


## A Look at the Implications of Executive Order 13514

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**Executive Order (EO) 13514 requires Federal agencies develop Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans (SSPPs) to guide action on 10 sustainability goals**

On October 5, 2010, the White House publically released 52 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans (SSPPs) submitted by Federal agencies. The SSPPs, the first of their kind, provide a plan to achieve EO 13514 requirements.

Strategic Sustainability Goals	Goal Specifics
1. Scope 1 & 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction (Scope 1 & 2)	Reduce GHG emissions from Scope 1 and 2, or direct sources, by 28% by 2020.
2. Scope 3 GHG Reduction (Scope 3)	Reduce GHG emissions from Scope 3, or indirect sources, 13% by 2020.
3. Comprehensive GHG Inventory Development (GHG Inventory)	Develop baseline GHG emissions data and maintain an inventory to track emissions reductions.
4. High-Performance Green Buildings (Sustainable Buildings)	All new Federal buildings must achieve zero-net energy by FY 2030.
5. Regional and Local Planning	Incorporate participation in regional transportation planning into existing policy and guidance.
6. Water Use Efficiency and Management (Water Efficiency)	Reduce potable water by 26% and non-potable water use by 20% by 2020.
7. Pollution Prevention and Waste Elimination	Divert at least 50% of solid waste and construction and demolition materials by 2015.
8. Sustainable Acquisition	95% of new contract actions require supply of products or services that are energy efficient.
9. Electronic Stewardship & Data Centers	Policy establishment to ensure power management, data center energy reduction, etc.
10. Agency Innovation (Agency specific)	Ways which agencies are applying innovative sustainability initiatives.



**Executive Order 13514 – SSPP Review Key Takeaways**

**Goals and Implementation**

- Over 75 percent of agencies set GHG reduction targets below White House (WH) guidance for Scope 1 & 2 sources, and more than 69 percent set reduction targets below WH guidance for Scope 3 sources.
- Majority of agencies plan to significantly lower GHG emissions through employee travel and commuting.
- All agencies that own and/or manage buildings and facilities agreed to meet Federal Guiding Principles Sustainable Design.
- DoD and DOE are the only agencies that developed SSPP goals/targets that meet or exceed all EO 13514 White House recommendations.

**Budget**

- FY 2010 budget does not appear to be a determining factor for agencies setting targets relative to White House guidance.
- 21 of 56 agencies did not align their plans with their FY 2011 budgets, making it unclear how SSPP implementation will be funded.
- Agencies generally included return-on-investment (ROI) as a decision-making factor when developing SSPP implementation strategies.

**Management Challenges**

- 90 percent of agencies do not have a centralized strategic office to manage their sustainability efforts.
- Many agencies noted difficulty with acquiring accurate and consistent baseline energy and sustainability data.
- 95 percent of Senior Sustainability Officers (SSO) also hold high level positions with other substantial responsibilities, which could potentially limit the scope of their focus on sustainability responsibilities.
- The delineation of responsibility between GSA and its agency tenants around meeting sustainability goals is unclear, nor is it clear whether agencies must take responsibility for measuring, tracking and making improvements in commercially-leased space or multi-tenant buildings.
- Most agencies, particularly those with emergency response, laboratory research, and energy intensive mission responsibilities, lack contingency plans to meet sustainability goals in the event of unforeseen circumstances (e.g., severe weather, natural disasters, armed conflict).

Scope 1 & 2 GHG Reduction Targets (28 percent by 2020)				Scope 3 GHG Reduction Targets (13 percent by 2020)			
Top 5 Reduction Targets	Variance	Bottom 5 Reduction targets	Variance	Top 5 Reduction Targets	Variance	Bottom 5 Reduction targets	Variance
Housing and Urban Development	19.6%	Federal Trade Commission	-24%	General Services Administration	31%	Department of State	-11%
Department of Defense	6%	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	-24%	Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	20%	Department of Education	-10%
Department of the Treasury	5%	National Archives Records Administration	-18%	Overseas Private Investment Corporation	17%	Health and Human Services	-9.7%
Smithsonian Institute	4%	Health and Human Services	-17.6%	Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	14%	Department of Justice	-9.2%
Federal Housing Finance Agency	2%	Department of Transportation	-15.7%	Department of Labor	10.4%	Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission	-9%

**Federal Agency SSPP SWOT Analysis**

**Strengths**

- Many larger agencies have already started to implement sustainability initiatives.
- GSA developed its own reporting and data collection tools and has made it available to the rest of the Federal government.
- Most agencies incorporate Return on Investment (ROI) as part of their SSPP implementation strategy.

**Weaknesses**

- Over 90 percent of agencies that submitted SSPPs do not have a centralized, dedicated, strategic office to manage their sustainability efforts.
- The delineation of GSA's responsibilities regarding facilities leased to other Federal agencies is unclear.
- 21 of 52 agencies have not aligned their sustainability plans to their FY 2011 budgets or FY 2012 planned budget submissions.

Agency

**Opportunities**

- Reduction in an agency's consumption of resources could translate into redirection of funding for mission critical activities.
- Federal Government is in a unique position to invest in sustainable technologies that will benefit the commercial sector and society at large.
- Reduced dependence on foreign sources of energy and homegrown energy capabilities lowers the country's susceptibility to international energy security concerns.

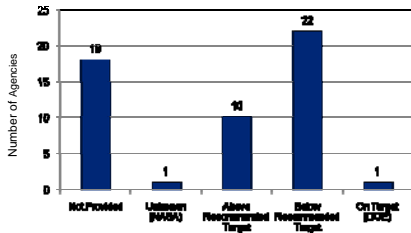
**Threats**

- All SSPPs, in addition to annual scorecards, are available to the public. Public scrutiny of agencies' performance may influence future OMB apportionments.
- If EO 13514 goals are codified into law by future legislation, agencies deviating from stated SSPP goals and targets will have to devote greater resources to attaining them in a shorter amount of time.

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**Over 75%\* of agencies did not set greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets within White House guidance for Scope 1 & 2 emissions, and approximately 69% for Scope 3**

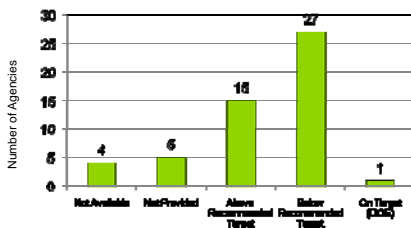
Agency Compliance with Scope 1 & 2 GHG Targets



**Key Observations**

- 40 Federal agencies have not set Scope 1 & 2 GHG reduction goals within White House guidance.
- Many smaller agencies believe they are exempt from Scope 1 & 2 requirements because they lease their facilities from the General Services Administration (GSA) or commercial landlords, or are located in multi-tenant facilities.
- GSA is required to report the facilities it leases to agencies, but it is unclear who is ultimately responsible for the reductions.
- NASA set Scope 1 & 2 sub-goal GHG reduction targets, but provided no methodology to calculate their overall reduction target. As a result, NASA is represented by "Unknown".
- "Not provided" denotes that the agency did not provide an overall target.

Agency Compliance with Scope 3 GHG Targets



**Key Observations**

- 36 agencies have not set Scope 3 GHG reduction goals within White House guidance.
- Some agencies are still working on developing quantifiable Scope 3 reduction targets, but have begun to develop general reduction plans.
- "Not available" denotes the agency did not have enough information to calculate a target.
- "Not provided" denotes that the agency did not provide an overall target.

\* Percentages include agencies that are below the target, deferred, are not available or did not provide a target.



**Opportunities exist for Federal Agencies to capture their momentum from addressing sustainability and leverage it towards adaptation**

Representative Agencies and Programs selected based on competencies, budget size & adaptation requirements

Federal Agency	Priority Program Offices with Adaptation Issues	Potential Leading Adaptation Issues for Agency/Office	Adaptation Planning Areas/Opportunities
Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Commodity Credit Corporation, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, Forest Service, Natural Resources and the Environment, Risk Management Agency	Potential food security issues, international trade issues, Financial risk management, Potential loss/gain of productive farm land	Adaptation planning, risk assessment, analysis & modeling, technology and change management
Department of Interior (DoI)	Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geologic Survey, National Interagency Fire Center, National Park Service	Land use changes from climate change, natural disasters to coastal and offshore assets, new hydrological cycles creating reclamation & protection issues	Adaptation strategy, risk assessment, performance management, analysis & modeling, technology and change management
Department of Energy (DoE)	Energy Information Administration, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, National Laboratories, National Nuclear Security Administration	Power generation losses from higher water temperatures, power disruption due to low water availability, natural disaster energy disruption	Adaptation planning, risk assessment, performance management, analysis & modeling, technology
Department of Commerce (DoC)	National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	Effective climate change information management, predictive mitigation information, declining sea health for fisheries, need to develop user friendly adaptation information	Adaptation strategy, analysis & modeling, technology
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food & Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, Office of Refugee Resettlement	Health impacts of heat waves, disease migration with warmer climates, new research necessary to prevent future disease outbreaks	Adaptation planning, risk assessment, performance management, technology & change management, stakeholder engagement
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office of Environmental Information, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Office of Water	Research on climate change, decreased water availability, increased pollution due to storm impacts, ecosystem losses due to changing climatic & hydrological cycles	Adaptation planning, risk assessment, analysis & modeling, technology
Department of Transportation (DoT)	Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Maritime Administration	Transportation accidents due to climate change, infrastructure under / over design, port work for sea level rise, infrastructure rebuild / replacement due to disasters	Adaption strategy, risk assessment, analysis & modeling, performance management and change management
Department of State (State)	Arms Control and International Security, Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, US Mission to the United Nations	Instability due to climate stresses on populations, trade issues with agricultural products, spreading of disease & waterborne illnesses, refugee relocation issues	Adaptation strategy with regards to emerging markets, risk assessment and technology
Department of Defense (DoD)	National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, Military Agencies	Instability due to climate change, identification and prevention of water related conflicts, establishment of US rights to Arctic waters, protection of vital US interests	Adaptation strategy, risk assessment, performance management, analysis & modeling, change management

