

US Forest Service
Climate Change Sustainable Operations Team
Charter
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The Climate Change Sustainable Operations Team is appointed by the Climate Council and works under their guidance. The Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change and related documents serves as the guide for actions implemented by the Sustainable Operations Team.

The Team is responsible for Goal 5 – Sustainable Operations. Coordination and consultation with the other chartered Framework Teams is essential to avoid duplication and maximize effectiveness. Sustainable operations is key to reducing the environmental footprint of Forest Service operations and making the agency a leading example of a green organization.

The Team works under the leadership of the Executive Sponsor for Sustainable Operations and the Project Lead will periodically report progress to the Council. The Team is to complete its work and transition strategy to national subject matter leads by December 2011.

Background

The Forest Service has been working on sustainable consumption/operations and the reduction of our environmental footprint. As good stewards of the National Forests and Grasslands, senior leadership is interested in demonstrating efficient use of energy and other resources in our daily operations and reducing our environmental footprint. Enthusiasm is growing and there is much activity already underway. Agency communications have articulated leadership expectations and provide some direction, goals or emphasis areas. The objective is not to curb any of the enthusiasm or suppress any of the on-going activity, but to establish some governance around the issues and activities to facilitate focus, priority, quality integrations across organizational boundaries, and effective accomplishments.

This work had been heightened by the numerous requirements, i.e., Energy Policy Act of 2005; a series of Executive Orders including EO 13423: “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management”; USDA direction (10/3/05 USDA Letter, President’s Memorandum on Energy and Fuel Conservations Actions), EO 13101, 13148 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to name a few. All require the agency’s continued vigilance and active involvement focused on fleet and transportation, energy, watershed, green purchasing, waste management, and model sustainable practices throughout all aspects of Forest Service program management and service delivery.

Additionally, the National Environmental Management System (EMS) has the potential to provide a valuable, nationally consistent tool to monitor progress and inform management regarding some aspects of performance.

Roles and Responsibilities

Establish consumption baselines for fleet and transportation, energy, watershed, green purchasing, and waste management functions in the agency.

- Assess and evaluate data collection, evaluation and reporting sources in the agency related to these emphasis areas, action items to edit/modify information applications/systems as necessary.
- Create and implement a data repository/mining/interface for information related to these emphasis areas in order to facilitate the agency's ability to articulate consumption information and establish reduction goals or targets at all four organizational levels.
- Identify and institutionalize a flexible and scalable data survey, collection, analyzing, and reporting mechanism for internal and external reporting.
- Work closely with agency subject matter experts to establish incremental targets to achieve goals and performance indicators established by Executive Order 13423.
- Establish Senior Executive Service, managerial and supervisory performance indicators for sustainable business practices throughout all aspects of Forest Service program management and service delivery.
- Work closely with EMS to establish a corporate reporting structure and ensure integration of sustainable business practices, targets, performance metrics and achievements. This corporate structure should provide central collection and access to data for all subject matter experts in order to provide upward/outward reporting for a variety of stakeholders.

As the above components are developed and mature, provide transition strategy to facilitate redemption of lead role responsibilities by national and field leadership positions.

Consult and coordinate with the other chartered Climate Change Framework Teams. The Team will also consult with other experts and users during their work.