

2012

Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan

Summary

US Department of Health and
Human Services



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Our Commitment

When President Obama signed Executive Order 13514 on October 5, 2009, he committed the federal government to take a leadership role in promoting sustainability and responding to climate change. Actions called for in the order, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving water and other resources, will help build a clean energy economy while contributing to sustainability and mitigating climate change. The order also requires each federal agency to evaluate risks and vulnerabilities associated with both short and long-term impacts of climate change on its ability to carry out its mission.

Climate change is already negatively impacting human health in the United States and will continue to do so in the future. Hazards linked to climate change include increases in the frequency and severity of heat waves, droughts, wildfires, heavy rainfall, and flooding; changes in rates and ranges of infectious and allergic diseases; and threats to communities from rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Although climate change may reduce certain health risks, most likely it will worsen many existing health threats, as well as introduce new ones. Individuals and



communities with underlying vulnerabilities that contribute to poor health, such as poverty, being very young or old, having pre-existing health (including behavioral health) conditions, and living in vulnerable geographic areas will be the most at risk of harm. US Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) responsibility is to protect the health of all Americans and provide essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. As such, our Department has dual critical roles to play in reducing our own environmental impact while facilitating understanding of and adapting to climate change. Through these actions, we will set the example of responsible stewardship and improve individual and community resilience, supporting a healthier future for the American people.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) remains committed to its Sustainability obligations, and plans to continue efforts to meet all energy statutes, regulations and Executive Order goals.

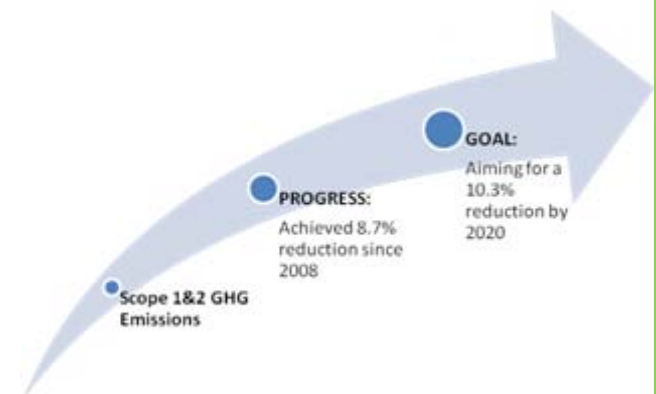
Our Progress

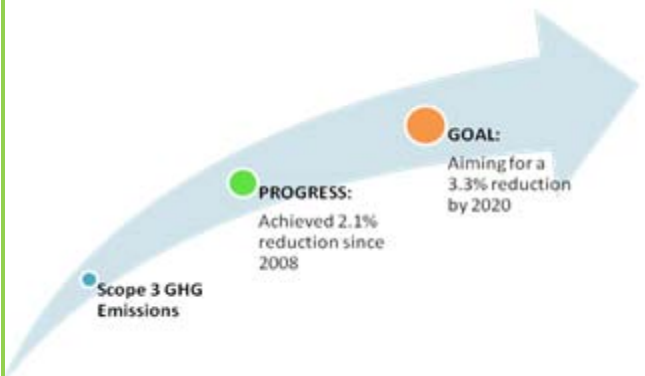
As of Fiscal Year 2011, HHS is on track to meet its reduction targets in the following areas:

Scope 1&2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction

GOAL: Reduce Scope 1&2 GHG emissions by 10.3% by the year 2020, as compared to emission in 2008

PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, HHS has reduced its Scope 1&2 emissions by 8.7%





Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction

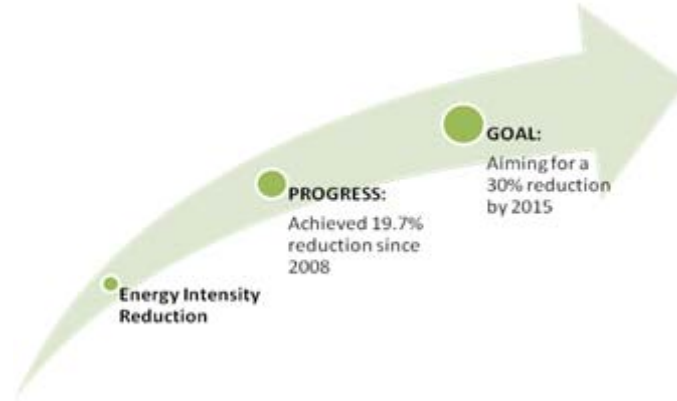
GOAL: Reduce Scope 3 GHG emissions by 3.3% by the year 2020, as compared to emissions in 2008

PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, HHS has reduced its Scope 3 emissions by 2.1%

Energy Intensity Reduction

GOAL: Reduce energy intensity by 30% by 2015, as compared to energy intensity in 2003

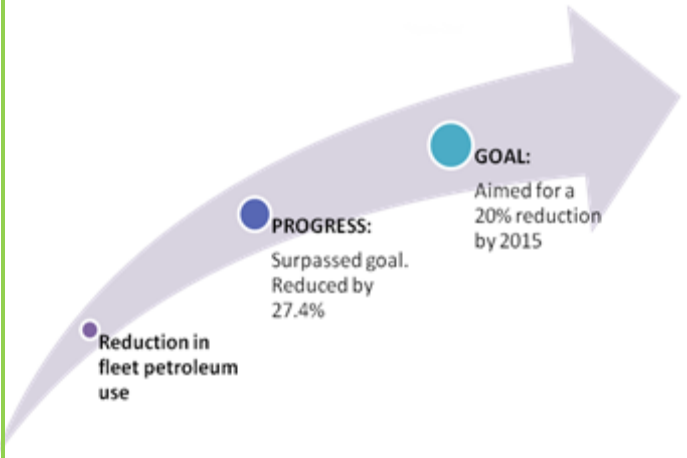
PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, HHS has reduced energy intensity by 19.7%



Reduction in fleet petroleum use

GOAL: Reduce fleet petroleum use by 20% by 2015, as compared to fleet petroleum use in 2005

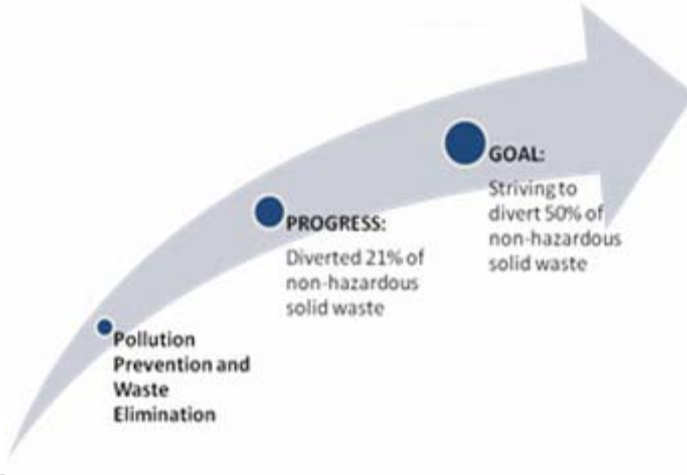
PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, HHS surpassed the 2015 goal, reducing fleet petroleum use by 27.4%



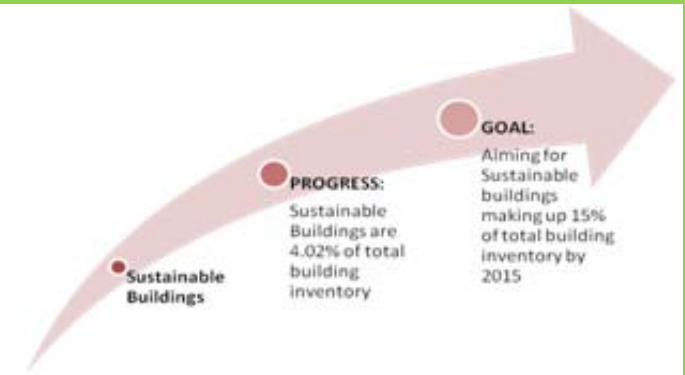
Pollution Prevention and Waste Elimination

GOAL: Divert at least 50% of non-hazardous solid waste by 2015.

PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, HHS is diverting 21% of non-hazardous waste.



As of Fiscal Year 2011, areas where HHS is having difficulty meeting its reduction targets are:



High Performance Green Buildings

GOAL: Guiding Principles (GP) compliant buildings to make up 15% of the agency's total buildings inventory (measured by gross square feet) by 2015

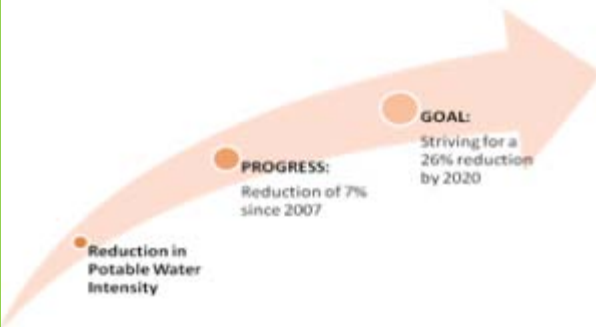
PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, GP-compliant buildings make up only 4.02% of the agency's total buildings inventory (measured by gross square feet)

Reduction in Potable Water Intensity

GOAL: Reduce potable water intensity by 26% by 2020, as compared to use in 2007

PROGRESS: As of end of 2011, HHS has reduced potable water intensity by 7%, as compared to 2007 versus the 8% recommended by E.O. 13514.

HHS will continue instilling sustainable practices throughout our programs and operations as we respond to the new challenge of adapting to climate change. See the full version of the 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan for a more detailed look at HHS progress and strategies aimed at meeting reduction targets.



Our Impact

At 73,704 employees HHS is one of the biggest agencies within the U.S. Government. We own 2,769 buildings, and lease another 710 for a total square footage of 51,870,184. We operate 1,042 locations throughout the United States and 13 internationally. HHS has a fleet of 772 owned vehicles and 4,055 leased vehicles. Our total discretionary budget for Fiscal Year 2011 was approximately \$77,198,000,000 while the amount of money spent on energy consumption for Fiscal Year 2011 totaled \$49,900,000.

These statistics show the significant impact that HHS has on the environment and the tremendous opportunity that our agency has to make a positive impact.

Most important is the crucial contribution that HHS makes with our mission. There is a direct connection between Health and Sustainability, and strengthening and communicating this relationship is where our agency will make the biggest impact.

Our Mission

Sustainability is integral to the HHS mission, which is to protect the health of all Americans and provide essential human services, especially to those who are least able to help themselves. Sustainability has been defined as “the enduring prosperity of all living things.” By this measure, sustainability is directly linked to the health of humans, the health of the environment, and the health of economic systems that support and promote our well-being. This triple health bottom line – human



health, environmental health and economic health– is integral to HHS’s mission and the sustainability mandates of Executive Order (EO) 13514.

HHS must assume a leadership role in concurrently promoting both sustainability and health throughout the Federal government. Just as the Department of Energy (DOE) leads initiatives relating to energy reduction, HHS leads initiatives relating to health and well-being.

Our Accomplishments

HHS has secured over \$35 million dollars from participating utility companies in investments in energy upgrades to Public and Private Buildings. These upgrades will produce over \$5 million dollars in energy savings for the Agency in the next 20 years, and we plan to secure more funds for these energy-saving ventures.

HHS has also acknowledged the adverse effects that climate change may have on human health, and agency operations, and devised a Climate Change Adaptation Plan that will aim at mitigating these effects.

Some examples of our many accomplishments in the last year include:

- A 28.8% reduction in fleet petroleum use (since fiscal year 2005), and the introduction of hybrid and fully-electric vehicles into the motor pool.
- Operating and Staff divisions continue to increase participations in transit subsidy programs and provide incentives for use of alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles. In addition, commuter options (telework, carpool, vanpool, bike, walk and transit) are highly encouraged and promoted at new employee orientations. Divisions collaborate with transit companies to develop specific routes supportive of facility locations.
- HHS and its Operating Divisions have robust and continually developing outreach programs. “Go Green Get Healthy” Initiatives continue to engage, educate and communicate sustainable programs to all employees with e-newsletters, website updates, and special programs.
- Reducing and rebalancing laboratory airflows in HHS’ CDC Roybal Building 17 project Phase I eliminated unnecessary

sound attenuators, reducing energy use by an estimated 6,016 MMBtu and saving \$125,000 per year.

- Lighting reduction projects at Roybal Campus Buildings 18, 20, and 21, reduce energy use by an estimated 3,046 MMBtu and savings of \$54,475 annually.
- HHS' NIH installed energy, water, and utility data collection systems at all NIH sites. These systems monitor utilities in real time, and store data for trending and tracking.
- HHS' CDC hosted the 12th CDC International Symposium, "Biosafety 2012 - Sustainability: People, Practices, Planet," in Atlanta, Georgia on February 11-15, 2012, in partnership with the American Biological Safety Association and the Eagleson Institute. This year's Symposium centered on sustainable facilities, equipment, and practices for laboratories and vivaria.
- A 50KW wind turbine and 10 KW photovoltaic systems at HHS' IHS Pine Ridge and Rosebud, SD. Hospitals are under construction and scheduled for completion in 2012.
- Using grey water for landscape watering at HHS' FDA Irvine, CA, facility. HHS' CDC uses no potable water for landscape irrigation. This is achieved by utilizing ponds and cisterns, supplied by storm and condensate water, and using native and drought-resistant plants.
- HHS' IHS Tucson, AZ, San Xavier Xeriscape Project replaced existing high-water-use turf, native plants, drip irrigation,



and decorative rock; reducing water consumption by 52% and saving \$4,060 in one year. The project also saved \$8,150 in labor, fuel and machinery maintenance costs. At a project cost of \$100,000, the payback will be just over eight years.

- The FDA Muirkirk Road Facility re-commissioned a well to replace the use of potable water for an Aquaculture Research Center. This will save an estimated 15 million gallons per year of potable, city water.
- HHS facilities have implemented successful waste diversion strategies, such as composting (food waste and animal bedding), mini trash-cans and recycling bins at desk-sides, and removal of Styrofoam® from cafeterias.
 - In Fiscal Year 2011, 99% of reviewed HHS contract actions included applicable sustainability requirements.
 - HHS' NIH received an HHS Green Champion Award in the Sustainable Acquisition Small Group Category for its Prop Shop online property re-utilization system that makes pre-owned office furnishings, office equipment and laboratory equipment available to NCI employees for reuse.
- Several duplex printing campaigns took place across HHS with FDA increasing duplex printing compliance to 90% and CDC saving almost \$90,000 a year in reduced paper use. As of March 2012, HHS is at 91% for duplex printing compliance.

Our Future

Besides the continued focus of the agency on progress towards all Sustainability goals outlined in the full 2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, HHS will spend the next year focusing on implementing the agency's Climate Change Adaptation Plan and Fleet Management Plan.

Overall, our employees, leadership, and stakeholders, are striving not only to bring change within our organization, but also to lead and help others identify the areas of opportunity that exist in making our planet, and our people, healthy. HHS has taken a leadership position in the area of Environmental Justice, through the creation and implementation of the 2012 HHS Environmental Justice Strategy and Implementation Plan. HHS recognizes that disproportionate exposures to environmental hazards with negative health effects persist in minority and low-income populations and Indian tribes, and that coordinated Federal action is needed to eliminate these disparities. The HHS vision for



environmental justice is “a nation that equitably promotes healthy community environments and protects the health of all people”. The 2012 HHS Environmental Justice Strategy and Implementation Plan provides clear direction of goals, strategies and actions to address environmental justice in minority and low-income populations and Indian tribes.

HHS will also strive for expanded use of the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) vehicles. With \$35 million in ESPCs in various stages of implementation, the evaluation and expansion of the program will be a priority.

In a short time, our agency has made some significant progress in becoming more sustainable, but we understand that there is much more work to be done. HHS will continue to innovate, and invest in sustainable practices, and remain committed to this effort.

Our Plan

This summary serves as an introduction and overview of HHS sustainability efforts in the past year. The full version of the 2012 HHS Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan outlines our progress and strategies for the coming year in greater detail, and focuses on areas

of success those that need improvement. The plan prescribed herein will be accomplished within available funding provided by the FY 2012 appropriation and within the levels requested by the President's Budget.

Go Green Get Healthy HHS



ENERGY/WATER • ENVIRONMENT • ELECTRONICS • PROCUREMENT
SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS • TRANSPORTATION