

# 2012



## U.S. Department of Education Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan

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## Table of Contents

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I.	AGENCY POLICY STATEMENT .....	3
II.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	6
III.	ABBREVIATED AGENCY SIZE AND SCOPE TABLE .....	10
IV.	GOAL ANALYSIS .....	11

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## I. AGENCY POLICY STATEMENT

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It is the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) policy to integrate sustainability<sup>1</sup> into our operations, facilities, and overall mission in such a manner to:

- *Comply fully with all relevant federal, state, and local energy and environmental laws and regulations, including Executive Orders.*
- *Consider environmental impacts when making planning, purchasing, and operating decisions.*
- *Work continuously to improve our environmental performance.*
- *Provide training to educate our employees and others working in ED office space to be environmentally responsible on the job.*
- *Establish environmental objectives and targets for performance, and conduct regular internal evaluations to determine progress.*
- *Adhere to the waste management hierarchy (in order of preference): source reduction and reuse, recycle/composting, energy recovery, treatment, and disposal.*
- *Work cooperatively with all of our stakeholders to further common environmental objectives.*

### Highlights of Significant Successes and Challenges

Over the past several years, ED has focused increased attention on its environmental impacts and has taken steps to address them through initiatives such as establishment of a green purchasing program, development and implementation of an electronic stewardship plan ensuring procurement of Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-certified computers and monitors, and installation of energy efficient lighting and water efficient equipment. In 2012, ED was awarded the Federal Electronics Challenge Silver Award for its acquisition and procurement, and operations and maintenance life cycle phases for IT equipment.

Because ED is a tenant in all of the buildings it occupies, and energy, water, and waste management services are all included in our leases and thus paid by the General Services Administration (GSA), we are not intimately involved in monitoring our energy, water, and waste services nor do we currently have major influence in effecting change in these areas. This

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order 13514 (*Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*, October 5, 2009) defines "sustainability" and "sustainable" as follows: "to create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations."

relationship represents our greatest challenge in reducing energy use and associated Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, reducing water use, minimizing waste generation, and increasing recycling. In 2012, ED staff actively worked with GSA to address this challenge and strengthen their partnership. For example, ED staff worked closely with GSA on its efforts to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification for the Operations and Maintenance of ED's Headquarters, the Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Federal building in Washington, DC. In addition, ED staff worked closely with GSA to administer its Tenant Satisfaction Survey and increase transparency related to recycling information for LBJ. Throughout the remainder of 2012 and into 2013, ED staff will build on these efforts and identify opportunities to expand these efforts to additional buildings leased by ED.

ED has a number of projects in progress that further exemplify our commitment to incorporating sustainability in our activities, services, and mission:

- In February 2012, ED announced the release of its draft Environmental Justice (EJ) strategy. The Department's draft EJ strategy focuses on healthy learning environments for students, energy-efficient school facilities, sustainability education and environmental literacy, and energy efficiency in the Department's facilities. This draft EJ strategy is the Department's plan to address environmental justice concerns and increase access to environmental benefits through the Department's policies, programs, and activities.
- The FY 2013 President's Budget would provide potential support for Environmental Education. Environmental Education is included in the "Well-Rounded Education" component of the \$426.6 million fund for "Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education." Authorities proposed under Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education include the ability to make competitive awards focused on high-need local educational agencies to improve instruction in the areas of literacy, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and other subjects. Well-Rounded Education would receive \$90 million under the budget, and the Administration's ESEA reauthorization blueprint would consolidate eight current authorities and expand support for the subjects important to a complete curriculum, including history, the arts, foreign languages, environmental education, and economic and financial literacy.
- In April 2012 ED announced the first Green Ribbon School Award winners. ED's Green Ribbon Schools is a Federal recognition program that opened in September 2011. Honored schools exercise a comprehensive approach to creating "green" environments through reducing environmental impact, promoting health, and ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education to prepare students with the 21st century skills and sustainability concepts needed in the growing global economy. The 78 awarded schools were named winners from among nearly 100 nominees submitted by 30 state educational

agencies, the District of Columbia, and the Bureau of Indian Education. ED is administering the awards with the support of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- ED was a signatory to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, an 11-agency effort to revitalize communities and waters across the Nation. This effort will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among Federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Secretary Duncan has spoken of the campaign to transform education in America as our generation's moon shot. Nowhere in the field of education is this truer than the drive to equip new generations to be environmentally literate citizens, responsible energy consumers, and successful leaders in the new green economy. On a daily basis, we ask students across the nation to demonstrate excellence, integrity, and leadership in the classroom. The U.S. Department of Education is committed to demonstrating leadership in sustainability.

/s/

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## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The overall mission of ED is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. In particular, ED seeks to:

- Strengthen the Federal commitment to ensuring access to equal educational opportunity for every individual;
- Supplement and complement the efforts of states, the local school systems and other instrumentalities of the states, the private sector, public and private nonprofit educational research institutions, community-based organizations, parents, and students to improve the quality of education;
- Encourage the increased involvement of the public, parents, and students in Federal education programs;
- Promote improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through Federally supported research, evaluation, and sharing of information;
- Improve the coordination of Federal education programs;
- Improve the management of Federal education activities; and
- Increase the accountability of Federal education programs to the President, the Congress, and the public.

Developing high-quality skills in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is increasingly important for student success at all levels of education. These same skills are also crucial for workforce success, as a growing number of jobs will be located in the STEM fields or require at least some STEM skills. In the 21st century, our economy will be driven even more by contributions that come from discoveries and innovations in the STEM fields.

President Obama has identified an overarching goal to improve our STEM education compared to other nations, and identified three overarching priorities to ensure that more students develop the skills needed to succeed in the STEM fields: improving the quality of math and science teachers so more students have opportunities for high-quality STEM learning and are motivated to pursue STEM degrees and careers; improving undergraduate teaching practices so more well-prepared STEM students persist to a degree in these fields; and expanding STEM education and career opportunities for underrepresented groups, including women and minorities.

The President's 2013 budget request for the Department of Education includes:

- \$150 million for Effective Teaching and Learning: STEM - this new program would support the transition to college- and career-ready standards by helping States improve teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and would be administered in coordination with the math-science partnership program at the National Science Foundation. Funds would be used to support State implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based plans; professional development that aligns Federal, State, and local resources to promote high-quality STEM instruction; and subgrants to high-need LEAs to support comprehensive STEM instruction in the grades and schools with the greatest needs.
- \$80 million for a proposed STEM teacher and leader training and professional development set-aside from the proposed Effective Teachers and Leaders program. This program would provide competitive awards to create or expand high-quality pathways to teacher certification and other innovative approaches for recruiting, training, and placing talented recent college graduates and mid-career professionals in the STEM fields in high-need schools. This program would support the President's ambitious goal of preparing 100,000 excellent STEM teachers over the next decade.

The 2012 Promise Neighborhoods program will provide \$60 million to continue support for existing implementation grantees and award a new round of planning and implementation grants. The Promise Neighborhoods grant program aims to improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in distressed neighborhoods. The program seeks to improve the social well-being of large numbers of citizens through efforts to engage entire communities in activities that include creating safe and healthy spaces for children. By focusing on local infrastructures and resources, educational programs, family and community supports, and effective solutions for communities, this grant program is designed to assist children and youth in succeeding in early childhood and K-12 education and successfully transitioning to college and careers.

The Green Ribbon Schools awards recognize K-12 schools for developing healthier, environmentally sustainable learning spaces and environmental literacy. As Secretary Duncan stated at the announcement of the Green Ribbon School awardees; "Science, environmental and outdoor education play a central role in providing children with a well-rounded education, helping prepare them for the jobs of the future. Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate compelling examples of the ways schools can help children build real-world skillsets, cut school costs, and provide healthy learning environments."

ED continues its commitment to exploring other potential opportunities for integrating sustainability into our mission, including incorporation of provisions for sustainable building design in grants and loans targeted for infrastructure improvements at academic institutions and giving priority to grants to career and technical schools and community colleges that offer curricula in "green" education programs.

ED maintains its cell phone recycling campaign where to date employees have contributed nearly 160 pounds of cell phones and accessories for recycling/reuse. Building on the success of ED's efforts to "green" its cafeteria in headquarters (compostable tableware, installation of Energy Star-rated equipment and the sale of reusable beverage containers with the ED logo per the suggestion of an ED employee) ED's cafeteria now has certified environmentally friendly tables and chairs.

Below, is a summary of ED's accomplishments and on-going efforts over the past year related to sustainability:

- ED announced the first Green Ribbon School Award winners. The 78 awarded schools were named winners from among nearly 100 nominees submitted by 30 state educational agencies, the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Education.
- ED released its draft Environmental Justice strategy.
- ED established a partnership with GSA to pursue LEED certification of the Department's Headquarters location at the LBJ building. GSA is projecting a LEED Gold certification for the LBJ building which would be one of the first GSA-owned buildings in the National Capital Region to be LEED Certified for Operations and Maintenance.
- ED was awarded the Federal Electronics Challenge Silver Award for its efforts in its acquisition and procurement, and operations and maintenance life cycle phases in FY 2012.
- ED was a signatory to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, an 11-agency effort to revitalize communities and waters across the nation.
- ED set as default to duplex printing all printers in the Department's regional offices and have set more than half of the printers throughout ED's three main locations in Washington, DC to default to duplex printing.
- ED analyzed the use of Local Area Network (LAN) closets throughout ED space and reduced the number of LAN closets.
- ED worked with GSA to complete a range of energy conservation measures within LBJ, including: installed and commissioned occupancy sensors; installed six air-to-air Energy Recovery Units; and installed a Demand Response Ventilation system that will operate by CO2 levels set by the new ASHRAE standards.



- ED continued working closely with GSA on energy efficiency efforts in the Mary E. Switzer Federal Building, a future site of ED offices. GSA is projecting that the Switzer Building will achieve LEED Gold certification.

### III. ABBREVIATED AGENCY SIZE AND SCOPE TABLE

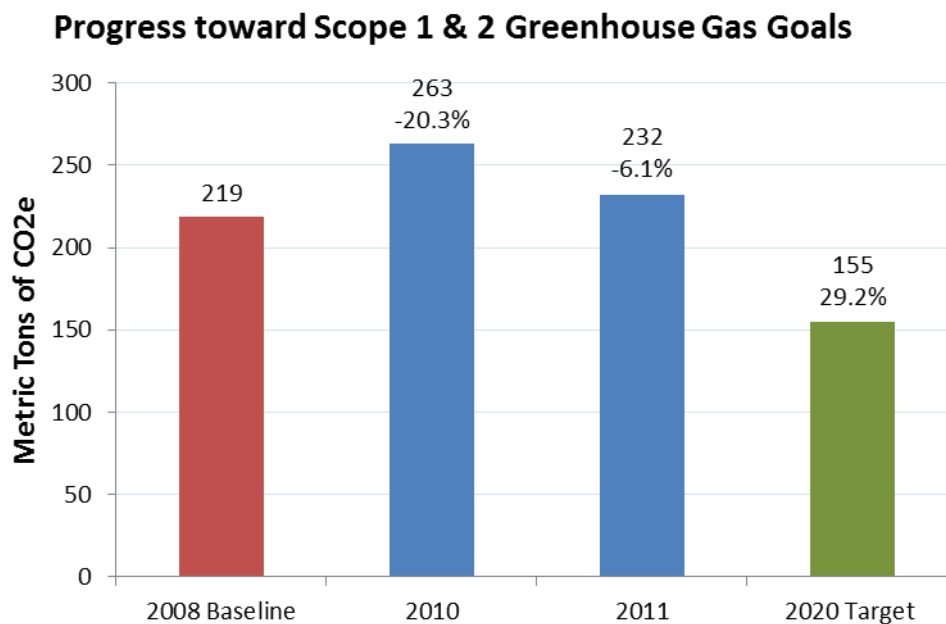
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<b>Agency Size and Scope</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
<b>Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget</b>	4,416
<b>Total Acres of Land Managed</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Facilities Owned</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Facilities Leased (GSA and Non-GSA lease)</b>	27
<b>Total Facility Gross Square Feet (GSF)</b>	1,902,045
<b>Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.</b>	15
<b>Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased</b>	102

#### IV. GOAL ANALYSIS

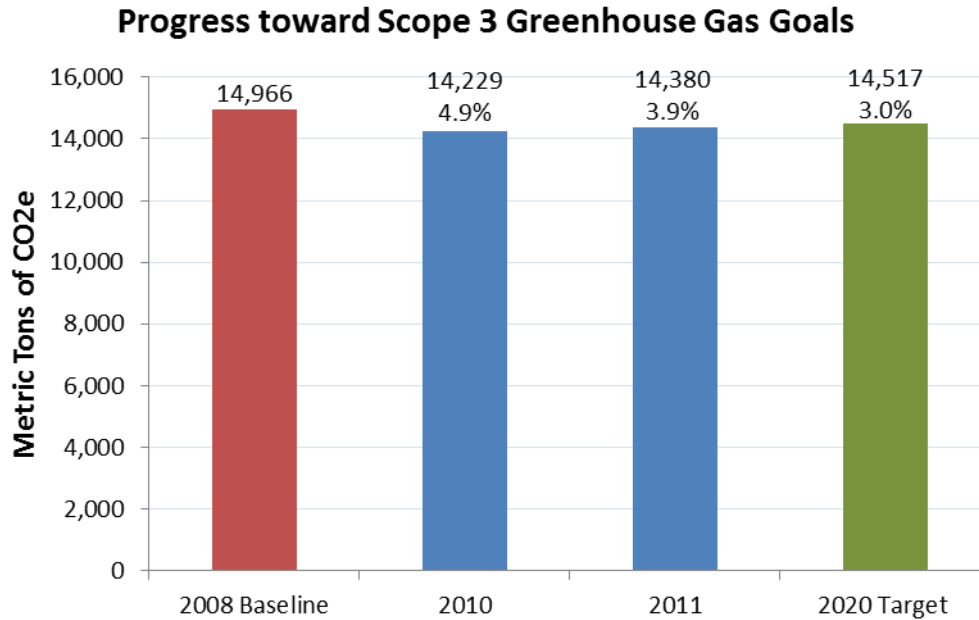
### GOAL 1: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

#### Agency-Specific Performance Metrics for Scope 1 & 2 GHG Emissions Reduction:






Note: E.O. 13514 requires each agency to establish a scope 1 & 2 GHG reduction target for FY2020. The target for this agency is 29.2% compared to FY2008. 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. A negative percentage reflects an increase in scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emissions.

## 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 3% 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.




## GOAL 7: ELECTRONIC STEWARDSHIP AND DATA CENTERS

EPEAT	POWER MANAGEMENT	END-OF-LIFE	COMMENTS
			


### EPEAT:



	95% or more Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2011 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide
	85-94% or more Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2011 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide
	84% or less Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2011 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide

### Power Management:

	100% Power Management Enabled Computers, Laptops and Monitors Agency-wide
	90-99% Power Management Enabled Computers, Laptops and Monitors Agency-wide
	89% or less Power Management Enabled Computers, Laptops and Monitors Agency-wide

### End-of-Life:

	100% of Electronics at end-of-life disposed through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicorn or Certified Recycler (R2, E-Stewards)
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	100% of Electronics at end-of-life disposed through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicorn or non-Certified Recycler
	Less than 100% of Electronics at end-of-life disposed through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicorn or non-Certified Recycler