels usage and reducing potable water reduction. As Federal agencies continue to award Energy Saving Performance Contracts and complete energy-saving retrofits and upgrades, increased progress in the areas of reduced energy intensity and sustainable buildings are expected. Agencies are working specifically to address fleet management and the reduction of petroleum-based fuel through individual Fleet Management Plans, which will be released with the 2012 Sustainability Plans. These plans will provide the roadmap needed for each agency to reach the President's goals.

Indicators

This goal currently utilizes milestones to show progress. No indicators are used at this time.

Milestones Accomplished to Date

- FY10 Q4 - Agencies released the first ever Energy and Sustainability Plans to the public.
- FY11 Q2 - Energy and Sustainability Scorecards for major Federal agencies were released to the public for the first time.
- FY12 Q1 - Agencies released the second annual Energy and Sustainability Plans to the public.
- FY12 Q3 - Energy and Sustainability Scorecards for major Federal agencies were released to the public for the second time.

Next Steps

- Agencies will release the third annual Energy and Sustainability Plans to the public, including for the first time Climate Adaptation Plans, Vehicle Management Plans, and Bio-based Procurement Strategies.
- Agencies will publicly release Energy and Sustainability Scorecards for reporting year 2012.
- White House Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Management and Budget are hosting a series of Sustainability Plan workshops with the Federal Agencies to strengthen the framework of the plans and share best practices.

Future Actions

Executive Order 13514 includes a series of milestones for each goal area for Federal Agencies to achieve by 2015, 2020, and beyond in the areas of energy and sustainability, including:

- The Federal Government will reduce its direct greenhouse gas emissions, such as those from fuels and building energy use, by 28 percent by 2020 and will reduce its indirect greenhouse gas emissions, such as those from employee business travel and employee commuting, by 13 percent by 2020.
- Reduce petroleum consumption by 2% per year through FY2020 (applies to agencies with fleets of more than 20 vehicles) (Baseline FY2005).
- Reduce by 2% annually:
 - Potable water intensity by FY2020 (26% total reduction) (Baseline FY2007).
 - Industrial, landscaping, and agricultural water intensity by FY2020 (20% total reduction) (Baseline FY2010).
- Achieve 50% or higher diversion rate:
 - Non-hazardous solid waste by FY2015.
 - Construction and demolition materials and debris by FY2015.
- Ensure at least 15% of existing buildings and leases (>5,000 gross sq ft) meet the Guiding Principles by FY2015, with continued progress towards 100%.
- Ensure 95% of all new contracts, including non-exempt contract modifications, require products and services that are energy-efficient, water-efficient, bio-based, environmentally preferable, non-ozone depleting, contain recycled-content, non-toxic or less-toxic alternatives.

Contributing Programs and Other Factors

Many Federal programs are helping the Federal community meet the goals and targets in Executive Order 13514, including:

- The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program provides various services and tools to help Federal agencies achieve their Executive Order goals and targets, including GHG inventory reporting.
- The Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Green Challenge is a national program for federal facilities and offices to reduce their environmental impact and commit to improvement goals that relate directly to Executive Order 13514.

Additional References

Agency sustainability scorecards:

<http://sustainability.performance.gov/>

Information on Executive Order 13514:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/sustainability>

Federal Facilities Environmental Stewardship & Compliance Assistance Center:

<http://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/greenhouse/inventoryreporting/>

Federal Energy Management Program:

<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/index.html>