

**Executive Order 13514
2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan**



June 22, 2012

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POLICY STATEMENT

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), an independent executive branch agency, defines and protects the federal government's interest in the development of the National Capital Region. We are guided by the National Capital Planning Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; and environmental and energy statutes, regulations, and executive orders. Through planning, policymaking, and project plan review, we protect the broad and multifaceted interests of the federal government— from ensuring that government agencies have adequate facilities near public transportation, to protecting the environment, public parks, and the region's historic and cultural resources.

Many of the agency's priorities and significant efforts for the upcoming year will continue to fully support the goals and requirements of Executive Order 13514. A brief summary of these activities include:

- Continuing to update and expand several elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* to respond to new policy, regulations, and Executive Orders including those that promote a sustainable capital city and support federal initiatives in areas such as green buildings, energy efficiency, and low impact development.
- Coordinating with select Department of Defense installations in the region to identify opportunities for introducing sustainable practices as installation master plans are updated.
- Implementing the recommendations for the neighborhood-scale SW Ecodistrict, comprising the 10th Street and Maryland Avenue, SW Corridors, to demonstrate how a community of federal buildings, related public infrastructure, and open space can function together as an environmentally low-impact unit to decrease energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, manage stormwater runoff, and reduce long-term operational costs.
- Working closely with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) to advance *Region Forward*, a multi-stakeholder initiative to guide future development decisions across the region.
- Providing Speaker Series events and other outreach efforts to address sustainability topics related to federal activities in the region.

Over the past year, NCPC's internal operations such as telework and recycling initiatives continued to help reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We are also proud that over 90 percent of our employees walk, bike, or take public transportation to work. Our agency wants to lead by example and is fortunate to have an accessible downtown location. Through our agency operations, NCPC is committed to making the federal government a leader of sustainability in the National Capital Region.



Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director / Senior Sustainability Officer
National Capital Planning Commission
June 22, 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sustainability is critical to NCPD's mission to protect and enhance the extraordinary historic, cultural, and natural resources of the National Capital Region. The sustainability goals in Executive Order 13514 (EO) support NCPD's mission and the agency's strategic goals that guide development of its comprehensive plan and other long-range planning work; review of federal site development and building proposals; monitoring of federal capital investments; and outreach to state and local governments. Each year NCPD evaluates how to fully meet the EO's intent through its work plan.

Several of the goals and requirements in the EO already exist in the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* – the document that NCPD uses to guide future federal development in the region. Pursuant to Section 4(a) of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. §8721(a)), NCPD is responsible for the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements, which address matters related to federal properties and federal interests in the National Capital Region. The Plan includes goals and policies for the sustainable siting of federal facilities, transportation management, sustainable development patterns, and the preservation of parks and open space, among other areas.

I. Summary of past performance/progress towards the goals (FY2012)

NCPD accomplished several projects and initiatives in FY 2012 that helped the agency meet the goals of EO 13514. These are highlighted below.

Comprehensive Planning

- Updated the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements* to reflect new program, policy, and research information. The Commission released for public review major updates to the Federal Workplace, Environment, and Transportation Elements.
- Initiated development of the draft Urban Design Element for the Comprehensive Plan that incorporates the agency's research on sustainability, security design, building heights, views and public spaces.

Project and Plan Review

- Reviewed and analyzed approximately 200 federal plans and development projects to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Plan, the National Environmental Policy Act, transportation plans, and other applicable plans and regulations including:
 - Several large scale master plans
 - Joint Base Anacostia Bolling
 - DHS Consolidation at St. Elizabeths
 - Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda
 - Project plans for federal and District of Columbia installations and public buildings (e.g., the General Services Administration Headquarters and the Department of Commerce Headquarters)

Project Planning and Partnerships

- Developed the *SW Ecodistrict Plan* which addresses how a precinct of mostly federal buildings and related infrastructure can function together to reduce energy and water consumption; move toward zero-net energy as measured in carbon; manage stormwater; and reduce the federal government's operating costs. It demonstrates how to maximize efficient use of valuable urban land; increase development capacity and mix of uses; improve access, mobility, and walkability; and establish a more attractive and engaging public realm. The draft plan will be released for a 60-day public comment period at the July 12 Commission meeting, and is expected to be finalized before the end of the year.

- Participated in local and national events to share the lessons learned from the SW Ecodistrict Initiative. Staff hosted a booth at the Department of Energy Earth Day Fair on April 19, presented the draft plan at the Living Futures Conference in Portland, Oregon on May 4; hosted a walking tour of the precinct sponsored by the National Building Museum on May 5; provided a presentation at the Lambda Alpha luncheon meeting on May 10; and provided multiple presentations at the AIA National Convention in Washington, DC on May 17.
- Launched a citywide ecodistrict consortium to collaborate with partners on district-scale approaches for sustainability.
- Continued coordination with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on the Region Forward Plan.
- Partnered with the American Society of Landscape Architects to develop a master plan and construct a greenhouse garden at Coolidge High School.
- Launched the Mall Roads Interagency Work Group effort to update the Mall Roads Streetscape Manual. The update will incorporate sustainable elements and construction standards in compliance with the goals of Executive Order 13514.
- Released the first CapitalSpace Annual Report in January 2012 to report on the partners' progress in implementing the recommendations in the Capital Space Plan.
- Completed the Federal Triangle Drainage Stormwater Study which provides in-depth flood modeling for different storm events and evaluates the technical and financial feasibility of area-wide strategies. The study discussed the potential impacts of climate change to frequency of flooding in the Federal Triangle and considered sustainable solutions, such as underground cisterns to collect stormwater for re-use, bio-retention swales, and green roofs.

Public Engagement

- Held five Speaker Series events open to the public on various sustainability topics including:
 - (r)Evolutionary Parks: The Future of Public Space (January 11, 2012)
 - Agents of Change: Local Perspectives on Federal Design (March 29, 2012)
 - Shades of Green: Washington's Emerging Ecodistricts (April 11, 2012)
 - Sustainable Installation Planning (May 17, 2012)
 - A Conversation with the National Mall Design Competition Winners (May 31, 2012)
- Held stakeholder meetings and highly interactive public meetings for each of the draft comprehensive plan elements: urban design, environment, federal workplace and transportation.
- Ensured that each of the initiatives described in this report had a complete public engagement program, including web pages offering background materials and draft documents, videos of previous events, and public comment pages.
- Provided regular updates on agency activities through e-newsletters, Facebook, Twitter and special video distribution.
- Supported stakeholder task forces for the SW Ecodistrict and the Urban Design Element of the Comprehensive Plan, including quarterly meetings.

II. Plans for Meeting the Goals of EO 13514 in FY 13

NCPC's proposed FY13 workplan continues to include projects and initiatives that support the goals of EO 13514. These are highlighted below.

Comprehensive Planning

- Update the Visitor and Open Space Elements of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*
- Finalize the Urban Design Element of the *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements*

- Analyze whether modifications to the Height of Buildings Act of 1910 could meet local economic and community development goals of the District of Columbia, while also preserving the essential characteristics of the federal city and avoiding adverse impacts to the federal interests.
- Establish current baseline sustainability measurements for federal activities in the National Capital Region, in coordination with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Project and Plan Review

- Review and analyze the planning, urban design, and architectural components of federal plans and projects and make recommendations to the Commission for action.
- Review and analyze the planning and design of District of Columbia public projects and make recommendations to the Commission for action.
- Coordinate with select Department of Defense installations in the region to identify opportunities for introducing sustainable practices as installation master plans are updated.

Project Planning and Partnerships

- Coordinate with federal and local partners on the urban design and sustainability recommendations for the SW Ecodistrict.
- Develop a governance entity to coordinate federal, local, and private efforts towards achieving the *SW Ecodistrict Plan*.
- Perform a stormwater infrastructure study to assess the phasing and financing of the installation and operation of the stormwater infrastructure system in the SW Ecodistrict.
- Coordinate the federal agency component of the District of Columbia's Climate Action Plan.
- Continue engaging in the ecodistrict partnership with the District, the Downtown Business District, and the University of the District of Columbia.

Public Engagement

- Provide Speaker Series events addressing sustainability topics related to federal activities in the region.
- Continue to provide extensive public outreach and engagement on NCPC initiatives related to sustainability, through the agency's website, social media, events, videos and publications.

III. Building and Operations

Over the past year, several efforts regarding NCPC's office space and operations exemplify the agency's commitment to sustainability and meeting the goals of EO 13514. These include:

- Virtualizing 20 servers (out of 22).
- Using iPads/tablet computers instead of printing materials at meetings.
- Increasing the use of video-conferencing.

Also, in fall 2011 the building where NCPC leases office space was certified LEED Gold for Existing Buildings.

IV. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

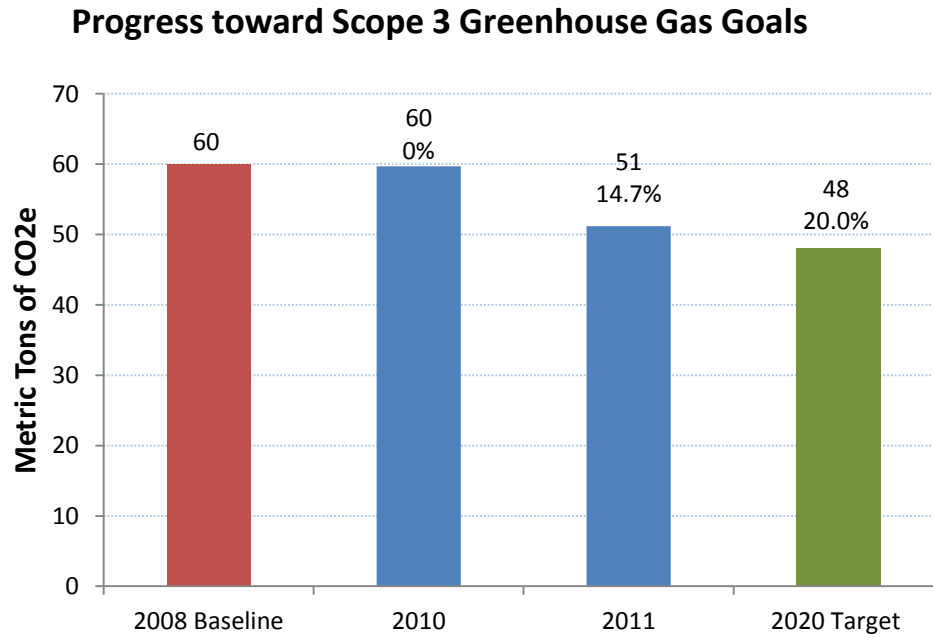
NCPC can only measure greenhouse gas emissions for Scope 3 emissions. For FY2011, NCPC reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 14.5 percent from the 2008 baseline and 13.5 percent from FY2010. The reduction between FY2011 and FY2010 can be attributed to two factors: 1) NCPC had a decrease in employees for FY 2011, so the Scope 3 emissions were less; and 2) there was an increase in the number of employees who teleworked approximately one day a week. NCPC's business air travel increased 25 percent from the previous year (largely due to some speaking engagements outside of the country) but it was still less than the 2008 baseline. Over 90 percent of NCPC staff continues to bike, walk, or take public transportation to work.

TABLE 1: SIZE AND SCOPE OF AGENCY OPERATIONS

Agency Size and Scope	FY 2011
Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget	44
Total Acres of Land Managed	0
Total Number of Facilities Owned	0
Total Number of Facilities Leased (GSA and Non-GSA lease)	1
Total Facility Gross Square Feet (GSF)	28,384
Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.	1
Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.	0
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned	0
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased	0

GOAL 1: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF AGENCY COMPREHENSIVE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Agency-Specific Performance Metrics for Scope 3 GHG Emissions Reduction:



Note: E.O. 13514 requires each agency to establish a scope 3 GHG reduction target for FY2020. The FY2020 target for this agency is 20% compared to the FY2008 baseline. The red bar represents the agency's FY2008 baseline. The green bar represents the FY2020 target reduction. The blue bars show actual status in relationship to the target. The percentage on each bar shows the reduction or increase from the FY2008 baseline.