

## **Federal Government's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Required by Executive Order 13514**

On October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514 on Federal Sustainability, which sets sustainability goals for Federal Agencies and focuses on making improvements in environmental, energy and economic performance. Actions taken pursuant to the Executive Order will save taxpayer dollars, create clean energy jobs, and reduce pollution. Under the Executive Order, each Federal agency was required to submit a 2020 greenhouse gas pollution reduction target to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) so that the Federal government could develop an overall greenhouse gas reduction goal.

On January 29, 2010, President Obama announced that the Federal government will commit to reducing its greenhouse gas pollution by 28 percent from 2008 levels by 2020. This reduction is based on the aggregate of 35<sup>1</sup> Federal agency self-reported targets, which were reviewed and approved by CEQ in consultation with OMB. Individual agency targets were set using energy consumption – both electricity and fuels – to estimate a 2008 baseline.

Achieving the Federal greenhouse gas pollution reduction target will reduce Federal energy use by 646 trillion BTUs, equal to 88 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions through 2020. This is equivalent to the emissions from consuming 205 million barrels of oil, or taking 17 million cars off the road for one year.

### **Federal Government's Impact**

- The Federal government is the largest consumer of energy in the U.S. economy, spending more than \$24.5 billion in 2008 on electricity and fuel. It owns nearly 500,000 buildings, operates more than 600,000 vehicles, and purchases more than \$500 billion per year in goods and services. The Federal Government's size and scale makes greening Federal operations an effective policy tool to move the country toward a clean energy economy.

### **Avoided Energy Costs**

- Achieving the Federal greenhouse gas pollution reduction target will reduce Federal energy use by the equivalent of 646 trillion BTUs. Assuming current energy prices, this is equivalent to a cumulative total of \$8 to \$11 billion in avoided energy costs through 2020.

### **Increasing Energy Security & Building a Clean Energy Economy**

- Eliminating waste, improving efficiency, and using clean energy reduces our dependence on foreign oil, and increases energy and economic security. For example, the Department of Defense and the individual services see reducing energy consumption and becoming less dependent on foreign oil as integral to mission resiliency.
- Agencies are taking actions that will increase our energy security and create jobs in the new clean energy economy. Some examples of Federal actions that are being taken to achieve reductions of greenhouse gas emissions include installing solar arrays at military installations, tapping landfills for renewable energy, putting energy management systems in Federal buildings, and replacing older vehicles with more fuel efficient hybrid models.

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<sup>1</sup> Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Archives and Records Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Personnel Management, Railroad Retirement Board, Social Security Administration, Department of Treasury, Tennessee Valley Authority, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Department of Agriculture and Veterans Affairs, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Federal Trade Commission, Smithsonian, Army Corps of Engineers- Civil Works, National Science Foundation, Corporation for National and Community Service, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Small Business Administration and US Postal Service.

### **Next Steps**

- Detailed agency implementation plans are due in June of this year, when each Federal agency will deliver a Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan to CEQ and OMB. These implementation plans will describe the specific actions agencies will take to achieve their individual greenhouse gas reduction targets, reduce long-term costs, and meet the full range of goals of the Executive Order.
- Additionally, OMB will approve each agency's Sustainability Plan, assuring that the long-term return on investment to the American taxpayer is positive.
- Finally, to ensure accountability, annual progress will be measured and reported online by OMB to the public.