



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID  
**STRATEGIC  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PERFORMANCE PLAN  
SUMMARY**

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**BUREAU FOR MANAGEMENT**

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## **2016 USAID STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE PLAN**

Executive Order (EO) 13693-Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, continues the policy of the United States that federal agencies increase efficiency and improve their environmental performance. Improved environmental performance protects our planet for future generations and saves taxpayer dollars through avoided energy costs and increased efficiency, while also making Federal facilities more resilient.

Section 14 of the EO encourages federal agencies to submit an annual sustainability plan to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Contributing agencies, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), need only prepare a summary of agency actions to meet the requirements of the Executive Order.

### **SECTION 1: POLICY STATEMENT**

USAID is committed to fostering a clean energy economy and to sustaining the environment by conducting operations and programs in an environmentally responsible manner, complying with environmental laws and regulations, and leading by example.

USAID's programs operate globally and impact millions of people worldwide. In response to the growing concerns about the adverse impacts of climate change, USAID's strives to improve the living conditions of people in developing countries while minimizing detrimental impacts to the environment. USAID helps these stakeholders generate prosperity in innovative and sustainable ways while conserving natural resources and minimizing contamination.

USAID's sustainability program includes the following areas of emphasis:

- Integrating climate change adaptation strategies into USAID's programs and operations in order to minimize risks to Agency assets and program activities
- Procuring energy efficient and environmentally preferable electronic products and utilizing sound environmental practices when disposing of those products
- Supporting green transportation and a reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from employee commuting
- Designing, constructing, and operating high performance facilities and using regional and site-specific green infrastructure practices
- Engaging employees, stakeholders, and the public in our environmental commitment
- Reducing consumption and reliance on nonrenewable energy by promoting renewable energy projects and programs
- Promoting water conservation through identification of water inefficiencies and implementation of water conservation projects
- Implementing sustainable acquisition practices for recycled, energy efficient, bio-based, and environmentally preferable products and services
- Pursuing waste management strategies that include reducing, reusing, and recycling

## **SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

### **A. Agency Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions**

USAID only reports on scope 3 emissions as the Agency does not operate domestic facilities. Calculations for the USAID GHG inventory include: 1) Official air and ground travel originating from USAID/Washington calculated using the Council on Environmental Quality approved General Services Administration (GSA) Travel Trax System; 2) Employee commuting data for Washington, DC based federal employees calculated from a GSA developed survey tool; and, 3) Wastewater emissions determined by the number of USAID employees located in USAID's Washington-occupied facilities.

For FY 2015, total USAID GHG emissions were calculated at 19,040.2 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalent. USAID total emissions from baseline FY 2008 were 7,567 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Washington-based employee commuting accounted for the greatest contribution to GHG emissions in FY 2015 with 9934.3 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Washington-based employee business air travel contributed 8,235.7 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Ground travel accounted for 846.7 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions. Wastewater treatment accounted for 23.5 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Emissions from employee commuting have varied significantly from year to year due to employee response rates to the annual commuter survey. USAID utilized the GSA commuter survey tool to calculate emissions from Washington employees' work commute and was based on a population of 4,942 federal employees. This number includes both direct hire and non-direct hire federal employees. Contractors and federal employees who do not respond are assumed to have driven a single occupancy vehicle to and from work.

### **B. Facilities**

USAID does not own or operate facilities within the United States. The Agency operates a small number of facilities overseas that include innovative energy saving features.

In 2016, USAID/South Africa building NOB2 received a 5-Green Star as-built certification from the Green Building Council of South Africa. This is the first USAID green rated overseas building. The NOB2 key green features include:

- A rainwater harvesting system for toilet and urinal flushing
- A stormwater attenuation pond with bio-filter designed for a 20 year storm event
- A large internal atrium and appropriate space planning to take advantage of natural lighting
- 90% of all steel used on the project has 60% recycled or re-used content.
- 20% of the total contract value is represented by locally sourced materials (within approximately 250 miles or 400 kilometers)
- Solar Power producing up to 300 KVAs of power – close to 1/3 of the required usage

- Sound proofing of internal HVAC plant rooms

During normal building operation energy efficiency should be 33 to 50% more than market average through minimal fenestration, high performance glass, shading devices, and efficient lighting and occupancy sensors. Potable water use is reduced up to 50% through improved system design and rainwater harvesting. Efficient sanitary fixtures reduce wastewater discharge by 50%. All HVAC refrigerants and gaseous fire suppression systems have zero Ozone Depletion Potential.

### **C. Fleet Management**

USAID's domestic fleet quantity is below the reporting threshold of 20 vehicles. The Department of State manages most fleet vehicles at overseas locations.

### **D. Water Use Efficiency and Management**

USAID does not purchase water utilities directly for domestic facilities. USAID-occupied facilities in Washington, DC are managed and operated by GSA and water is included as part of a full-service lease. USAID is undertaking a phased renovation of the Agency occupied portion of the Ronald Reagan Building, and as part of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process, the Agency will pursue credits for water use efficiency, which entails installing low-flow fixtures designed to more effectively manage water consumption.

### **E. Pollution Prevention and Waste Reduction**

USAID maintains an active recycling program for paper, aluminum, and plastics.

USAID has incorporated sustainability principles into printing and graphics services that provide printing, binding, reproduction, and copying of Agency-wide material. The sustainability components of USAID's print management policy are:

- All printing devices utilized are Energy Star compliant
- The most energy efficient devices in their respective volume bands will be procured
- Devices are able to utilize environmentally-friendly remanufactured toner and unique package-free toner
- Devices are manufactured with a high percentage of recycled content
- Devices will use 100% recycled and 50% post-consumer content paper
- Devices are required to default to duplex printing to minimize paper usage
- Device disposal through a recycler certified to either the Responsible Recycling Standard or the E Stewards Standard
- Eliminating color printing unless absolutely necessary
- Reduction of margin sizes
- Reduction of line spacing
- Reduction of font size and changing font type to save ink and toner
- Usage of specialty font; such as fonts with blank holes that are not visible when documents are printed with typical font sizes

- Vendors selected for printing and graphic services will utilize the sustainable practices listed above

USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment manages the Agency's Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP). The LEPP is authorized under sections 607 and 608 of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) and gives USAID special authority to give approved Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) access to government excess property under the U.S. General Services Administration and the Defense Logistics Agency's Disposition Services' excess property programs. The LEPP PVO partners, in turn, use the property to build the capacity and the speed and efficiency of their local in-country partners. Some of these local partners are community hospitals and medical clinics who receive medical supplies and equipment enabling them to provide higher quality service to a larger group of people. Other PVO program partners work closely with in-country schools and technical training facilities providing computer equipment, which enables a higher level of education and human resources development.

The program provides an innovative and cost effective means to dispose of excess government property in a way that supports and furthers overall U. S. Government development goals. Since the program's inception, it has transferred on average \$15-\$30 million of USG excess property annually.

Further reductions of waste at USAID include implementation of an electronic clearance program to facilitate approval of documentation while reducing paper waste.

#### **F. Sustainable Acquisition**

USAID produced a total of 3,753 new acquisitions in FY 2015 with 325 containing sustainable acquisitions requirements representing approximately 8.66% of the total. The data is derived from the Federal Procurement Database System (FPDS). The data includes contract actions for FY 2015 and purchase card requests.

#### **G. Electronic Stewardship and Data Centers**

USAID has obtained 95% of electronic products that are Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) designated, ENERGY Star qualified, or Electronic Product Energy Assessment Tool (EPEAT) registered as of 2015. Power management features of PCs, laptops, and monitors are currently included on 100% of devices. Printers are transitioning to double-sided printing as the default setting.

Since FY 2011, most purchases by USAID of end user computers were laptops. USAID purchased Lenovo, Apple Mac Pro and Apple Mac Air laptops. All of these devices meet the Department of Energy's Energy Star standards and are also listed as EPEAT products. This focus on using laptops has resulted in significant energy savings since our current standard desktop uses 240 watts while our standard laptop uses only 65 watts, a drop in energy consumption of 73%.

Wake on LAN was implemented in USAID Washington (USAID/W) in FY 2012. This allows the laptop or desktop computer to be powered down approximately 15 hours of a work day. This change cuts energy consumption by 77% from non-Wake on LAN devices.

USAID is in process of changing from a widespread distribution of personal and dedicated network printers, to Multi-Function Devices (MFDs) for the Agency's printing needs. USAID/W currently has 148 MFDs which have replaced USAID's copiers, and are providing the functionality of the single purpose peripheral devices to many of our staff, especially in two of our three largest buildings, Potomac Yard and SA-44.

USAID's Chief Information Office is not replacing existing single purpose devices and plans to phase out most of the existing inventory of these devices. Our goal is to phase out most of these single purpose devices from our inventory. The 2012 inventory of these devices for USAID/W includes 1,422 printers, 257 scanners and 122 fax machines. The 2015 inventory of USAID/W includes 1389 printers, 222 scanners, and 78 fax machines showing continued progress towards the Agency goals of limiting the use of single purpose devices.

Since the first Agency Sustainability Plan submitted in 2009, USAID has closed most of its data centers. USAID's HQ building's TCOC (Telecommunications & Computer Operations Center) was closed in 2012. The closure of the TCOC impacted approximately 90% of the agency's servers in the US.

USAID has significantly increased the capacity of its video conferencing infrastructure since 2013. These changes have enabled more multipoint video teleconferencing (VTC) calls. A total of 15,070 VTC calls of one minute or more duration were conducted in FY 2015.

## **SECTION 4: ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES**

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

USAID has been investing in actions that help the Agency better understand climate change risks and opportunities and reduce vulnerabilities since 1991. This includes USAID efforts to increase the resilience of people, places and livelihoods and to integrate climate change into Agency programming, policy dialogues and operations. Many of USAID's efforts to manage climate change risks and vulnerabilities are captured in its 2012 and 2014 Agency Adaptation Plans. The 2014 plan identified 35 new concrete actions for implementation over a 3-year period, identified through a high-level process involving all parts of the agency. Progress continues to be made on those priority actions, with contributions from every bureau. A brief summary of progress on the 2014 Agency Adaptation Plan is provided here.

USAID's efforts under EO 13677, "Climate-Resilient International Development" and the 2015 Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review are synergistic with and contribute to the implementation of our 2014 Agency Adaptation Plan. Implementation of EO 13677 began October 1, 2015. To date, USAID has begun climate risk assessment of 7 new Regional or Country Development and Coordination Strategies (R/CDCS), 100% of the new strategies currently under development. This meets the performance target USAID set for itself in the initial six months of implementation. These strategies represent an annual value of \$976 million, as expressed in FY 2017 country request levels.

Additional illustrative examples of USAID's progress on some of the 35 priority actions from its 2014 Agency Adaptation Plan include:

- Climate Integration Leads have been identified for every Operating Unit. Climate Integration Leads support climate risk management and help the Operating Unit to proactively identify opportunities to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into mission strategies, programming and operations.
- USAID delivered climate change integration trainings by sector to help mission staff understand the linkages between climate change and their sector, the requirements of the EO on Climate-Resilient Development, and how to implement climate risk management processes in their sector programming. Trainings on climate change and agriculture, climate change and infrastructure and climate change and health have been delivered to USAID staff from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the DRC, Burkina Faso, East Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, West Bank/Gaza, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- USAID has developed cross-functional climate change technical competencies for all USAID staff, including technical, program office, contracting, finance, legal and operations staff.
- A document, "Sample Language for Integrating Climate Change in Solicitations," has been provided to support USAID staff in improving how climate change is addressed in solicitations.
- Provisions for considering climate change are included in the new process under development to address risk related to USAID construction.
- USAID recently completed a climate risk screening that was used to inform the design of a new Food for Peace Development Food Assistance Project for Ethiopia. The resulting document, "Climate Variability and Change in Ethiopia," summarizes significant climate risks to food security and discusses potential adaptation strategies. It is available on the USAID website [here](#).
- Analysis of the role of climate variables (rainfall and temperature) on malaria in Mali is completed and is being incorporated into the President's Malaria Initiative impact evaluation report. A draft manuscript was prepared for journal submission summarizing climate and malaria analysis that may be useful for others looking to understand the impact of climate variables on malaria incidence and the impact of malaria interventions.

## **SECTION 5: PROPOSED ACTIONS**

USAID will pursue reductions of GHG emissions in scope 3 emissions in accordance with EO 13693. USAID has identified Washington-based employee commute as the GHG emissions source with the greatest potential for reductions. USAID will encourage employee participation in teleworking, expanded use of mass and shared transportation, and use of non-motorized transportation to achieve reductions of scope 3 GHG emissions.