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Proposal for Considering Carbon in Capital Decision Making

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The US Government in 2013 updated its estimated social cost of carbon to \$43/ton in 2020. This work, which involved a dozen agencies including the US Treasury, provides a valuable tool to help guide better building design and investment decisions to reflect the documented and rising costs of climate change. GSA's design mandate now includes resilience and reflects the scientific consensus that we are already committed to significant warming, and need to begin to prepare for adaptation.

The GSA should require federal agencies to include the social cost of carbon in its building investment and design decisions. Inclusion of the social cost of carbon would allow GSA and other Federal agencies to make better and more informed design decisions, and specifically to make more informed choices between different design approaches. By incorporating the social cost of carbon, GSA and other Federal agencies can make better decisions between different design options for building construction and retrofit projects.

Recommendation: All federal building design decisions should incorporate the social cost of carbon in all building design and location decisions, including carbon from energy use, ~~and~~ embedded in materials and other sources of carbon. The cost of carbon referenced should be the most current calculations as updated by the US Office of Management and Budget.

Subsequent proposed revision: All federal building investment, design, construction, retrofit and location decisions should incorporate the social cost of carbon, including carbon from energy use and embedded in materials. The cost of carbon referenced should be the most current calculation as updated by the US Office of Management and Budget.