

Climate Change Adaptation Policy Statement

This policy statement affirms the Department of Energy's commitment to plan for and manage the short and long-term effects of climate change on its mission, policies, programs and operations.

The mission of the Department of Energy is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. DOE works on the frontiers of scientific understanding and technical innovation to mitigate the impacts of climate change by researching, developing, and deploying innovative and promising clean energy technologies. However, DOE understands its urgent mission is performed in an already changing climate. Sustaining this mission is dependent on DOE's ability to successfully identify aspects of climate change likely to impact our mission and operations, as well as our ability to respond strategically.

The Department's efforts to develop clean energy solutions critical to the mitigation of climate change are important. Climate change adaptation is a crucial complement to mitigation, and DOE will develop adaptation approaches that ensure its mission, programs, policies and operations remain effective in current and future climate conditions. Adaptation planning will begin immediately and intelligently through a flexible, incremental process informed by the best science and technical information effectively translated into action.

In addition to potential negative impacts of climate change, new opportunities may also exist, such as accelerated clean energy technology research, development and deployment enhancing DOE's mission. DOE will explore these possibilities while planning for climate change adaptation.

The Department of Energy adopts the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force's (Task Force) guiding principles and framework for climate change adaptation planning from their 2010 progress report, *Recommended Actions in Support of a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*, and will fulfill the requirements set forth by the Council on Environmental Quality in the *Federal Agency Climate Change Adaptation Planning Implementing Instructions*. To ensure progress, the Associate Deputy Secretary of Energy is the Senior Official responsible for climate change adaptation, supported by DOE's Sustainability Performance Office.

An internal Climate Change Adaptation Planning Working Group (Working Group) comprised of representatives of all major Departmental Elements will assess vulnerabilities and draft a climate adaptation plan for DOE. This group of operational, policy and scientific experts will collaborate across programs and geographic regions, and leverage climate change expertise throughout the Department, from climate science experts to those who operate DOE's diverse facilities throughout the country. To inform its planning activities, the Working Group will also

connect with scientists and engineers from the National Laboratories, academia, and the private sector who are developing technical solutions to the challenges of climate change.

The approved plan will be integrated into DOE's planning, operational, and budget development processes through its inclusion in the *2012 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan* (SSPP), implemented by the DOE's Senior Sustainability Officer, Sustainability Performance Office, and Senior Sustainability Steering Committee.

Further, the Department will engage and share best practices with other Federal agencies as appropriate through the Task Force, interagency working groups, and also by joining or forging new collaborations with other agencies and stakeholders as appropriate. DOE will continue to leverage its unique modeling, climate science expertise, and engineering capabilities in collaboration with other agencies and institutions, to continuously improve understanding of the effects of climate change and identify appropriate adaptation strategies.

DOE will establish effective strategies to adapt its mission to the effects of a changing climate through internal planning, implementation and collaborating across the Federal community.



Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy

JUN 2 2011

Date