



GSA Public Buildings Service

Client Enrichment Series

Safeguarding Assets

April 18, 2024

Content

1. What is the context for your agency to manage its climate-related risks?
2. How to characterize opportunities and threats into actionable requirements?
3. What resources can inform decisions?
4. How to take prudent steps forward?

Resources



01

What is the context for your agency to manage its climate-related risks?

Resources & References

Climate Change Science

- [Fifth National Climate Assessment:](#)
 - [Glossary](#)
 - [Chapter 12: Built Environment, Urban Systems, and Cities](#)
 - [Focus On: Risks to Supply Chains](#)
 - [Chapter 31: Adaptation](#)
- [Global Change Research Act of 1990](#)

Climate Risk, Assessment, Methods

- [Analysis of Federal Climate Financial Risk Exposure](#)
- [Analytical Perspectives: Budget of the U.S. Government \(Fiscal Year 2024\)](#)
- [White Paper: Climate Financial Risk: The Federal Government's Budget Exposure to Financial Risk due to Climate Change](#)
- [ISO 14091:2021 - Adaptation to Climate Change: Guidelines on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessment](#)

Government Accountability Office

- [U.S. Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) High Risk List](#)
- [Limiting the Federal Government's Fiscal Exposure by Better Managing Climate Change Risks](#)

Public Law and Implementation

- [PL 117-221 Disaster Resiliency Planning Act](#)
- [M-24-03: Advancing Climate Resilience through Climate-Smart Infrastructure Investments and Implementation Guidance for the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act](#)

Frameworks and Guidance

- [National Climate Resilience Framework](#)
- [Selecting Climate Information to Use in Climate Risk and Impact Assessments: Guide for Federal Agency Climate Adaptation Planners](#)

Federal Agency Climate Adaptation Plans

- [All Federal Agency Climate Adaptation Plans](#)
- [GSA's 2021 Climate Change Risk Management Plan](#)

Planning and Reporting

- [Circular A-136: Financial Reporting Requirements](#)
- [Circular A-11: Appendix 13 of the Capital Programming Guide](#)
- [FAI: Climate Adaptation for Program Managers](#)

We need to do both. Now.

- **Climate Mitigation:**
 - Measures to **reduce the amount and rate** of future climate change by **reducing emissions** of heat-trapping gasses or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- **Climate Adaptation:**
 - **The process of adjustment to actual or expected** climate and its effects to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. (human systems)
 - Climate adaptation actions may create **resiliency**.

Executive Order 14057 - December 8, 2022

Sec. 209. Adapting the Federal Government to the Impacts of Climate Change. Consistent with its mission, each agency shall:

- (a) develop or revise policies and processes to promote climate resilient investment that advances adaptation to climate change and protects public health and the environment;
- (b) **conduct climate adaptation analysis and planning for climate-informed financial and management decisions and program implementation;**
- (c) reform agency policies and funding programs that are maladaptive to climate change and increase the vulnerability of communities, natural or built systems, economic sectors, and natural resources to climate impacts, or related risks; and
- (d) develop and enhance tools that assess climate change impacts and support climate adaptation planning and implementation.

GAO High Risk List - April, 2023

High Risk Area : Strengthening the Foundation for Efficiency and Effectiveness

- **Climate Change remains on the short list of High-Risk Areas Needing Significant Attention**
- **Improved** to partially met
- **No criterion** has reached the **“met”** status
- **49** recommendations remain open

The screenshot shows the GAO website interface. At the top, the GAO logo is on the left, and navigation links for 'REPORTS & TESTIMONIES', 'VIEW TOPICS', 'VIEW AGENCIES', 'BID PROTESTS & APPROPRIATIONS LAW', and 'ABOUT' are on the right. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation, the page title is 'Limiting the Federal Government's Fiscal Exposure by Better Managing Climate Change Risks'. The report is categorized as a 'HIGH RISK AREA'. Below the title are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. A 'Jump To' section contains five cards: 'WHY IT'S HIGH RISK', 'WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE', 'RECENT REPORTS', 'RELATED PAGES', and 'GAO CONTACTS'. The 'RECENT REPORTS' card is highlighted. The 'What We Found' section contains a paragraph: 'To reduce its fiscal exposure to climate change, the federal government needs a cohesive, strategic approach with strong leadership and the authority to manage risks across the entire range of related federal activities.' Below this is a thumbnail for the report. The 'Multimedia' section features a video player with a play button and a thumbnail image showing a sun, a wind turbine, and a solar panel.

Disaster Resiliency Planning Act - December 5, 2022

P.L. 117-221

Federal Real Property Asset Management: Additional Direction in Government-Wide Guidance Could Enhance Natural Disaster Resilience

GAO-21-596

Published: Sep 14, 2021. Publicly Released: Sep 14, 2021.

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Fast Facts

More severe and frequent extreme weather events threaten U.S. infrastructure. In 2020, 22 natural disasters caused over \$100 billion in damages. Reducing the vulnerability of buildings, roads, and other federal assets can reduce costs to the government.

All 4 federal agencies we looked at—responsible for over 100,000 assets—improved asset resilience on a project-by-project basis and many had begun collecting data on current and future risks to assess their vulnerabilities.

We [recommended](#) that the Office of Management and Budget direct agencies to consider natural disaster risks when prioritizing investments across their asset portfolios.

A National Park Service Building in Washington D.C. with a Risk of Flooding



Source: GAO File Photo.

M-24-03 - November 29

Advancing Climate Resilience through Climate-Smart Infrastructure Investments and Implementation Guidance for the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

November 29, 2023

M-24-03

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM:

Shalanda D. Young

SUBJECT:

Advancing Climate Resilience through Climate-Smart Infrastructure Investments and Implementation Guidance for the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act

In order to make the Nation's infrastructure investments resilient to the effects of climate change, Federal agencies need to take coordinated action. Such action ensures communities benefit from these investments for decades to come.

Executive Order (E.O.) 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, sets forth the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ensuring infrastructure investments increase the Nation's climate resilience¹, while also promoting environmental justice and equity. On December 5, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act (Pub. L. No. 117-221) ("DRPA"), which requires the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") to establish guidance regarding agencies' incorporation of natural disaster resilience into real property asset management and investment decisions. Consistent with E.O. 14008 and the DRPA, this memorandum provides guidance to Federal agencies² on the incorporation of assessments of natural hazard and climate risk information as part of each Federal agency's real property³ asset management and investment decisions.

Our Nation and its communities face increasing levels of hazard exposure due to the effects of climate change.⁴ Investing in "climate-smart infrastructure," as discussed in Section 1

¹ For the purposes of this memorandum, the term "climate resilience" refers to resilience against climate-induced or climate-related natural hazards and impacts; and the term "resilience" means the ability to prepare for threats and hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from adverse conditions and disruptions.
² For the purposes of this guidance, consistent with DRPA § 2(2), the terms "Federal agency" and "agency" have the meaning given the term "agency" at 5 U.S.C. 306(f). Section 306(f) provides that agency means an Executive agency defined under 5 U.S.C. 105, but does not include the Central Intelligence Agency, the Government Accountability Office, the United States Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

A-11 Appendix 13

CAPITAL PROGRAMMING GUIDE



V 3.1

SUPPLEMENT TO OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET CIRCULAR A-11: PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSETS

APPENDIX 13

CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS

During each phase of the lifecycle, business sponsors and program managers should be able to demonstrate how climate considerations are integrated in risk management and decision making. Risk management plans should include mitigation strategies for specific climate risks. Agencies may tailor the integration to their unique circumstances, but widely accepted standards should be followed as much as possible.

Managing climate risks should be a routine part of the capital planning process and facility assessments. Comprehensive risk management includes managing the risk to the asset from acute events (hurricanes, floods, wildfires) and incremental changes (sea level rise), as well as the effect the asset has on the environment (greenhouse gas emissions). The integration of climate considerations into capital planning will help the agency achieve its mission under changing circumstances.

Example of a Checklist for Screening Non-IT Major Acquisitions

To assist agencies, an example of a checklist to screen non-IT major acquisitions for climate considerations is below. It includes guidance for each phase of the lifecycle. The checklist is only an example. Agencies may use their own tools to screen for climate adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions.

*** START OF EXAMPLE ***

Agency Name
Review Board Name
Climate Risk Checklist for Screening Non-IT Major Acquisitions

Protecting Federal capital assets and limiting the Federal Government's fiscal exposure by better managing climate change risks is a priority and included on the GAO High Risk List. This checklist requests that [Agency Review Board Name] review non-IT major acquisitions to verify that climate risks have been appropriately considered and accounted for in the decision-making process. Typically, the non-IT major acquisitions reviewed include acquisitions of assets that are critical to the mission, assets with a high dollar value, and assets that may be able to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as well as other investments that may be vulnerable to climate risks and difficult or expensive to modify or relocate.

The National Climate Assessment (NCA) discusses two responses to climate risk: (1) climate adaptation, and (2) emissions mitigation. Both responses are leveraged as part of a comprehensive risk management strategy.

Climate adaptation is a risk management activity that can require changes in traditional agency

Identifying Climate Change Implications for Your Agency

- Use the [Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) search function for [specific topics](#) and USG [tools](#) like [wildfire](#) and [compound events](#) addressed in the [NCA 5](#).
- [Heat.gov](#) is the go to source for [extreme heat tools and information](#). [Chief Heat Officers](#) and local/state/tribal plans are also resources.
- For services and supply needs, GSA has a [decision-making framework](#) to use in conjunction with your agency and service-level vulnerability assessments.
- Regarding financial exposure, in 2021 a [White House brief](#) highlighted the need for rapid development of methods and tools to assess agency climate-related financial implications. OMB leads the Assessments of Federal Financial Climate Risk Interagency Working Group. Connect with your agency financial accounting staff and review the [White Paper](#), [Analysis](#), and [AP](#) with care regarding methodologies.

Some questions behind your climate change risk management process include:

1. Do you know where your stakeholders will be?
2. Do you know where your work force will be?
3. Is your supply chain prepared?
4. What is the ~~new normal~~?

02 How to characterize opportunities and threats into actionable requirements?



Got a Climate Vulnerability Assessment ?

ISO 14091:2021

Adaptation to climate change

Guidelines on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessment

Status : **Published**

Abstract

This document gives guidelines for assessing the risks related to the potential impacts of climate change. It describes how to understand vulnerability and how to develop and implement a sound risk assessment in the context of climate change. It can be used for assessing both present and future climate change risks.

Risk assessment according to this document provides a basis for climate change adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation for any organization, regardless of size, type and nature.

Not “One and Done”. Instead repeat and reassess.

Use these questions to include forward-looking climate change information into your acquisition strategies. Revisit as conditions change.

- 1.Criticality:** Is the agency occupancy or project significant to Federal mission activities or the wider National economy?
- 2.Continuity:** Is the occupancy required to be fully operational immediately after an extreme weather event? Is the mission sensitive to relocation, replication, or interruption?
- 3.Exposure:** Has the occupancy been affected by extreme weather events (i.e. observed today)?
- 4.Value:** Does the decision require significant investment? Is decision difficult or expensive to revise in the future? Does the cost of the investment justify the necessary investment?
- 5.Duration:** How long does the agency plan to occupy the property?

Climate Vulnerability and Risk Mitigation Responsibility

- If you observe issues at a specific building, [contact your appropriate PBS customer lead](#) so that discussion and planning on mitigation of the vulnerabilities can take place.
 - During those discussions, it will be determined which party has responsibility for the cost.
- **Realistic expectations** for climate vulnerability and risk mitigation actions:
 - [The cost to safeguard federal real property assets is significant.](#)
 - Anticipate tradeoffs between renovation needs, exigent building needs and limits to funding available for building improvements to address climate vulnerabilities.

Who Can Assist?

Back to A-11 Capital Programming Guide Appendix 13. Discuss these topics with your agency's:

- Senior Real Property Officer,
- Chief Acquisition Officer,
- Chief Risk Officer,
- Senior Climate Change Adaptation Official,
- Senior Sustainability Officer,
- or designees, to ensure alignment with agency plans and goals.

CAPITAL PROGRAMMING GUIDE



V 3.1

SUPPLEMENT TO

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET CIRCULAR A-11:

PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND ACQUISITION
OF CAPITAL ASSETS

03

What resources can inform decisions?

Questions for Agency Climate Adaptation Planning

First - Is your agency's mission expanding or contracting due to climate change? What are the effects on policies, programs, procedures ?

Vulnerabilities: What do you currently face? What do you expect to face?

Then inquire about “stuff and things.”

- **Upgraded facilities:** Do you need to install specific systems that are more robust to different loads?
- **Telework:** Do you need to procure different supplies or services to support expanded telework in case of extreme weather event?
- **IT/Telecommunications Infrastructure:** Are your telecommunications, data center, and other IT services robust to climate change?
- **Additional Support:** Do you need additional contractor support in achieving the commitments in the climate adaptation plan?
- **Implementation:** Does your program office have an implementation plan?

Interagency Collaboration on Climate Adaptation

Beyond engagement in multiple interagency working groups under the [National Climate Task Force](#), can you answer the following questions:

- Does your climate adaptation plan consider other agencies, their actions, and their resources? Is GSA included in your agency's plan?
- What are the most mission critical products and services procured through GSA?
- Does your agency have mission critical product and service supply chains that are currently vulnerable to the impacts of climate change?

Example from the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit](#) to address the need for [collaborative climate adaptation decision making](#), three agency supported regional climate science-to-action networks are closely coordinating to ensure the availability of relevant scientific information and adaptive management strategies.

04 How to take prudent steps forward?

Moving forward together - who to contact at GSA

- Have questions regarding climate risk management requirements for real property?
 - Please contact your **appropriate [Public Building Service \(PBS\) Customer Lead](#)**.
- Need more information about climate adaptation at GSA leased facilities?
 - Please contact your **Lease Administration Manager**. If you are unsure of who your Lease Administration Manager is, please **reach out to your appropriate [PBS Customer Lead](#)**.
- Have questions regarding climate risk management requirements for services and supplies ?
 - Please contact the **[FAS Customer Service Director](#)**.

Let us know how GSA can better support your agency climate adaptation efforts.

Resources


Sustainable Facilities Resources

Resource	Description	Climate Adaptation Connection
<u>Sustainable Facilities Tool: Supply Chain Risk Management Framework</u>	GSA developed a supply chain risk management framework to provide guidance to Federal agencies ready to assess observed and expected climate or weather-related risks (e.g., extreme heat waves, tropical storms and hurricanes, wildfires, etc.) to supply chains and develop plans to minimize those risks. The framework also helps delineate risk management responsibilities between GSA and customer Federal agencies—while GSA may play a role in some risk management activities, most of the responsibility falls to the agency end-user of the supply chain services and products.	Contains how to identify climate risks to supply chains, assess likelihood and consequence of climate threats, monitor and modify the effectiveness of risk management strategies, and plan to reduce the consequences of observed and expected changes in climate.
<u>Sustainable Facilities Tool Website: Climate Terms and Tools</u>	GSA developed a list of terms and tools related to the challenges that facilities face related to climate change.	Contains climate change's unique vocabulary with definitions that have been compiled by federal experts in the field as well as additional federal government resources on climate adaptation.



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