

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Washington, DC 20405

GSA POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Response to Climate Change through Climate Adaptation and Climate Risk Management

1. Purpose. This policy statement reaffirms the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) commitment to integrate climate change adaptation and planning actions into its decision-making processes, programs and operations. The policy assigns responsibility for implementing the Climate Change Risk Management Plan (the Plan) requirements in accordance with section 211 of Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, and its associated guidance. The Plan identifies how climate change impacts GSA's ability to achieve its mission, programs, policies, and operations. It identifies and prioritizes climate risk management actions and proposed mechanisms to evaluate progress, screen for and advance environmental justice and enhance GSA's capacity to adapt to climate impacts effectively. By developing and integrating forward-looking climate information into its programs, operations and business model, GSA will be able to execute its mission and operations securely, effectively and efficiently in current and future climate conditions, while contributing to the Federal Government's climate leadership role and pursuing the vision of a resilient, just, healthy, financially stable, and prosperous nation.
2. Background. This policy addresses one of the two responses to climate change identified in the National Climate Assessment - climate adaptation. GSA plays a significant role in acquiring, designing, building, leasing, and disposing of space, products and services for the Federal Government. GSA has jurisdiction, custody or control of over more than 8,800 federally owned buildings or leases, maintains an inventory of more than 371 million square feet of workspace for almost 1 million Federal employees, preserves more than 512 historic properties, owns over 226,000 vehicles (most of which are leased to customer agencies), and provides 28 million different products and services totaling more than \$75 billion in annual sales. Given the breadth of GSA's responsibilities, climate change will have significant impacts on the agency's ability to effectively fulfill its mission, operate its facilities, secure its supply chains, maintain financial stability, promote equity and access, advance environmental justice, and meet its policy requirements. These activities are distinct from, but related to, GSA's disaster response and recovery systems. These climate impacts reflect the timescales of both gradual and slow-onset climate change, as well as preparing for increased frequency, intensity and duration of acute

climate-related events, and the planning and implementation required for climate adaptation. Integrating climate change risk management and adaptation strategies into programs, operations and business models, including disaster response, will enable GSA to execute its mission, operations and finances securely, effectively, efficiently, and in an environmentally just manner in current and future climate conditions.

3. Policy. Through the Plan, GSA will continue to develop, prioritize, implement, and evaluate actions to integrate plausible projected climate conditions into its mission, programs, management functions, and decision points, so the agency can continually build its adaptive capacity, climate resilience, equity, and access. GSA will consider and address climate change impacts when undertaking long-term planning, setting priorities for research and investigations, and informing decisions affecting GSA resources, programs, acquisitions, policies, and operations. In tandem with these efforts, environmental justice considerations will be factored into the planning and implementation process in close collaboration with the agency's lead on environmental justice and consistent with the Plan. Responsiveness, awareness and partnerships with Federal customers and industry will drive GSA's Plan toward innovation and value.

Implementation of actions established in the Plan will require coordination across the Heads of Services and Staff Offices (HSSOs) and Regional Administrators (RAs), in consultation with GSA's designated Senior Climate Change Adaptation Official (the Senior Official). In accordance with the responsibilities identified in the Plan, HSSOs and RAs will review existing programs, operations, policies, acquisitions, and authorities to identify opportunities to integrate both observed and plausible projected climate conditions into their organization's areas of authority, responsibility and accountability; prioritize and implement response actions that promote adaptation, operational resiliency, access and equity, and advance environmental justice; and continuously assess and improve capacity to adapt to changing conditions.

GSA will coordinate with other Federal departments and agencies and interagency efforts, including the National Climate Task Force and its adaptation working groups. GSA will collaborate on matters that cross agency jurisdictions, including areas of a national adaptation strategy or plan. GSA will also identify a process for sharing climate change adaptation planning information within GSA and with its customer agencies, other coordinating Federal departments and agencies, and the public.

4. Responsibilities. The GSA Senior Official is responsible for ensuring implementation of all aspects of this policy. This policy does not alter or affect any existing duty or authority of individual components or offices.

The Administrator of General Services has established an Executive Climate Action Council (ECAC), in addition to its existing Strategic Sustainability Advisory Group (SSAG), to facilitate collaboration across the enterprise through consistent and prudent implementation of the agency's response to the climate crisis, including both emissions mitigation and climate adaptation. The ECAC and SSAG will include appropriate representation from HSSOs and RAs, and will work in consultation with the Senior Official to review their existing programs, operations, acquisitions, policies, and authorities to identify climate impacts and adaptation measures within their organization's areas of responsibility. In doing so, they must prioritize, implement and track progress on the identified Plan actions; identify risk management measures and integrate them with emissions mitigation activities; and continuously assess and improve GSA's capacity to adapt to current and future climate change, while bolstering public safety, equity and access. In addition, HSSOs and RAs must update agency, service and office plans annually, and coordinate with GSA's ECAC, SSAG, the Office of General Counsel (for legal sufficiency), and other pertinent GSA organizations. HSSOs and RAs must also closely coordinate their organizational plans with appropriate partner agencies and stakeholders, and integrate their organizational plans with overall interagency efforts, including the ECAC and its working groups, for those issues that cut across agency jurisdictions, including national adaptation strategies or plans.

5. Applicability. This directive applies to all GSA program actions, including, but not limited to:

- Real property acquisition through purchase or lease, including lease extensions and lease construction;
- Acquisition of supplies and services for GSA and its Federal customers;
- Personal property disposal;
- Transportation and logistics services;
- Public building design and construction;
- Public building alteration;
- Public building operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement;
- Real property disposal;
- Continuity of Operations and disaster support policy, planning and operational coordination; and
- Emergency Support Function #7 co-lead responsibilities under the National Response Framework.

6. Effective Date. This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is revised or cancelled.

7. Signature.

/S/
KATY KALE
Acting Administrator

5/27/2021
Date