

**August 13, 2010**

**Subject:** Guidance on Climate Change Science Collaboration

We write to follow up on recent memos (M-10-19, M-10-20, M-10-30) to guide Federal agencies during their budget submissions to OMB. As stated in Director Orszag's June 8<sup>th</sup> memo, OMB is promoting coordination across agency budget submissions for climate change science activities. We ask that budget submissions reflect the longstanding and successful coordination that takes place through the US Global Change Research Program.

The Administration has identified climate change science as a priority, particularly the successful execution of the National Climate Assessment and the measuring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions.

As you know, the President has requested that agencies submit a budget request five percent below the discretionary total provided for FY 2012 in the FY 2011 Budget. Finding the resources for competing priorities will be a challenge. Adding to that challenge is the need to support a robust climate change science program within the budget target. Agency budget submissions should reflect the offsets necessary to meet the five percent reduction target while supporting an integrated and continuing National Climate Assessment of climate change science, impacts, vulnerabilities and response strategies, as specified in Director Orszag's and Director Holdren's July 21<sup>st</sup> memo on science and technology priorities.

Furthermore, we ask the agencies to prepare their communication of their funding request for climate change science in three ways:

- In the formal submission to OMB, clearly identify which elements of the request are intended to contribute staff, funds, and information generated to directly support the National Climate Assessment effort. Highlight the activities in program descriptions or budget tables that are specifically to carry out the agency's component of the National Climate Assessment effort.
- Per a revision to the 2010 Circular A-11 (see section 25.5; "What do I include in the budget request?"), all agencies are required to report their R&D and related crosscuts in MAX Collect along with their budget submission. This new requirement is a change from previous years when crosscutting climate budget data (US Global Change Research Program, Climate Change Technology Program, and Climate Change International Assistance) was collected only through Schedule C of the MAX A-11 database. Instructions as well as a link to the MAX data collection tool are provided here:  
<https://max.omb.gov/community/x/YgCDH>
- Prepare for a joint budget hearing in late September in which agencies, through their USGCRP Principals, articulate their climate change science request to OMB, OSTP, and other Executive Offices, including CEQ, and other USGCRP agencies. Agencies should coordinate prior to the meeting in order to present FY 2012 climate change science initiatives in appropriate detail, recognizing the relative size of agency investments to the National Climate Assessment and overall climate change science budget. Agencies should also address how their FY 2012 activities will build upon efforts by partner agencies while minimizing overlap and duplication.

Sally Ericsson  
Associate Director for Natural Resource Programs  
Office of Management and Budget

Shere Abbott  
Associate Director for Environment  
Office of Science and Technology Policy