



**U.S. General Services Administration**

**FY 2011 Climate Change Adaptation Policy Statement**

- I. **Purpose.** This policy statement establishes an agency-wide directive for the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) to integrate climate change adaptation planning and actions into its decision-making processes, programs, policies, and operations and assigns responsibility for implementing the climate change adaptation planning requirements contained in Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*. By integrating climate change adaptation strategies into our programs and operations, GSA ensures that it executes its mission and operations securely, effectively and efficiently in current and future climate conditions while contributing to the Federal government's leadership role in sustainability and pursuing the vision of a resilient, healthy and prosperous nation.
- II. **Background.** GSA plays a significant role in procuring space, products and services for the Federal government. GSA provides space for over one million Federal employees in over 9,600 buildings. In fiscal year 2010, GSA had a business volume of \$64 billion, representing over 14 percent of the government's procurement spending. While the scope, severity and pace of future climate change impacts are difficult to predict, it is clear that potential changes could have important impacts on GSA's ability to effectively fulfill its mission, operate its facilities and meet policy and program objectives. GSA already has disaster response and recovery systems for extreme weather events. This planning effort addresses projected incremental climate changes such as sea level rise and changing temperature and precipitation patterns. Through climate change adaptation planning, GSA will develop, prioritize, implement and evaluate actions to mitigate climate change risks and utilize any new opportunities that climate change may bring.
- III. **Policy.**
  - A. GSA shall undertake climate change adaptation planning, in consultation with GSA's Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings and implement the results of that planning using best available science and information. GSA shall consider potential climate change impacts when undertaking long-term planning, setting priorities for research and investigations, and making decisions affecting GSA resources, programs, policies and operations.
  - B. GSA shall develop and publish an agency-wide Climate Adaptation Plan by June 2012 and update it regularly. The Plan shall include each of GSA's Services and Staff Offices, as appropriate, and incorporate the findings and directives of this policy statement. The Plan will identify how climate change may impact GSA's ability to achieve its mission, programs, policies and operations. The Plan will identify and prioritize actions and establish a mechanism to evaluate progress and continue to improve GSA's capacity to effectively adapt to current and future changes in the climate.

- C. In a manner consistent with its mission, each of GSA's Services and Staff Offices shall review existing programs, operations, policies and authorities to: identify potential long term impacts of climate change on the organization's areas of responsibility; prioritize and implement response actions that promote operational resiliency in response to potential changes; and continuously assess and improve capacity to adapt to current and future climate change impacts and threats. This review shall be coordinated with GSA's Adaptation Team, General Counsel and other pertinent GSA organizations.
- D. GSA shall fully implement the climate change adaptation Implementing Instructions issued by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) under Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance Section 16*, and other applicable authorities.
- E. GSA will apply the guiding principles and the flexible framework for agency adaptation planning found in the March 4, 2011 *Federal Agency Climate Change Adaptation Planning Implementation Instructions and Support Document* issued by CEQ and aligned with the October 5, 2010, *Progress Report of the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force: Recommended Actions in Support of a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* issued by the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force.
- F. GSA will coordinate with other agencies and interagency efforts, including the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, on climate change adaptation issues that cut across agency jurisdictions, including areas where national adaptation plans are being or have been developed, and will identify a process for sharing climate change adaptation planning information throughout the agency and with the public.

#### IV. Responsibilities.

- A. The GSA Administrator, through the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, has established an Adaptation Team to research, draft and implement our agency's Climate Adaptation Plan. The Adaptation Team includes representation from various GSA Offices as appropriate.
- B. The Agency Senior Climate Adaptation Official is responsible for ensuring implementation of all aspects of this policy. This policy does not alter or affect any existing duty or authority of individual components or offices.
- C. The Heads of Service and Staff Offices (HHSO) and Regional Administrators (RA), in consultation with GSA's Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, shall review their existing programs, operations, policies and authorities to identify potential impacts of climate change on the organization's areas of responsibility. In doing so, they shall: prioritize and implement response actions; identify mitigation measures; and continuously assess and improve capacity to adapt to current and future changes in the climate. In addition, HHSOs and RAs shall ensure service and office plans are updated annually and fully coordinated with GSA's Adaptation Team, General Counsel and other pertinent GSA organizations. HHSOs and RAs will also ensure organizational plans are closely coordinated with appropriate partner agencies, stakeholders and integrated with

overall interagency efforts, including the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force for those issues that cut across agency jurisdictions, including areas where national adaptation plans are being or have been developed.

V. Applicability. This policy applies to all GSA program actions, including but not limited to:

- A. Real property acquisition through Federal construction, purchase, or lease, including lease extensions;
- B. Public buildings design and construction;
- C. Public buildings alteration;
- D. Public buildings operation;
- E. Property Disposal;
- F. Continuity of Operations and disaster support policy, planning and operational coordination;
- G. Emergency Support Function-7 co-lead responsibilities under the National Response Framework; and
- H. Acquisition of supplies and services for the Federal customer

VI. Effective Date. This Policy Directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is amended, superseded or revoked.



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