

# **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## **2015 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan**



June 30, 2015

VA Green Management Program Service

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# Policy Statement



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON DC 20420

May 1, 2015

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will continually strive to become a more sustainable agency for the benefit of our Nation's Veterans consistent with all laws, regulations and mandates. VA will put Veterans' interests first by improving the lives of Veterans and their families, safeguarding human health and the environment, and using resources more efficiently. VA empowers employees to work as a single integrated sustainability force supporting the MyVA initiative.
2. VA will apply sustainability initiatives to improve the lives of our Veterans by:
  - Protecting the health and environment of the communities we serve;
  - Using sustainable buildings, equipment, and supplies to improve health outcomes; and
  - Becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
3. VA will safeguard human health and the environment by:
  - Selecting sustainable facility sites to minimize our environmental impact;
  - Constructing and renovating sustainable buildings to improve Veterans' customer experiences; and
  - Operating our facilities and transportation networks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution.
4. VA will use resources more efficiently to serve our expanding mission by:
  - Using energy and water more wisely to preserve natural resources and avoid unnecessary costs;
  - Employing vehicles as efficiently as possible while providing critical services directly to increasing numbers of Veterans;
  - Using environmentally preferred products, materials and equipment;
  - Reducing waste streams, safely recycling used materials and products whenever possible; and
  - Integrating sustainability efforts to realize efficiencies.
5. All Administrations and staff offices shall comply with the policies established in agency-wide directives dealing with sustainable practices. Please direct questions regarding this policy to James M. Sullivan, the VA Senior Sustainability Officer, at (202) 461-6671.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert A. McDonald".

Robert A. McDonald

# Executive Summary

## VISION

The mission of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." VA provides numerous benefits and services to honor the men and women who are America's Veterans, including medical care, financial benefits, and memorial services. Sustainability is fundamental to achieving this mission. VA strives to provide healthy, productive, and cost-effective environments for Veterans, staff, and visitors while minimizing any negative impacts of our operations on the communities and environments in which we operate. As the largest civilian agency in the federal government, with over 323,000 employees and over 8,000 buildings totaling 151.5 million gross square feet, VA is in a position to make significant contributions to the sustainability of the federal government.

In 2015, Secretary McDonald reasserted the Department's commitment to sustainability by issuing VA's revised Sustainability Management Policy. VA's Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) reaffirms the policy annually. This Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP) details the sustainability goals that are outlined in the policy.

## LEADERSHIP

VA senior leaders are responsible for establishing and implementing VA's sustainability policy. The CSO consults with senior leaders from across the Department, including the Chief Information Officer, the Senior Real Property Officer, the Chief Acquisition Officer, and the General Counsel, in carrying out CSO responsibilities. The CSO also relies on the VA Sustainability Management System, a central office-level framework for establishing sustainability objectives and targets for the Department, and oversees progress toward meeting sustainability goals.

The CSO leads the VA Green Management Program (GMP), which serves as the Department-level program and policy office for energy, environment, vehicle fleet management, and sustainable buildings. GMP is responsible for establishing agency policy and overseeing its implementation across VA, with emphasis on VA's three Administrations: the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). GMP is responsible for internal coordination and communication regarding VA's sustainability plan, including the integration of agency policy, planning, budgeting, and project implementation.

GMP provides leadership to the Department through internal and external working groups and communication networks addressing primary areas of sustainability: energy, environment, vehicle fleet, and sustainable buildings. For each area, GMP maintains an action plan that serves as VA's blueprint for fulfilling federal mandates and meeting internal goals in the respective subject area. The action plans list activities that VA plans to accomplish to meet performance measures, and include deliverables, responsible parties, and deadlines for each activity. GMP actively coordinates with and among VA components to oversee implementation of these plans. GMP representatives are active participants in federal interagency working groups and related sub-groups, and share information and best practices with other participants.

GMP also provides input and support for VA's Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) process. SCIP is a Department-wide planning process designed to improve the delivery of services and benefits to Veterans, their families and survivors by addressing VA's most critical needs and/or performance gaps first, investing wisely in VA's future and significantly improving the efficiency of VA's far-reaching and wide range of activities. Sustainability is integrated into SCIP as a performance gap factor for evaluating the contribution of projects toward sustainability goals. Proposed capital projects receive credit in SCIP for energy and water efficiency improvements, sustainable construction and renovation of buildings, increased renewable energy consumption, and reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW

This section includes a review of VA's performance toward the sustainability, energy, and environmental goals of the 2014 SSPP, including: GHG reduction, sustainable buildings, fleet management, water use efficiency and management, pollution prevention and waste management, sustainable acquisition, electronic stewardship and data centers, renewable energy, climate change resilience, and energy performance contracts. The successes described contribute to healthy, productive, and cost-effective environments for Veterans, staff, and visitors, while minimizing any negative impacts of our activities on the communities and spaces in which we operate.

### Goal 1: GHG Reduction

- a. **INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting GHG reduction goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA has embedded GHG emission reduction targets throughout the organization. At the Department level, VA's SCIP process features GHG emissions, sustainable building, renewable energy, and energy and water intensity reduction goals as performance gap factors. This integration ensures that senior managers across the agency are aware of the GHG reduction targets, while emphasizing how capital planning decisions impact VA's efforts to meet them. Further, VA recognizes successes in GHG reduction efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program. Many VA facilities also raise environmental awareness through events and outreach, such as numerous Earth Day events at VA medical centers across the country. These events help promote actions any VA employee can take to reduce VA's environmental footprint, such as turning off lights, participating in recycling, and other simple measures.
- b. **EVALUATION MEASURES:** In fiscal year (FY) 2014, VA evaluated progress toward meeting the Department's GHG emission reduction goals through the following metrics: 1) VA's overall Scope 1 and 2 reductions from the FY 2008 base year, and 2) VA's overall Scope 3 reduction from the FY 2008 base year.

**c. SUCCESSES:** Within the past year, VA:

- Reduced Scope 1&2 GHG emissions by 12.2% compared to the FY 2008 base year;
- Completed an update of its utility data collection system designed to enhance data accuracy, in turn yielding more accurate facility-level GHG emission estimates;
- Developed and piloted a system to track HFC emissions. VA consulted with EPA and with various internal groups to develop a method that enables accurate data gathering without compromising mission focus;
- James J. Peters VA Medical Center replaced defective steam traps and installed a wireless monitoring system for immediate notification of a failure, reducing the failure rate from 57.2 percent to 1 percent, and improving patient comfort as a result. This project, nominated for a 2015 Federal Energy and Water Management Award, saves approximately 7,872 MMBtu annually.

**d. CHALLENGES:** VA continued to expand its operations in FY 2014 to accommodate an increasing patient load. To meet this expanding mission, between 2008 and 2014 the number of full-time VA employees increased almost 28% and the VA fleet increased by more than 52%. Such an expanding mission makes achieving GHG reductions a challenge. It is particularly challenging to reduce or even prevent increases in Scope 3 emissions because the large majority of VA's Scope 3 emissions are due to employee commuting. Many VA facilities are not served by large public transportation systems, and/or alternative modes of commuting such as bicycling and walking are not practical.

**e. LESSONS LEARNED:** VA's updated utility data collection system was designed with the flexibility to adapt to evolving reporting requirements. The use of the new utility data system across all VA Administrations will facilitate centralized data management and sharing of technical resources.

VA does not purchase refrigerants centrally, so developing a tracking system has proven challenging. Engaging multiple perspectives internally, particularly those of central office and site personnel, helped ensure progress towards a first-step solution.

**f. PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:

- Continue to include GHG emissions as a performance gap metric in SCIP;
- Continue to incorporate energy- and water-efficient technologies in existing buildings;
- Continue to conduct an annual employee commuter survey to estimate Scope 3 GHG emissions, and investigate reduction strategies such as encouraging carpooling, alternative modes of transportation, teleworking, and video-conferencing;
- Continue to install on-site combined heat and power and renewable energy systems;
- Continue to perform and evaluate EISA 432 energy audits, retro-commissioning, and renewable energy feasibility studies;
- Continue to gather data and refine the initial HFC tracking system;
- Continue to pursue energy performance-based contracts.

## **Goal 2: Sustainable Buildings**

**a. INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting sustainable building goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal



working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA's SCIP process features sustainable building, renewable energy, GHG emissions and energy and water intensity reduction goals as performance gap factors. Further, VA recognizes successes in sustainable building and energy management efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program.

**b. EVALUATION MEASURES:** In FY 2014, VA continued to evaluate buildings for compliance with the *Federal Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings* (Guiding Principles) via third party-assessment and certification.

**c. SUCCESSES:** Within the past year, VA:

- James E. Van Zandt Medical Center and Portland Health Care System each earned a place in the Practice Green Health Environmental Excellence Top 25 Awards for energy conservation, environmentally preferred purchasing, healthy food models, water conservation, waste reduction , and recycling;
- Awarded a contract to a service-disabled Veteran-owned small business for third-party Guiding Principles assessment and certification of buildings. The contract vehicle will help VA in its efforts to meet sustainable building goals for up to five years;
- Certified that more than 25% of GSF in inventory (11.5% of buildings) meet the Guiding Principles;
- Achieved a 31.9% weather-adjusted reduction in energy intensity (consumption per gross square foot) versus the FY 2003 baseline. VA energy use in FY 2014 reflects the impact of unusual weather events that increased the number of heating and cooling degree days and thus increased VA's energy consumption. Based on the DOE calculation methodology, VA decreased energy intensity in FY 2014 by 20.7% compared to the FY 2003 baseline;
- Awarded a contract to align VA Master Construction Specifications with the VA Sustainable Design Manual that was published in May 2014. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of FY 2015;
- Awarded three energy performance contracts valued at approximately \$23 million for 5 facilities, including a solar hot water energy conservation measure;
- Registered one design project to pilot certification under the Green Building Initiative Guiding Principles Compliance for New Construction system. The feedback from this project will help determine whether VA will adopt this rating system;
- Conducted oversight on application of the VA Sustainable Design Manual water efficiency design requirements, including installing advanced water meters, identifying opportunities for use of alternative water sources, and employing strategies to reduce potable water consumption by 20% compared to the indoor water use baseline calculated for each facility;
- Continued to require facilities to propose specific actions needed to close the SCIP performance gaps related to sustainable buildings.

**d. CHALLENGES:**

- Due to funding issues, VA will likely not meet the federal target that 15% of buildings greater than or equal to 5,000 GSF meet the Guiding Principles by 2015.



- Retaining green features in already-designed new construction projects is challenging due to budget constraints and the need to address higher priority, mission-based needs. In addition, meeting daylighting standards, particularly in new hospital construction, is challenging due to mission-specific requirements.
  - VA has begun addressing the Executive Order (E.O.) 13693 net-zero energy requirement and looks forward to additional guidance that will help in the long term implementation of this goal.
  - Meeting the federal target of 2.5% annual improvement in energy efficiency through 2025 from a 2015 baseline will be challenging given VA's achievement to date, strict medical standards, energy-intensive medical equipment, and the increasing number of patient visits to VA hospitals. Hospitals have much higher energy intensities with fewer opportunities for reduction compared to offices and other types of spaces.
  - VA's current weather-adjusted energy intensity of approximately 133,500 British thermal units per square foot (Btu/sq ft) is already 44% below the average energy intensity of hospitals in the United States (approximately 240,000 Btu/sq ft, according to the Energy Information Administration's 2003 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey). VA continues to invest in energy infrastructure upgrades, on-site renewable energy and combined heat and power systems, energy and water conservation measures, retro-commissioning, improving operations and maintenance, and educating employees on energy efficient and other sustainable building practices.
  - VA policies related to the prevention and control of legionella disease require that water distribution systems be kept within established temperature limits to ensure proper disinfection of building water distribution systems. These temperature limits will increase energy use due to increased heating and cooling demand for building water distribution systems.
  - VA continually looks to enhance the accuracy of monthly data entered into ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to facilitate energy and water benchmarking at the facility-level.
  - Incorporating the new lease requirements of E.O. 13693 into VA business practices by training leasing specialists; updating policy documents, solicitations, and lease agreements; and ensuring that VA databases are updated to capture and report carbon emission and/or energy consumption data for leases will require significant new effort and focus.
- e. **LESSONS LEARNED:** Incorporating sustainability goals into VA's SCIP process has increased the visibility of sustainability and energy goals to senior leaders at multiple levels of responsibility. This visibility led facilities to further incorporate sustainability features into planned projects. VA's continued use of the Guiding Principles assessments and certification has produced significant data that directly informs VA's sustainability strategy. VA has found that the third-party Guiding Principles assessment process promotes communication among subject-matter experts at the facility level and encourages integration of sustainability-related initiatives.
- f. **PLANNED ACTIONS:** One of VA's top strategies for future years will be to continue Guiding Principles assessments of existing buildings and third-party certification for selected buildings greater than 5,000 GSF. However, due to budget issues in FY 2015, progress is likely to be significantly delayed. In the next year VA will:

- Continue to incorporate sustainability requirements and energy efficiency into construction and renovation projects. VA is eagerly awaiting the release of the new Guiding Principles and related guidance to determine what policy and program changes are needed;
- Continue to evaluate the life cycle cost effectiveness for achieving sustainable building goals for different types of buildings, regions, and developed environments (e.g. urban, rural);
- In the 2016 SSPP, VA will identify, pursuant to Section 3h(ii) of E.O. 13693, a percentage of the agency's existing buildings above 5,000 GSF that will comply with the revised Guiding Principles by 2025. VA will also review additional guidance and feasibility analyses for net-zero buildings and update goals as necessary;
- Continue migration of VA health record systems from decentralized VA medical centers to DoD shared data centers for consolidation;
- Continue data center closures.

### **Goal 3: Fleet Management**

- a. **INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting fleet management goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA has integrated the acquisition of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) into its overall sustainability strategy. For example, facility energy managers and Green Environmental Management System (GEMS) coordinators are often involved in the process of developing fleet strategies and procuring alternative fueling stations on site to provide alternative fuel for VA's fleet vehicles. Further, VA recognizes successes in alternative fuel use and fuel conservation in transportation efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program.
- b. **EVALUATION MEASURES:** In FY 2014, VA evaluated progress in meeting the Department's fleet management goals through the following metrics: 1) the percent increase in alternative fuel use in VA's fleet from the FY 2005 base year; 2) the number of AFVs in VA's fleet; and 3) the percent reduction in petroleum use from the FY 2005 base year.
- c. **SUCSESSES:** Within the past year, VA:
  - Trained approximately 190 VA employees on the requirements to use alternative fuels in government vehicles;
  - Began implementation of FedFMS—an agency-wide fleet management information system;
  - Increased to use of alternative fuels to 13.3% of all fuels;
  - Increased the use of alternative fuels 3,895% over baseline;
  - Acquired alternatively fueled vehicles totaling 106% of covered vehicle acquisitions; and
  - Began development of VA's new comprehensive fleet manager training program.
- d. **CHALLENGES:**

- VA's Veteran outreach programs require that VA staff travel to reach Veterans at home or in remote locations, leading to increased fuel consumption from more and longer trips. In addition, a number of Veterans rely on wheelchairs for mobility and must be supported with vehicles that can transport wheelchair-bound patients. These vehicles are generally larger and consume more fuel than compact vehicles.
- Recent changes in the availability of both E85 fuel and flex fuel vehicles reduced the amount of E85 fuel VA used. In some cases, E85 was not cost-effective. In other cases, VA acquired hybrid gasoline vehicles instead of flex fuel vehicles. VA has relied on the use of alternative fuels to reduce the impact of fleet growth on petroleum consumption. VA continues to install on-site alternative fueling stations to help ensure maximum use of alternative fuels.
- VA began implementation of GSA's FedFMS as its Fleet Management Information System this year, with plans to expand the implementation to our other sites once we tested the system at a few pilot sites. While 5 pilot sites have associated data in FedFMS, and VA has committed to expanding the use to the remainder of our fleet, a major stumbling block remains regarding the ability to import fleet card data into FedFMS. To date, VA and GSA have not yet identified a way to complete this critical task.

**e. LESSONS LEARNED:**

- Restrictions on employee travel have limited the ability of fleet managers to access relevant training sessions. These limitations must be taken into account when designing the format and medium of training modules.
- Implementation of the VA Vehicle Allocation Methodology (VAM) Tool was helpful to Administrations and staff offices. The VAM Tool recommends the use of appropriate vehicles to fleet managers based on specific criteria such as climate, terrain, cargo needs, number of passengers, expected monthly use, and alternate fuel availability. The VAM Tool may also recommend the use of existing, underutilized vehicles within the current fleet, offsetting the need to acquire a new vehicle. VA will continue to use this tool and ensure consistent application across the Agency.

**f. PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:

- Increase the acquisition of AFVs and use of alternative fuel;
- Continue using the VAM Tool in all Administrations and staff offices;
- Continue development of VA's new comprehensive fleet manager training program;
- Update VA Fleet Management Directive & Handbook to current mandates, policies, and Executive Orders;
- Focus on eliminating missed opportunities for use of alternative fuel.

**Goal 4: Water Use Efficiency and Management**

- a. INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting water management goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA evaluates water efficiency as part of facility energy audits conducted pursuant to the Energy

Independence and Security Act (EISA) Section 432 requirement. Through this process, VA has installed water efficient technologies at sites and facilities across the Department to decrease water and energy use and related GHG emissions. VA's SCIP process features sustainable building, renewable energy, GHG emissions and energy and water intensity reduction goals as performance gap factors. Further, VA recognizes successes in water use reduction efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program.

- b. EVALUATION MEASURES:** In FY 2014, VA evaluated progress in meeting the Department's water use efficiency and management goals by measuring: 1) the percent reduction in potable water use from the FY 2007 base year; 2) the percent reduction in industrial and agricultural water use from the FY 2010 base year; and 3) the number of potable water meters installed at VA facilities.
- c. SUCCESSES:** Within the past year:
- Reduced potable water use intensity 28% from the FY 2007 baseline.
  - The Martinsburg VA Medical Center (VAMC) completed a car wash system that uses rainwater, thereby reducing storm water runoff by collecting the rainwater and reducing facility water use by avoiding the use of potable water. To further the impact of this project, the water used in the carwash is filtered with a low maintenance limestone filtration system and reused.
  - The West Texas VAMC was nominated for a 2015 Federal Energy and Water Management Award for significant contributions to energy and water efficiency within the federal government. The West Texas VAMC completed construction of a sustainable Community Based Outpatient Clinic in FY 2014. The 10,000 square foot clinic is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility in the VA's Southwest Health Care network. The sustainable design improves baseline water performance more than 30%, reducing environmental impacts associated with excessive energy and water use.
  - VA Portland Health Care System was recognized by Practice Green Health for reducing water intensity to 16.83 gallons per square foot, a nearly 40 percent reduction since 2007;
  - The San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery completed a comprehensive irrigation system audit in FY 2013. This effort identified several water reduction strategies that resulted in an estimated 25% reduction in annual water consumption, equivalent to 20 million gallons.
- d. CHALLENGES:** Installing water reclamation technology while simultaneously meeting healthcare sanitation standards remains a challenge at VA hospitals, where the health and safety of patients always take precedence over water use reduction targets. Additionally, policies related to the prevention and control of legionella disease are enforced to ensure the safety and well fair of visitors to VA health care facilities. In addition to quarterly water quality monitoring, regular flushing of hot and cold water occurs to ensure proper disinfection of water distribution systems and at outlets.
- e. LESSONS LEARNED:** In the past year, VA identified several cost-effective water efficiency measures through comprehensive irrigation audits performed at several national cemeteries. As a result, VA used results from cemetery field irrigation audits to identify inefficient water appliances and began replacing these fixtures with improved equipment and systems to optimize water use at national cemeteries.

**f. PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:

- Continue to evaluate water efficiency measures as part of facility energy audits;
- Continue to review water bills at all facilities throughout the year;
- Continue to provide training to cemetery field staff and NCA engineers and agronomists on water reducing practices, including installing irrigation meters and data monitoring to measure irrigation performance;
- Continue to complete irrigation system audits at all national cemeteries;
- Install additional water meters to track amount of water used for the management of legionella disease;
- Implement cost-effective water efficiency technologies, such as soil moisture sensors and cloud-based irrigation controllers.

**Goal 5: Pollution Prevention and Waste Reduction**

- a. INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting pollution prevention and waste reduction goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA has integrated pollution prevention and waste reduction initiatives throughout the agency. Further, VA recognizes successes in pollution prevention and waste reduction efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program.
- b. EVALUATION MEASURES:** In FY 2014, VA evaluated progress in meeting the Department's pollution prevention and waste management goals through the following metrics: 1) completion of compliance audits at one-third of VA facilities, 2) annual review and update VA's environmental compliance audit tracking database, and 3) the percentage of facilities transitioned and utilizing the SDS/Chemical Inventory Service as the enterprise standard, with full implementation by the end of FY 2016.
- c. SUCCESSES:** Within the past year, VA:
- Fully implemented the use of the Practice GreenHealth Waste Tracker system across VHA, which allows greater visibility into waste generation and recycling efforts in the field;
  - James E. Van Zandt Medical Center was recognized by Practice Green Health for its incredible recycling rate of 57.5 percent, with just 2.7 percent being regulated medical waste;
  - A winner of a 2014 VA Sustainability Award, the White River Junction VA Medical Center's Environmental Service Team developed and deployed a facility-wide recycling program, recycling 477,000 lbs of waste in 2013, a rate of 57%, which surpassed their goal of 40%. Staff tracked waste using Practice GreenHealth Waste Tracker software and implemented various educational efforts;
  - VHA adopted, administration-wide, an existing enterprise solution (SDS/Chemical Inventory Service) to provide a uniform approach to help minimize cost, improve data management and compliance, and aid in operational/strategic chemical management planning. Seventy-four percent of VAMC facilities have transitioned, with over 106,000 chemical inventory transactions processed and 70,000 Safety Data Sheets (SDS) viewed;

- Trained more than 450 SDS/Chemical Inventory Service administrators on the functionality and use of the Service;
- Twenty-one medical centers were recognized through Clean Med Awards, including two VAMCs that placed in the top 25 sustainable healthcare facilities in the country;
- Launched a national partnership for the VHA Healing Environments Conference, which covered a variety of sustainability areas including a forum on recycling that highlighted the Practice GreenHealth waste tracker.
- Completed a product level waste determination of 17,500 products to provide awareness for users of the potential waste classification and disposal which identifies products where opportunities may exist to procure greener products;
- The Green Product Analyzer module provides administrators a method to compare similar products against environmental, business, and human impact and potential safer substitutes. VHA published several reports on commonly used products and continues to monitor improvements and enhancements.

**d. CHALLENGES:**

- VA is working towards an integrated tracking system for HFC use and emissions from refrigeration equipment. This has proven to be a challenge since HFCs do not have regulatory tracking requirements like those in place for CFCs and HCFCs. In the coming year, VA will continue to gather data and refine the initial tracking system developed this year in order to capture facility- and equipment-level HFC emissions.
- Resource limitations and existing practices and procedures may potentially impact full SDS/Chemical Inventory Service deployment, standardization and use.

**e. LESSONS LEARNED:**

- The Waste Tracker service has been fully implemented across VA and its use has continued to increase. This service enables facilities to more easily identify trends in real time about challenges and opportunities to increase recycling and waste diversion. As a result, there has been an increase in waste diversion rates across VA.
- VHA is developing a process that will enable additional medical centers to access equipment to autoclave medical waste on-site. This allows VHA to dispose of medical waste as municipal solid waste and reduces costs and GHG emissions from hauling medical waste. This technology was also incorporated into the Department's Ebola response strategy.

**f. PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:

- Use the results of the waste audit survey to conduct outreach at Earth Day events on opportunities to reduce landfilled waste and increase waste diversion;
- Continue to implement the VA Chemicals Management and Pollution Prevention Directive;
- Utilize data from the three-year environmental audit cycle to validate facility deployment of the VA Chemicals Management Program;
- Conduct an annual data call to collect construction and demolition (C&D) data and measure progress against C&D initiatives within VA's Waste Management and Recycling Program;

- Continue to increase the number of VA medical centers and NCA facilities deployment of the VA's SDS /Chemical Inventory Service for full implementation by the end of FY 2016, and identify sustainable alternatives to existing products using the Green Product Analyzer (GPA) tool;
- Continue to develop and refine tracking system for measuring HFC emissions.

## **Goal 6: Sustainable Acquisition**

- a. **INTEGRATION:** VA has built its strategy for meeting sustainable acquisition goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA continues its active participation in the interagency Sustainable Acquisition and Materials Management Practices (SAMM) Workgroup. VA co-chaired and otherwise served on the SAMM Training subgroup, which developed and maintains the Sustainable Acquisition Training Resources Excel-based spreadsheet. Further, VA recognizes successes in sustainable acquisition efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program.
- b. **EVALUATION MEASURES:** During the past year, VA evaluated progress in meeting the Department's sustainable acquisition goals through the following metrics: 1) provision of green purchasing training, and outreach; 2) execution of quarterly 5% contract reviews with emphasis on biobased procurement; and 3) active participation in the interagency SAMM Workgroup.
- c. **SUCCESSIONS:** Within the past year, VA:
  - Conducted quarterly 5% contract reviews to demonstrate compliance with biobased and sustainable acquisition requirements and reviewed progress regarding a biobased procurement baseline;
  - Conducted a detailed review of 47 NCA master construction specifications, including an assessment of biobased applicability, and added biobased language to any draft specifications determined to be biobased applicable, as appropriate;
  - Revised training materials and delivered green purchasing training to an acquisition risk management shop;
  - Hosted two GSA webinars on the Green Procurement Compilation (GPC) tool in April 2015 and widely disseminated information about them via Department-wide broadcast message system and other means;
  - Issued a task order to update Master Construction Specification Section 01 81 11 (Sustainable Design Requirements) to reflect changes in federal requirements and to support requirements shown in VA's Sustainable Design Manual. The update will include a review of all green purchasing requirements;
  - Issued a procurement policy memorandum to promote compliance with the 95% sustainable acquisition goal under E.O.13514 and FAR 23.103;
  - Issued an Acquisition Policy Flash, "Contracting for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services: Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®)-Registered Products," to inform the VA Acquisition Workforce of recent revisions to the FAR regarding the requirement to procure EPEAT products;
  - Issued an Acquisition Policy Flash on Biobased Reporting, to remind the VA Acquisition Workforce of the annual biobased products reporting requirement to



comply with FAR 52.223-2, Affirmative Procurement of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts;

- Co-chaired the Training subgroup of the Federal Sustainable Acquisition and Materials Management Practices (SAMM) Workgroup, which developed and maintained a Sustainable Acquisition Training Resources tool for federal agency use. The tool was updated in March 2015 and is available at [FedCenter.gov](http://FedCenter.gov);
  - Issued a quarterly electronic newsletter, *Green Purchasing News (GPN)*, with articles focusing on advancing green purchasing through collaboration, biobased procurement requirements, and the GSA GPC; as well as a special Earth Day edition focusing on the evolution of sustainable acquisition.
- d. **CHALLENGES:** VA continues to face resource challenges in completing the required number of contract reviews, given the large number of contract actions VA issues each quarter. Reviewing statements of work and other contract requirements is primarily a manual exercise and adds to the challenge, especially for large and complex construction-related contracts. It is also challenging to implement a standardized review process given evolving and broadly written review requirements. In addition, the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation (FPDS-NG) does not provide sufficient granularity on green requirements and applicability in contracts, limiting VA's ability to use it to conduct sustainable acquisition contract reviews. The addition of the new OMB Scorecard Biobased Compliance Progress Report adds to the resource burden for sustainable acquisition reporting.
- e. **LESSONS LEARNED:** Reaching out to and including the broad audience of personnel involved in the acquisition process – directly or indirectly – increases awareness across a larger audience, promotes collaboration, and supports green purchasing activities. Highlighting best practices through such communications means as *GPN* helps to promote replication as well as recognition.
- f. **PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:
- Conduct 5% contract reviews to demonstrate compliance with the inclusion of applicable biobased and other sustainability clauses;
  - Continue reviewing master construction specifications, identify those that are biobased applicable, and update applicable specifications with appropriate biobased criteria;
  - Publish revised green purchasing requirements in its master construction specifications section 01 81 11 (Sustainable Design Requirements);
  - Begin to explore potential revisions to existing procurement policy documents that would be needed to address the new E.O. 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*;
  - Continue to conduct outreach and training on green purchasing requirements through existing training and communication methods;
  - Continue to actively participate as a member of the SAMM Workgroup.

## **Goal 7: Electronic Stewardship and Data Centers**

- a. **INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting electronics stewardship and other sustainability goals around the Department-level GMP. The GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. Representatives from VA's Office of Information and Technology serve on VA's Environmental

Management Task Force, which addresses electronics stewardship, data center, and numerous other sustainability goals. Further, VA's GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program includes a category for recognizing successes in electronic stewardship within the Department.

- b. EVALUATION MEASURES:** In FY 2014, VA evaluated progress in meeting the Department's electronic stewardship goals through the following metrics: 1) the percent of covered electronic product acquisitions that are EPEAT-registered; 2) the percent of eligible personal computers (PCs), laptops, and monitors with power management enabled; 3) the percent of end-of-life electronic assets covered by sound disposition practices; and 4) data center closures.
- c. SUCCESSES:** Within the past year, VA:
- Issued an Acquisition Policy Flash, "Contracting for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services: Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®)-Registered Products," to inform the VA Acquisition Workforce of recent revisions to the FAR regarding the requirement to procure EPEAT products;
  - Issued a procurement policy memorandum to promote compliance with federal sustainable acquisition requirements, including EPEAT, ENERGY STAR, and FEMP;
  - Received a Green Electronics Council 2015 EPEAT Purchaser Award with the highest ranking of three stars, having demonstrated procurement in each of the three EPEAT product categories: personal computers/displays, imaging equipment, and televisions;
  - Addressed EPEAT requirements in two Green Procurement Compilation training webinars conducted by GSA for VA employees;
  - Addressed Energy Star/FEMP requirements in green purchasing awareness training for acquisition risk management staff;
  - Completed planned migrations for VA health record systems from decentralized VA medical centers to DoD shared data centers for consolidation;
  - Completed additional data center closures;
  - Implemented continuous improvements in data center inventory data collection processes;
  - Initiated a pilot project to determine return on investment for small data center consolidations;
  - Acquired EPEAT-registered products for 97.6% of covered monitors, PCs, and laptops.
- d. CHALLENGES:** VA's size and the decentralized nature of its facilities and operations make it challenging to track precisely all aspects of electronics procurement, operation, and disposition. In conducting data calls, VA uses the best available methods to collect and track the data. VA also faces ongoing resource challenges in that significant additional resources would be required to enhance data quality and ensure a more complete capture of data. In addition, VA continues to be challenged in meeting the OMB target of closing 40 percent of data centers due to funding and resource constraints, patient care delivery performance constraints, and lack of identifiable return on investment for closure versus optimization in place.
- e. LESSONS LEARNED:** VA continued to experience difficulty in tracking purchases of EPEAT electronics through the use of NASA Solutions for Enterprise Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV contract, due to SEWP IV's lack of EPEAT tracking and

reporting capabilities. This required significant and resource-intensive manual tracking of EPEAT purchases. VA provided input on the tracking and reporting capabilities that were included in SEWP V. Early reports indicate that the new contract reflects improved tracking and reporting capabilities.

**f. PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:

- Utilize Unicor R2 certified facilities to recycle VA EOL electronics;
- Continue including ENERGY STAR, FEMP and EPEAT (environmentally sustainable electronics) requirements in green purchasing communications and training;
- Continue to buy EPEAT and ENERGY STAR electronic products;
- Continue outreach with acquisition workforce on EPEAT requirements;

**Goal 8: Renewable Energy**

- a. INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting renewable energy goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA has integrated the generation and consumption of renewable energy into its overall sustainability strategy. At the Department level, VA's SCIP process features sustainable building, renewable energy, GHG emissions and energy and water intensity reduction goals as performance gap factors. SCIP requires each Administration and VHA region (VISN) to create plans that evaluate facility energy needs and the potential for on-site renewable energy installations. Further, VA recognizes successes in renewable energy efforts across the Department through the GMP Sustainability Achievement Award program.
- b. EVALUATION MEASURES:** In FY 2014, VA evaluated progress in meeting the Department's renewable energy goals through the following metrics: 1) renewable energy percentage of total electricity usage; 2) project contracts awarded; and 3) renewable energy feasibility studies awarded.
- c. SUCCESSES:** Within the past year, VA:
- Achieved 21.9% renewable electricity use;
  - VA's Sepulveda facility was nominated for a 2014 Federal Energy and Water Management Award for outstanding achievements in energy and water efficiency. The program installed a 3.965 MW solar PV system, making it the largest PV system in the city of Los Angeles. The installation is comprised of roof, ground, and carport systems, and will supply one-third of on-site electricity demand;
  - Awarded 11 renewable energy projects;
  - Awarded 8 feasibility studies to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of renewable energy systems including solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, and geothermal.
- d. CHALLENGES:** Regulations surrounding renewable energy projects, such as the requirement to execute interconnection agreements with local utilities, challenge VA's ability to implement on-site renewable energy projects. VA's renewable energy projects require interconnection to the local electrical grid to allow for the exchange

of electricity. In addition, other renewable energy system components are dependent on factors outside of VA jurisdiction.

- e. **LESSONS LEARNED:** In FY 2015, VA encountered several project planning issues during the installation of renewable energy systems. As a result, VA is increasing coordination across planned renewable energy and other projects to ensure base loads requirements are met and to avoid conflicting project construction timelines.
- f. **PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:
  - Continue purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs);
  - Contract for additional renewable energy feasibility studies;
  - Award contracts for the design and construction of renewable energy projects;
  - Continue generating and consuming renewable energy;
  - Begin operation of additional biomass-fueled systems and continue investigation of biogas fueling options for existing natural gas fired combined heat and power plants;
  - Continue evaluating renewable energy initiatives for potential implementation in 100% of planned energy performance based contract activities.

### **Goal 9: Climate Change Resilience**

- a. **INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting climate change resilience goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to maintain and implement sustainability-related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. VA has successfully integrated climate change resilience guidance at multiple levels within VA, including new construction and renovation design manuals, employee safety training, and integrating policy directives such as Climate Change Adaptation Directive 0065. VA facilities host environmental events, such as Earth Day celebrations at numerous locations that help promote climate change awareness and education.
- b. **EVALUATION MEASURES:** During FY 2014, VA evaluated progress in meeting climate change resiliency goals through several metrics, including: 1) developing and organizing events and programs to promote climate change adaptation awareness; 2) reviewing Climate Change Adaptation Directive 0065 annually; 3) continuing to work with vulnerable communities and update the VA disease surveillance tool; 4) updating climate change vulnerability assessments; and 5) creating detailed guidance on how to incorporate climate change adaptation into project planning and development focusing on sea level rise guidance.
- c. **SUCSESSES:** Within the past year, VA:
  - Improved the data quality and the quantity of data in the Healthcare Acquired Infection and Influenza Surveillance System (HAISS);
  - Continued developing an emergency preparedness manual for Veterans about preparation for disasters including fires and floods. This manual is currently under review;
  - Hosted events throughout the year at VA medical centers. Boise VAMC Staff volunteered and donated materials to create a drought-tolerant perennial bed. Malcom Randall VAMC (Gainesville, FL) held an Earth Day Fair and dedication for a recently activated PV array;

- Prepared All Hazards Emergency Caches (AHEC) for use in response to natural disasters including events that are influenced by climate change and maintained accurate and up-to-date centralized inventory for cache supplies. The VHA Directive on AHEC has been updated and published;
  - Continued developing a new sea level rise design standard for new and renovated facilities that will be finalized by the end of FY 2015. The standard will include site selection guidance, sea level rise data and mapping resources, sea level rise and storm surge adaptation strategies, and consideration of more frequent and intense storm surge events;
  - Started to analyze risk from sea level rise and sea level rise-enhanced storm surge at all VA medical centers.
- d. CHALLENGES:** VA has made progress in its efforts to develop and improve climate resilience, but recognizes the ongoing challenges with identifying vulnerabilities and adapting to climate change. Reasonable and executable goals have helped VA succeed without any significant challenges arising in the past year.
- e. LESSONS LEARNED:** VA recognizes the complexity of this issue and is working diligently to set attainable goals. Recent extreme weather events caused VA to consider alternate construction and design options to build resilience to extreme events. VA has also learned that its preparation and planning measures put in place for extreme weather events have proven successful, validating operational procedure changes made in response to severe weather events.
- f. PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:
- Incorporate guidance and requirements from E.O. 13693 in subsequent planning;
  - Continue to develop and host climate change adaptation and environmental awareness events;
  - Continue to participate in the multi-agency Climate Change Community of Practice (COP) meetings;
  - Develop detailed guidance focused on preparing facilities for the impacts of sea level rise and identify medical centers that are most at risk from sea level rise impacts;
  - Review and update policy objectives and continue to update design manuals and protocols;
  - Finalize and adopt the new sea level rise design standard for new and renovated facilities. This process is underway and is anticipated to be completed in 2015;
  - Continue to explore ways to increase on-site emergency power. Ongoing work is being done to ensure all new facilities and major renovations are compliant with Physical Security Standard emergency power requirements (currently in review);
  - Monitor and review climate change information on a regular basis and establish a protocol for tracking climate change science advancements;
  - Update VA's Climate Adaptation Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan annually;
  - Facilitate introductions among technical peers at VA and other organizations to share best practices.

## **Goal 10: Energy Performance Contracts**

- a. INTEGRATION:** VA built its strategy for meeting energy performance contracting goals around the Department-level GMP, led by VA's CSO. GMP works through a set of internal working groups and communication networks to implement sustainability-

related action plans, communicate policies, solicit feedback from stakeholders, and ensure resources are available for action execution. Energy performance contracts are incorporated into VA's SCIP process as projects that address one or more of the sustainable building, renewable energy, GHG emissions and energy and water intensity performance gap factors.

- b. **EVALUATION MEASURES:** During FY 2014, VA continued to participate in the President's Performance Contracting Challenge and track measurement and verification data for all awarded projects.
- c. **SUCSESSES:** Within the past year, VA:
  - Awarded 2 UESCs valued at \$15.6 million including 28 ECMs;
  - Awarded 1 ESPC valued at \$7.3 million including 6 ECMs;
  - Trained 2 employees in centralized procurement center;
  - Developed a pipeline in excess of \$320 million towards the President's Challenge;
  - Issued 7 Notices of Opportunity for new energy performance contracting activities;
  - Issued 6 Notices of Intent to Award and moved into investment grade audit for these projects.
- d. **CHALLENGES:** VA has faced the challenge of balancing the priorities of the local and regional energy manager network with the development of energy performance contracts and competing mission requirements. Developing energy performance contracts is a complex process that requires multiple levels of technical, legal, contracting and programmatic review, which in turn creates a lengthy and time-intensive path to award. VA has worked on incorporating renewable energy projects, but this can be challenging due to paybacks that often exceed the 25 year contract limit. VA recognizes that shifting staff and agency level re-organization can create an environment of long term uncertainty, which creates challenges for the development of long-term agreements like energy performance contracts.
- e. **LESSONS LEARNED:** VA has learned the critical importance of obtaining buy-in from key stakeholders in early stages of project development. In response to this, VA developed a mandatory customer service agreement that requires signatures from contracting, facility leadership, regional leadership, and program office staff. VA has also established bi-annual meetings between contracting and program office to facilitate continuous improvement of the procurement process to gain efficiencies.
- f. **PLANNED ACTIONS:** In the next year, VA will:
  - By December 31, 2016, award a minimum of \$320 million of energy performance contracts;
  - Continue to train new contracting personnel on procurement and performance contract subject matter;
  - Continue to enter monthly updates of project milestone progress and energy and water savings data for awarded projects into OMB MAX;
  - Use eProjectBuilder for data tracking;
  - Continue to innovate for efficiencies within project development;
  - Continue to closely monitor measurement and verification activities and reporting;

- Continue to aggressively develop project pipeline to ensure VA's Performance Contracting program will support VA after the conclusion of the President's Challenge.

## PROGRESS ON ADMINISTRATION PRIORITIES

VA understands and embraces Administration priorities in the area of sustainability, including the use of energy performance-based contracting to meet the President's Performance Contracting Challenge, sustainable locations for federal facilities, water efficiency and management, sustainable practices for designed landscapes, and climate change adaptation. The following discussion addresses VA's accomplishments in these areas. It also presents the progress being made toward meeting applicable goals and requirements, including those outlined in relevant Presidential Memoranda.

**Energy Performance-Based Contracting:** VA continued to utilize performance contracting as a tool to help meet identified energy efficiency and management goals. In accordance with E.O. 13693, VA is on track to meet its existing 2016 agency performance contracting commitment towards the goal of \$4 billion in Federal performance-based contracts by the end of the calendar year 2016. As mandated, VA also makes monthly updates on its progress toward the goal in the OMB online data collection system. In the past year, VA has awarded over \$23 million in energy performance-based contracts, and is moving forward on contracts for facilities in seven regions. VA has developed an energy performance based contracting pipeline in excess of \$320 million. By the end of July 2015, VA anticipates receiving preliminary assessments for every project being tracked for the 2016 performance contracting commitment. During the upcoming year, VA will develop data and requirements language for additional performance contracts in additional regions while expanding project work at selected current project regions. Per E.O. 13693, VA will also begin developing annual agency targets for performance contracting for energy savings to be implemented in fiscal year 2017.

**Sustainable Buildings:** VA incorporates the *Sustainable Locations for Federal Facilities* guidance from September 15, 2011 into agency planning. VA's Sustainable Locations Program (Directive 0066) is VA's policy to comply with federal sustainable building requirements, improve service to and health of Veterans, and meet internal sustainable building goals. VA's Site Development Design Manual, published in February 2013, and VA's Sustainable Design Manual, published in May 2014, both contain guidance and outline actions for project teams to take into consideration regarding sustainable site selection. The Sustainable Design Manual serves as a consolidated resource regarding sustainable design requirements as mandated by various laws, executive orders, regulations, and VA policies. Within the Sustainable Design Manual, a full section is dedicated to guidance regarding federal requirements for site selection and development. Topics include re-using existing buildings, selecting sites near diverse housing resources and in high-density zoning areas, and determining appropriate infrastructure to support planned alternative transportation resources. VA also mandates that prior to site selection, project teams meet with officials at the state, metropolitan, or local level to align the project with local and regional long term objectives.

VA is also addressing the *Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes* from October 31, 2011 (as supplemented October 22, 2014). VA's Sustainable Design Manual provides guidance on the use of water efficient landscape and irrigation strategies, protocols for establishing composting for landscaping-related waste, and methods to employ design and



construction strategies to minimize storm water run-off. The Site Design Manual also aligns with the goals and guidance in the Sustainable Practices for Designed Landscapes guidance and provides guidance on the use of stormwater wetlands and vegetative infiltration, erosion and sediment control plans, and important considerations for soils such as soil conservation, soil management, and preventing soil compaction during construction. Plant selection for hardiness and the use of vegetation to reduce urban heat island effects and building heating and cooling requirements are also discussed in detail in the Site Design Manual.

**Climate Change Adaptation:** VA is assessing and responding to the challenges that a changing climate poses on its ability to serve and honor America's Veterans. VA has adopted the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force Guiding Principles, which inform its adaptation strategy. In June 2014, Acting VA Secretary Sloan D. Gibson signed the agency's Climate Change Adaptation Policy, committing the Department to addressing the impacts of climate change on its operations and assets, and most importantly, on America's Veterans. VA's Climate Change Adaptation Directive 0065 became agency policy in June 2012, addressing strategies to minimize the impacts of climate change while carrying out the Department's core mission. VA's Climate Change Adaptation Plan, updated in June 2015 and appended, summarizes VA's climate change risks and opportunities, planning and program process, and actions to better understand climate change. VA posted the 2014 plan on its web site and received no comments.

VA has taken steps toward implementing its Climate Change Adaptation Plan, having already implemented several key actions, and with several more in development. Based on results from the vulnerability assessment completed in FY 2012, VA's Climate Change Adaptation Plan focuses on VA's physical infrastructure and the effects of climate change on the health of its staff and the Veterans it serves. VA's efforts focus on: 1) Increasing facility and infrastructure resilience to climate change; 2) Improving preparedness for climate change impacts on human health and; 3) Advancing approaches to managing risks from climate change.

VA's strategy for adaptation balances the need for building its climate resilience with other federal policy imperatives and resource needs crucial to VA's mission. As such, VA is working to inform and equip staff and Veterans of important climate risks and how they can prepare and respond, ensure that its long-term capital investments are designed to anticipate climate impacts, and build the capacity to monitor and track emerging threats like new diseases and other public health risks. VA is also undertaking actions to decrease vulnerability to both physical threats and interruptions to resource networks by designing new buildings to protect against significant climate impacts such as sea level rise and increasing energy and water efficiency. These actions have included continued development of a new sea level rise design standard for new and renovated facilities that VA anticipated will be finalized in 2015. This standard will include site selection guidance, sea level rise data and mapping resources, sea level rise and storm surge adaptation strategies, consideration of more frequent and intense storm surge events.

**Water Efficiency and Management Provision:** VA includes provisions to procure water efficient products and services in VA Directive 0058, VA Green Purchasing Program and VA Procurement Policy, which follows sustainable acquisition requirements included in the Federal Acquisition Regulation 23.103-Sustainable Acquisitions, which are consistent with the *Implementing Instructions: Water Efficiency and Management Provisions of Executive Order 13514* (July 10, 2013). Moving forward, VA will ensure that these water management

provisions are consistent with the requirements of E.O. 13693. VA is dedicated to improving its water efficiency and management provisions through the purchase of water efficient products and services and is actively engaged in these activities. Within the past year, VA conducted irrigation audits at cemetery sites to replace old or inefficient equipment. Several VA medical centers also implemented practices to reduce stormwater runoff and potable water consumption. In FY 2016, VA will develop projects to install high efficiency products at national cemeteries.

**Size & Scope of Agency Operation – Table 1: Agency Size & Scope**

<b>Agency Size and Scope</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget	312,841	323,016
Total Acres of Land Managed	34,376	34,760
Total Number of Buildings Owned <sup>1</sup>	6,016	6,082
Total Number of Buildings Leased (GSA and Non-GSA Lease)	1,895	1,937
Total Building Gross Square Feet (GSF)	173,394,360	174,705,227
Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.	1,015	1,031
Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.	21	23
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned	4,473	4,656
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased	13,547	14,367
Total Number of Exempted-Fleet Vehicles (Tactical, Law Enforcement, Emergency, Etc.)	931	1,010
Total Amount Contracts Awarded as Reported in FPDS (\$Millions)	18,275	19,042

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<sup>1</sup> Building information should be consistent with FY 2013 and FY 2014 data submitted into the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP).

# Section 1: Agency Progress toward (Prior) Sustainability Goals in E.O. 13514 and E.O. 13423

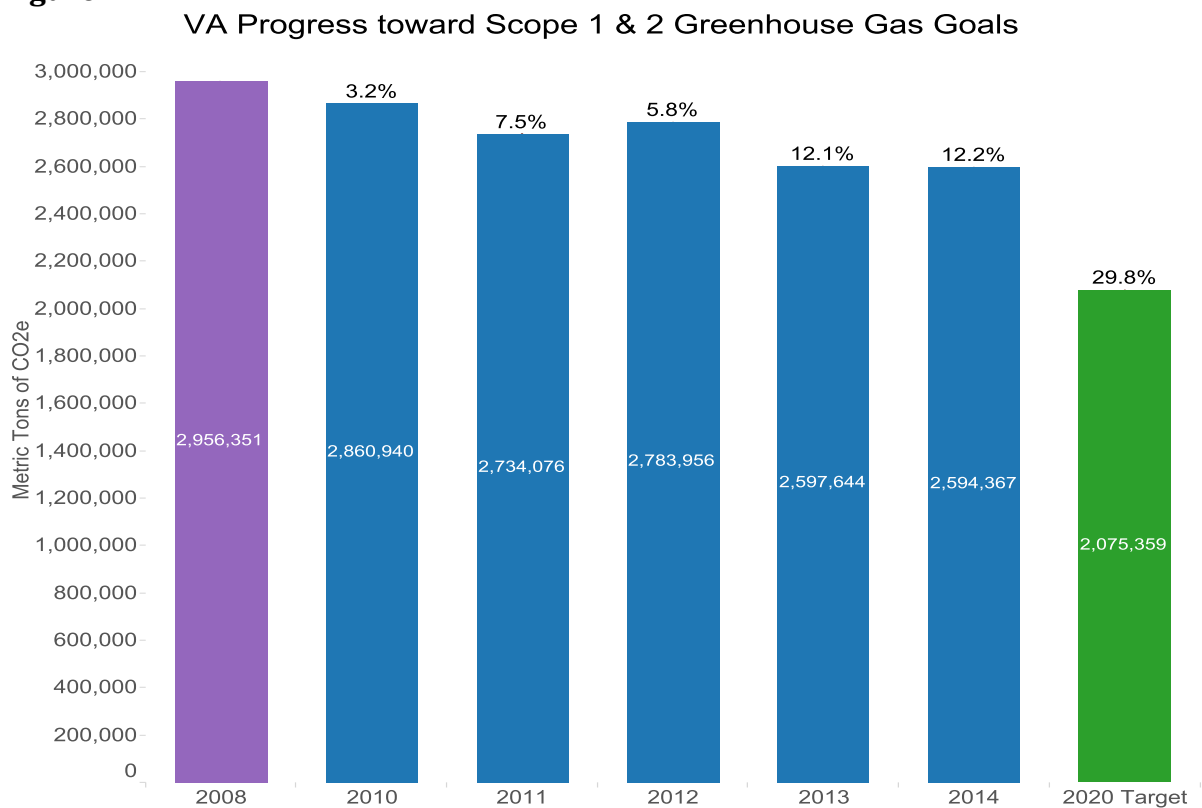
This section provides an overview of agency progress towards the sustainability goals established in E.O. 13514 and E.O. 13423. The subject of many of these goals has been carried over into E.O. 13693 and a review of past performance is useful to determine program effectiveness and development of strategies for future implementation.

## Goal 1: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction

### Agency Progress toward Scope 1 & 2 GHG Goal

E.O. 13514 required each agency establish a Scope 1 & 2 GHG emission reduction target to be achieved by FY 2020. The purple bar represents the agency's FY 2008 baseline. The green bar represents the FY 2020 target reduction. The blue bars represent annual agency progress towards achieving this target. The percentage at the top of each bar represents the reduction or increase from the FY 2008 baseline. A negative percentage value indicates that the emissions have increased compared to the 2008 baseline.

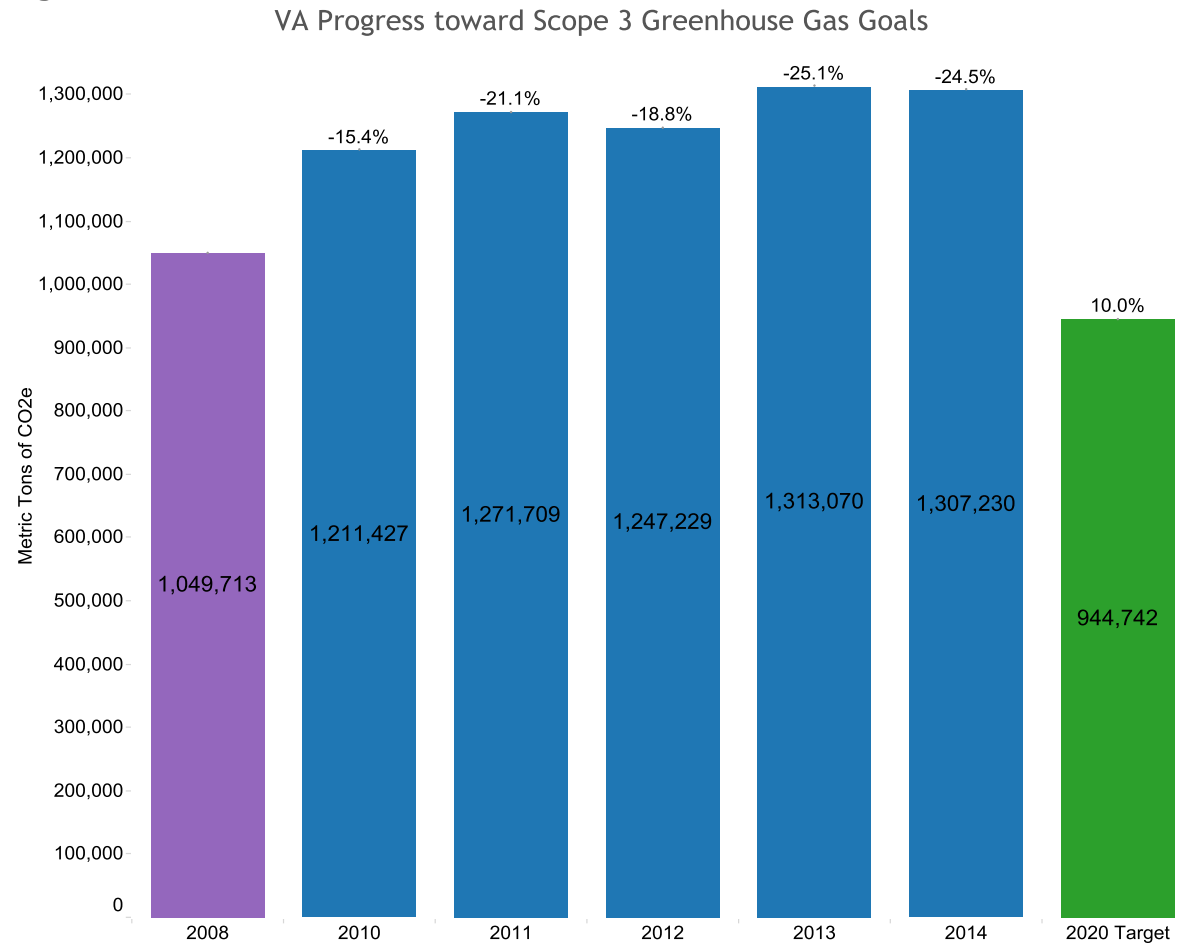
Figure 1-1



## Agency Progress toward Scope 3 GHG Goal

E.O. 13514 required each agency establish a Scope 3 GHG emission reduction target to be achieved by FY 2020. The purple bar represents the agency's FY 2008 baseline. The green bar represents the FY 2020 reduction target. The blue bars represent annual agency progress on achieving this target. The percentage at the top of each bar represents the reduction or increase from the FY 2008 baseline. A negative percentage value indicates that the emissions have increased compared to the FY 2008 baseline.

**Figure 1-2**



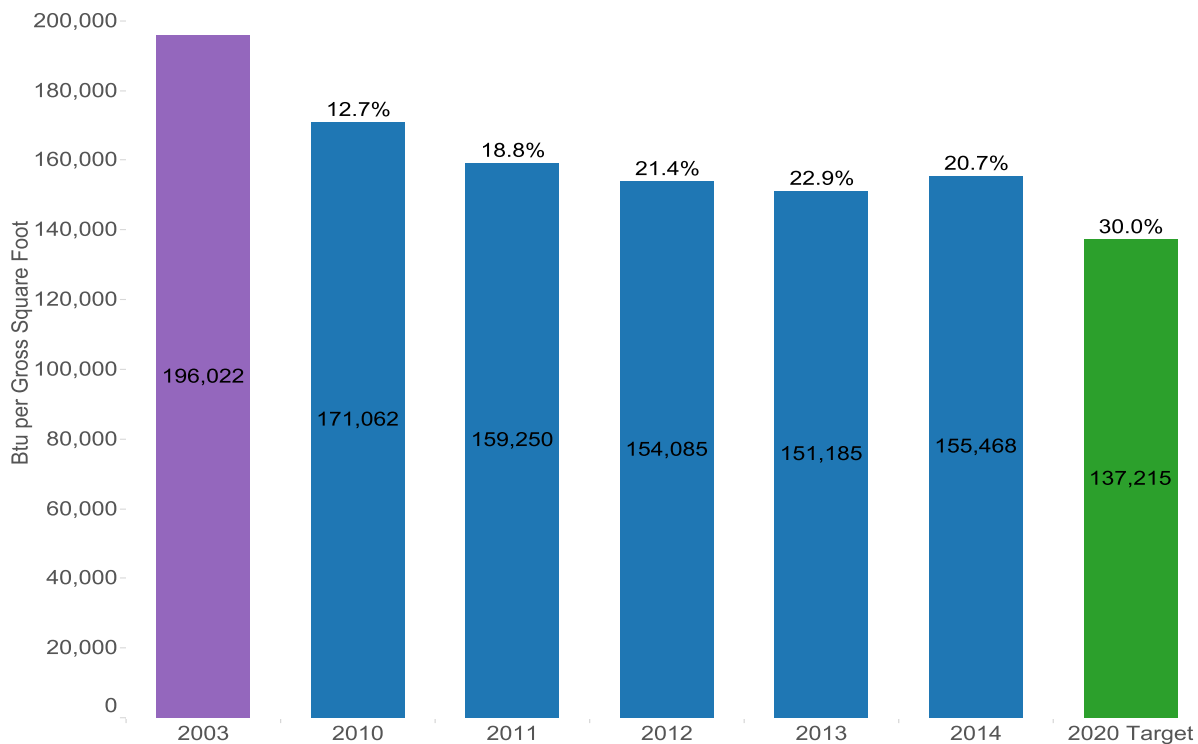
## Goal 2: Sustainable Buildings

### Agency Progress toward Facility Energy Intensity Reduction Goal

E.O. 13514 section 2 required that agencies consider building energy intensity reductions. Further, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) requires each agency to reduce energy intensity 30 percent by FY 2015 as compared to the FY 2003 baseline. Agencies are expected to reduce energy intensity by 3 percent annually through FY 2015 to meet the goal. The purple bar represents the agency's FY 2003 baseline. The green bar represents the FY 2015 target reduction. The blue bars show annual agency progress on achieving this target. The percentage at the top of each bar represents the reduction or increase from the FY 2003 baseline. A negative percentage value indicates that the energy intensity has increased compared to the FY 2003 baseline.

**Figure 2-1**

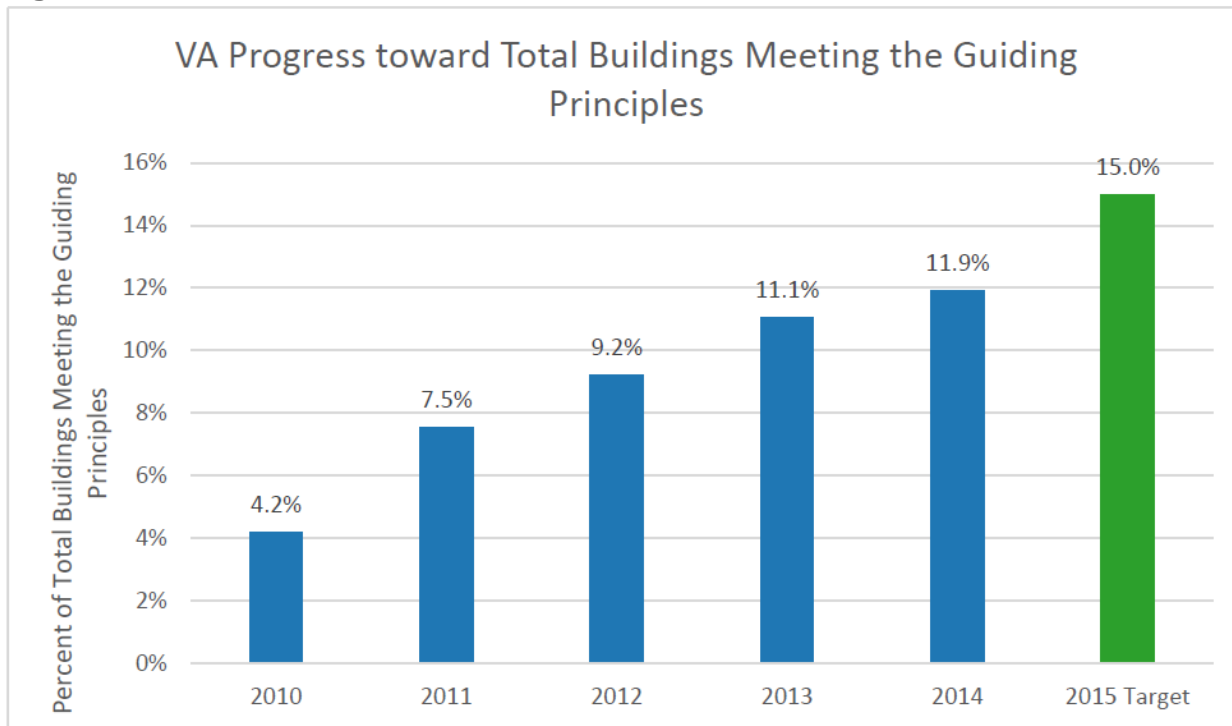
VA Progress toward Facility Energy Intensity Reduction Goals  
(FY 2014 Goal: 27%)



## Agency Progress toward Total Buildings Meeting the Guiding Principles

E.O. 13514 required that by FY 2015, 15 percent of agencies' new, existing, and leased buildings greater than 5,000 square feet meet the Guiding Principles. In order to meet the FY 2015 goal, agencies should have increased the percentage of conforming buildings by approximately 2 percent annually from their FY 2007 baseline. The green bar represents the FY 2015 target. The blue bars represent annual agency progress on achieving this target.

**Figure 2-2**



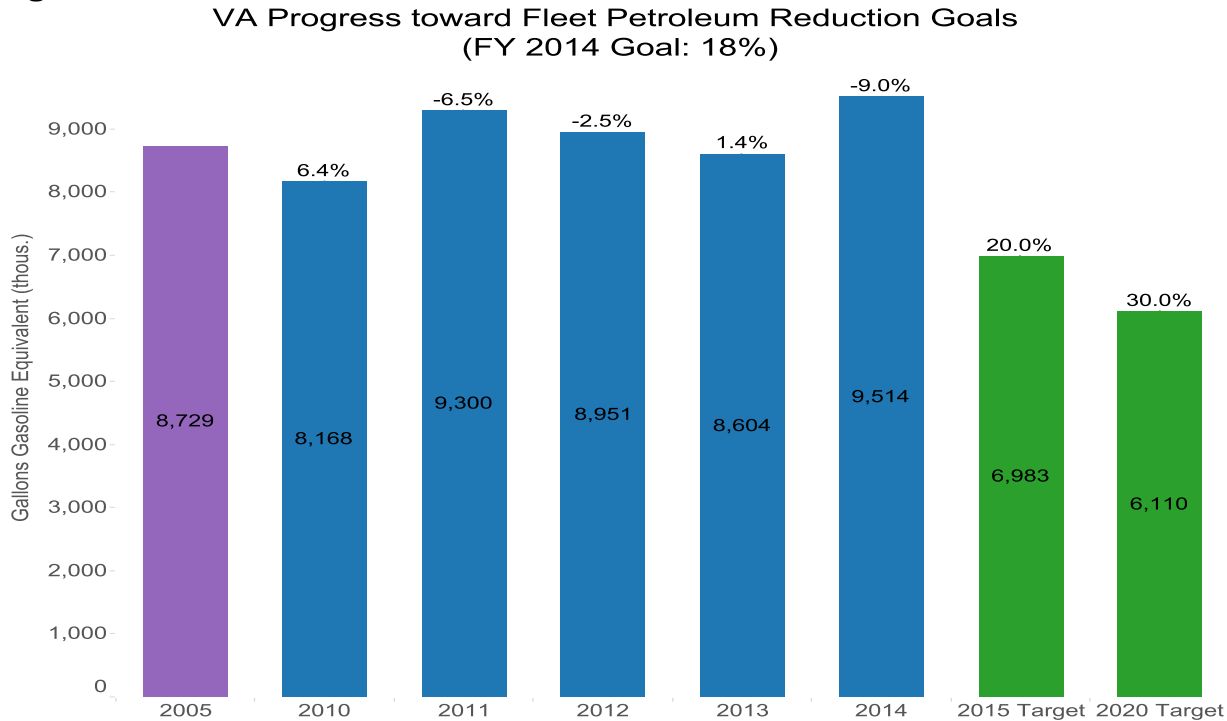


## Goal 3: Fleet Management

### Agency Progress toward Fleet Petroleum Use Reduction Goal

E.O. 13514 required and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) requires that by FY 2015 agencies reduce fleet petroleum use by 20 percent compared to a FY 2005 baseline. Agencies were expected to achieve at least a 2 percent annual reduction. The purple bar represents the agency's FY 2005 baseline. The green bars represent the FY 2015 target reduction. The blue bars represent annual agency progress on achieving these targets. The percentage at the top of each bar represents the reduction or increase from the FY 2005 baseline. A negative percentage indicates an increase in fleet petroleum use.

**Figure 3-1**

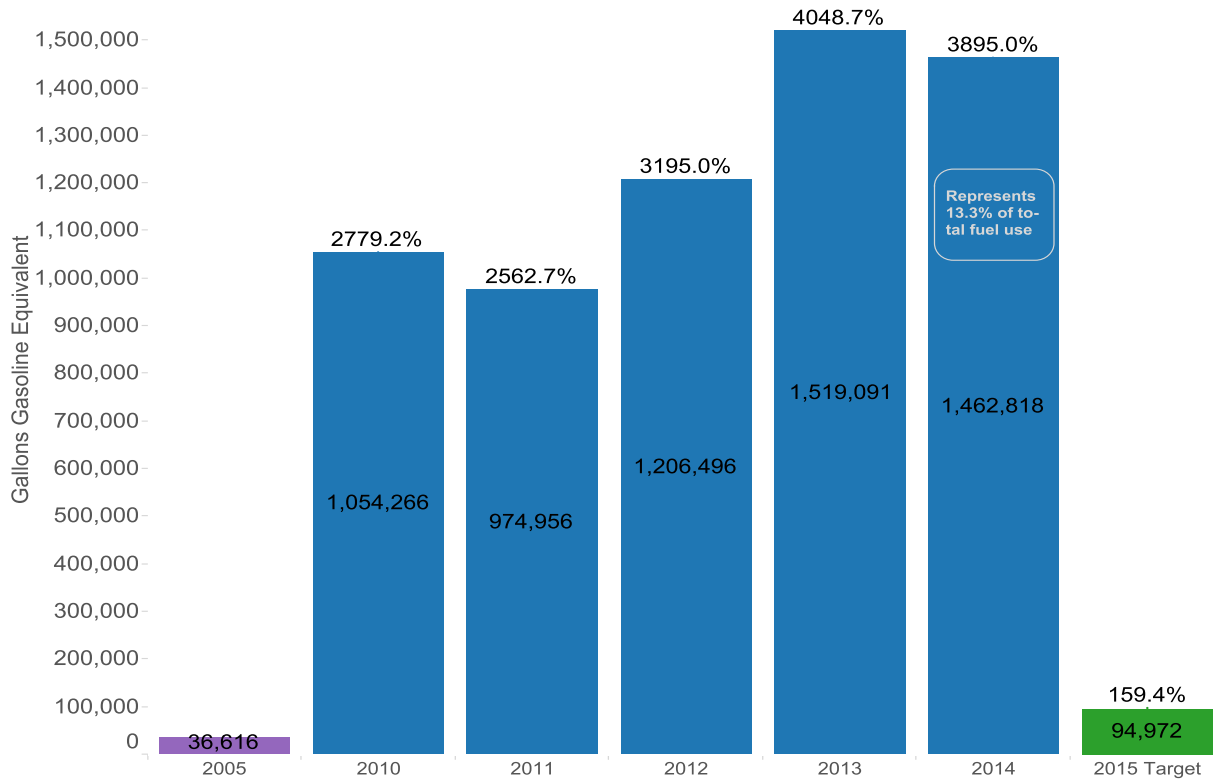


## Agency Progress toward Fleet Alternative Fuel Consumption Goal

E.O. 13423 required that agencies increase total alternative fuel consumption by 10 percent annually from the prior year starting in FY 2005. By FY 2015, agencies must have increased alternative fuel use by 159.4 percent, relative to FY 2005. The purple bar represents the agency's FY 2005 baseline. The green bar represents the FY 2015 target. The blue bars represent annual agency progress on achieving this target. The percentage at the top of each bar represents the reduction or increase from the FY 2005 baseline. A negative percentage indicates a decrease in fleet alternative fuel use.

**Figure 3-2**

VA Progress toward Fleet Alternative Fuel Consumption Goals  
(FY 2014 Goal: +135.8%)



## Goal 4: Water Use Efficiency & Management

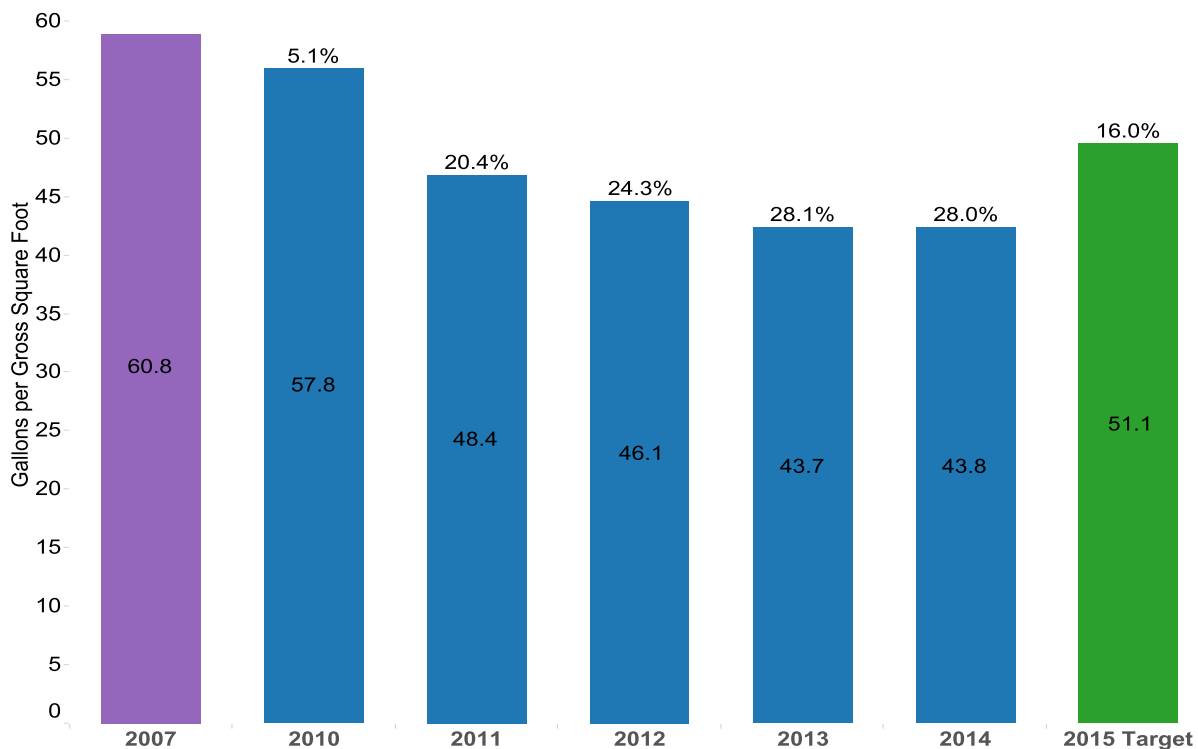
### Agency Progress toward Potable Water Intensity Reduction Goal

E.O. 13514 required agencies to reduce potable water intensity by 2 percent annually through FY 2020 compared to an FY 2007 baseline. A 16 percent reduction was required by FY 2015 and a 26 percent reduction was required by FY 2020. The purple bar represents the agency's FY 2007 baseline. The green bars represent the FY 2015 and FY 2020 target reductions. The blue bars represent annual agency progress on achieving these targets. The percentage at the top of each bar represents the reduction or increase from the FY 2007 baseline. A negative percentage value indicates that potable water use intensity increased compared to the FY 2007 baseline.

**Agency data for progress towards the industrial, landscaping and agricultural water use reduction target is not available.**

**Figure 4-1**

VA Progress toward Potable Water Intensity Reduction Goals  
(FY 2014 Goal: 14%)



## Goal 5: Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction

### Agency Progress toward Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction

E.O. 13514 required that federal agencies promote pollution prevention and eliminate waste. The E.O. required agencies to minimize the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and pursue acceptable alternatives. It also required agencies minimize waste generation through source reduction, increase diversion of compostable materials, and by the end of FY 2015 divert at least 50% of non-hazardous and 50% of construction and demolition debris.<sup>2</sup>

**Agency Data For This Goal Is Not Available.**

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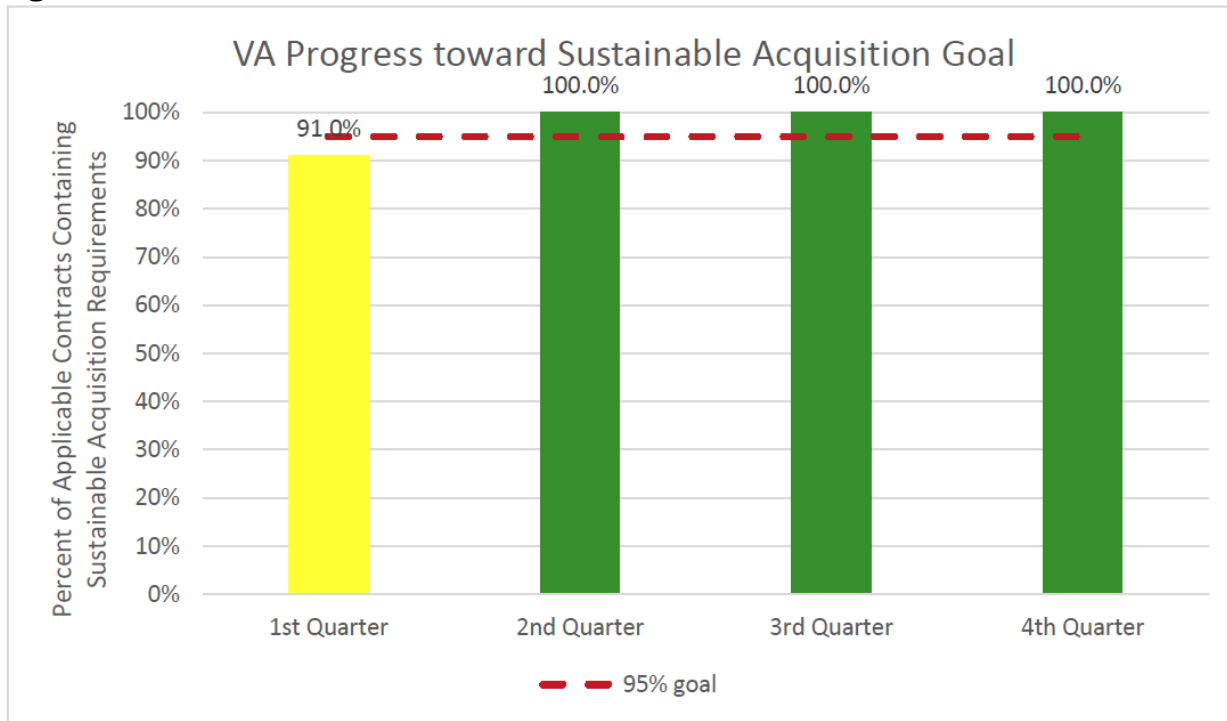
<sup>2</sup> Waste accounting guidance will be issued in spring of 2015. Agencies will be expected to begin implementation as soon as practicable. Accounting will begin in FY 2016.

## Goal 6: Sustainable Acquisition

### Agency Progress toward Sustainable Acquisition Goal

E.O. 13514 required agencies to advance sustainable acquisition and ensure that 95 percent of applicable new contract actions met federal mandates for acquiring products that are energy efficient, water efficient, biobased, environmentally preferable, non-ozone depleting, recycled content, or are non-toxic or less toxic alternatives, where these products meet performance requirements. To monitor performance, agencies perform quarterly reviews of at least 5 percent of applicable new contract actions to determine if sustainable acquisition requirements are included.

**Figure 6-1**






## Goal 7: Electronic Stewardship & Data Centers




### Agency Progress toward EPEAT, Power Management and End of Life Goals

E.O. 13514 required agencies to promote electronics stewardship by: ensuring procurement preference for EPEAT-registered products; implementing policies to enable power management, duplex printing, and other energy-efficient features; employing environmentally sound practices with respect to the disposition of electronic products; procuring Energy Star and FEMP designated electronics; and, implementing best management practices for data center operations.




Figure 7-1

EPEAT	POWER MANAGEMENT	END-OF-LIFE	COMMENTS
			




#### EPEAT:

	95% or more Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2013 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide
	85-94% or more Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2013 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide
	84% or less Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2013 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 tracked at end-of life, demonstrating 100% disposal through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicor, USPS Recycling Program or Certified Recycler (R2, E-Stewards). Submitted annual report to GSA for Federal Electronics Assets furnished to non-Federal recipients.
	100% of electronics tracked at end-of life, demonstrating 100% disposal through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicor, USPS Recycling Program and/or non-Certified Recycler. Submitted annual report to GSA for Federal Electronics Assets furnished to non-Federal recipients.
	100% of electronics not tracked at end-of-life or less than 100% disposal through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicor, USPS Recycling Program or non-Certified Recycler. No annual report submitted to GSA for Federal Electronics Assets furnished to non-Federal recipients.

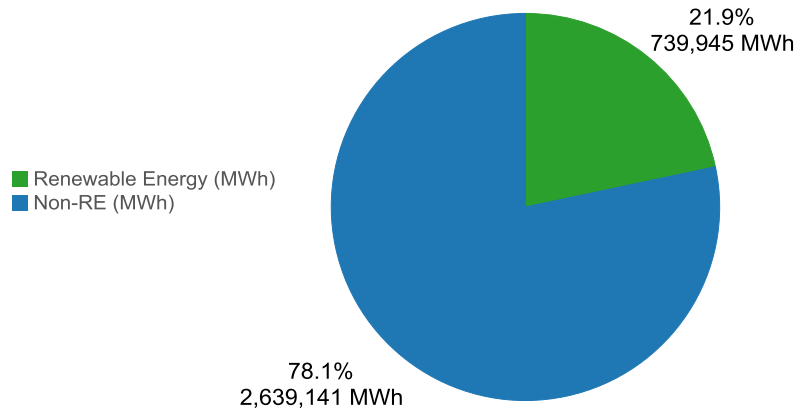
## Goal 8: Renewable Energy

### Agency Renewable Energy Percentage of Total Electricity Usage

E.O. 13514 requires that agencies increase use of renewable energy. Further, EPACT 2005 requires agencies to increase renewable energy use such that 7.5 percent of the agency's total electricity consumption is generated by renewable energy sources for FY 2014 and beyond. For FY 2012, the required target was 5 percent of an agency's total electricity consumption. In 2013, a Presidential Memorandum entitled *Federal Leadership on Energy Management* revised the federal agency target for agency renewable energy percentage of total electricity usage to reflect a goal of 20% by 2020.

**Figure 8-1**

VA Use of Renewable Energy as a Percentage of Electricity Use  
(FY 2014 Goal: 7.5%)





## Goal 9: Climate Change Resilience

### **Agency Climate Change Resilience**

E.O. 13514 required each agency to evaluate agency climate change risks and vulnerabilities to identify and manage the effects of climate change on the agency's operations and mission in both the short and long term.

This goal is addressed through qualitative commitments on the part of each agency and a summary of progress may be found in the Executive Summary at the beginning of this document.

## Goal 10: Energy Performance Contracts

### Agency Progress in Meeting President's Performance Contracting Challenge (PPCC) Goal

Energy Performance Contracts, including both Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) and Utility Energy Service Contracts (UESCs), enable agencies to obtain energy efficiency investments in buildings and deploy on-site renewable energy through long-term contracts with the private sector, which are in turn paid through savings derived from those investments.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 10-1: Department of Veterans Affairs Progress in Meeting President's Performance Contracting Challenge (PPCC) Goal**



Note: This chart indicates agency progress toward the 2016 Performance Contracting goal as of April 15, 2015.

The chart above represents the agency's performance contracting commitment and progress toward that commitment as reported through April 15, 2014 (for agencies subject to the 2011 President's Performance Contracting Challenge). The bar graph shows the total dollar value (in millions) of (1) already awarded projects, (2) projects in the pipeline but not yet awarded, and (3) the pipeline shortfall or surplus depending on whether the agency has reached their commitment goal.

Note: All agencies were expected to meet or exceed their initial target no later than June 30, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Goal 10 section is relevant only to agencies subject to the PPCC.

## Section 2: Agency Strategies to Meet Goals of E.O. 13693

### Goal 1: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction

**Table 1-1: Goal 1 Strategies – Scope 1 & 2 GHG Reductions**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Use the FEMP GHG emission report to identify/target high emission categories and implement specific actions to resolve high emission areas identified.	Yes	Approximately 97% of VA's GHG emissions come from building energy use. In FY 2015, VA will continue to address these GHG emissions by 1) increasing energy efficiency across the Department's facilities, and 2) increasing the use of on-site renewable energy. Three energy performance contracts were awarded between June 2014 and June 2015, valued at nearly \$23 million for 5 facilities in three VA regions. Renewable energy initiatives were evaluated as part of these contracts, and are evaluated for every energy performance contract. One project includes a solar hot water energy conservation measure.	1) Plan to award a total of \$320 million in multi-site energy performance-based contracts by December 31, 2016. 2) Evaluate renewable energy initiatives for potential implementation in 100% of planned performance-based contract activities.
Identify alternative sources of data or alternative methods of analysis not set forth in E.O. 13693, but with the potential to support its goals.	No	VA has recently completed updates to its utility data collection system, which allows for the possibility to add new metrics as needed to track data related to the goals of E.O. 13693.	
Identify and support management practices or training programs that encourage employee sustainability and greenhouse gas consideration.	No	The VA Green Routine program aims to raise awareness and recognize sustainable achievements among employees. Many VA facilities raise environmental awareness through events and outreach, such as numerous Earth Day events at VA medical centers across the country, which help promote actions the typical VA employee can take to reduce VA's environmental footprint, such as energy conservation measures.	
Conceptualize the goals of E.O. 13693 within a projected cost-benefit framework to identify low-hanging fruit.	No	VA uses the VA Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) process to identify, prioritize, and fund energy and water projects that help meet required sustainability goals. The SCIP process features sustainable building, renewable energy, GHG emission reductions, and energy and water intensity reduction goals, as performance gap factors for projects.	
Isolate successful measures applied toward the goals of E.O. 13514 that could be expanded to meet the goals of E.O. 13693.	No	VA's annual SSPP identifies key strategies and measures for achieving the goals of E.O. 13514, which can subsequently be applied to meeting the goals of E.O. 13693. VA will continue to explore ways to implement this strategy in accordance with additional federal guidance on implementing E.O. 13693.	

<b>(A) Strategy</b>	<b>(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA</b>	<b>(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)</b>	<b>(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months</b>
Determine unsuccessful programs or measures to be discontinued to better allocate agency resources, human and otherwise.	No	VA has a process in place to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and measures to meet VA's sustainability goals through the GMP sustainability working groups. Each working group maintains an action plan in its respective sustainability focus area that serves as VA's blueprint for fulfilling federal mandates and meeting internal goals, and outlines planned activities, responsibilities, timelines, and status for each action. These internal action plans are reviewed and updated on an annual basis.	
Determine which goals set forth in E.O. 13693 represent unambitious targets given past agency performance, identify by how much they could be exceeded, and establish new within-agency target.	No	VA evaluates its performance towards meeting federal targets annually, and aims to maximize potential improvement in each goal area where feasible.	
Employ operations and management best practices for energy consuming and emission generating equipment.	No	VA employs the four-year facility energy audit cycle as a best management practice for ensuring the efficiency of energy consuming and emission generating equipment at all facilities. In conjunction with the facility audit, VA conducts retro-commissioning at facilities to ensure the optimal operation of mechanical equipment.	
Implement in EISA 432 covered facilities all life-cycle cost-effective ECMs identified	Yes	VA energy engineers conduct facility energy audits every four years in accordance with EISA 432 requirements. Using these audits and the SCIP process, VA determines which ECMs to implement. VA will continue to employ this strategy in the next 12 months.	Evaluate facility audits to select life-cycle cost-effective ECMs and identify the best implementation method.
Reduce on-site fossil-fuel consumption by installing more efficient boilers, generators, furnaces, etc. and/or use renewable fuels	Yes	VA is installing more efficient boilers, generators, and related equipment when energy audit findings suggest that these upgrades are needed or when potential energy savings are demonstrated. Using the audit results and the SCIP process, VA determines which upgrades to implement. VA will continue to employ this strategy in the next 12 months.	Evaluate facility energy audits to select life-cycle cost-effective projects to reduce on-site fossil fuel consumption, and to identify the best implementation method.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Reduce grid-supplied electricity consumption by improving/upgrading motors, boilers, HVAC, chillers, compressors, lighting, etc.	Yes	VA is seeking to reduce grid-supplied electricity by improving and/or upgrading motors, HVAC, chillers, compressors and lighting when energy audit findings suggest these upgrades are needed, or when potential energy savings are demonstrated. Using the audit results and the SCIP process, VA determines which upgrades to implement. VA will continue to employ this strategy in the next 12 months.	Evaluate facility energy audits to select life cycle cost effective projects to reduce electricity consumption, and to identify the best implementation method.
Continue to include GHG emission as a ranking metric for project prioritization in VA's SCIP process.	Yes	VA's SCIP process includes Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions as a ranking metric for prioritizing projects. This metric addresses the impact the project will have in addressing GHG reduction needs at individual facilities and for each VHA region (Veterans Integrated Service Network-VISN).	Continue to consider GHG emission reductions in projects through SCIP.

**Table 1-2: Goal 1 Strategies – Scope 3 GHG Reductions**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Reduce employee business ground travel.	Yes	VA is reducing employee business ground travel by increasing the use of video-conferencing for meetings that do not require in-person attendance. VA has an internal conferencing system that allows video conferencing among facilities on a secure network. Additionally, VA employees have access to various tools such as LiveMeeting to facilitate collaboration among employees when they are not in the same physical location.	Report annual GHG emissions associated with business travel, as calculated by the GSA TravelTrax report.
Reduce employee business air travel.	Yes	VA is reducing employee business ground travel by increasing the use of video-conferencing for meetings that do not require in-person attendance. VA has an internal conferencing system that allows video conferencing among facilities on a secure network. Additionally, VA employees have access to various tools such as LiveMeeting to facilitate collaboration among employees when they are not in the same physical location.	Report annual GHG emissions associated with business travel, as calculated by the GSA TravelTrax report.

<b>(A) Strategy</b>	<b>(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA</b>	<b>(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)</b>	<b>(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months</b>
Develop and deploy employee commuter reduction plan.	No	VA facilities have employee commuter reduction plans in place where required by local law. VA may consider expanding this strategy to include additional facilities in future years.	
Use employee commuting survey to identify opportunities and strategies for reducing commuter emissions.	Yes	VA conducts an annual employee commuting survey. Among other items, the survey allows employees to provide feedback and ideas on how VA can reduce the environmental impact of their commute.	Identify changes in commuting patterns through the VA Employee Commuter Survey.
Increase number of employees eligible for telework and/or the total number of days teleworked.	Yes	VA has increased telework participation by increasing awareness among managers, employees, and unions of the benefits of telework. The Office of Human Resources Management facilitates a quarterly telework conference presentation to help telework coordinators in the field overcome challenges they face in promoting telework at their facilities.	Increase the total number of teleworkers as a percentage of telework eligible employees.
Develop and implement bicycle commuter program.	No	VA is considering options to promote bicycle commuting among VA employees, including development of a listserv to determine current interest in bicycle commuting.	
Provide bicycle commuting infrastructure.	No	The VA Sustainable Design Manual includes a provision to consider locations that provide multiple transportation options during site selection, and to include bicycle racks and changing rooms, when appropriate.	
Plan to begin FY 2016: Report scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions for leases over 10,000 E.O. 3(h)(v) rentable square feet	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.  VA will update its internal databases to collect energy consumption data for leased facilities to report as part of Scope 3 emissions in the Annual DOE Energy and GHG report.	
Continue waste diversion efforts to reduce Scope 3 emissions	Yes	VA's Waste Management and Recycling Program is administered through environmental management systems all VA facilities. VHA fully implemented the use of the Practice GreenHealth Waste Tracker in 2014, a service which enables VHA facilities to track waste generation and diversion rates.	Reduce landfilled municipal solid waste.

## Goal 2: Sustainable Buildings

### Building Energy Conservation, Efficiency, and Management

Section 3(a) of E.O. 13693 states that agencies will promote building energy conservation, efficiency, and management. Section 3(a)(i) requires agencies to reduce building energy intensity by 2.5% annually through the end of FY 2025 (measured in British thermal units per square foot), relative to a FY 2015 baseline and taking into account agency progress to date, except where revised pursuant to section 9(f) of E.O. 13693.

### Building Efficiency Performance, and Management

Section 3(h) of E.O. 13693 states that agencies will improve building efficiency, performance, and management.

Section 3(h)(iii) requires that agencies identify, as a part of the planning requirements of section 14 of this order, a percentage of the agency's existing buildings above 5,000 GSF intended to be energy, waste, or water net-zero buildings by FY 2025 and implementing actions that will allow those buildings to meet that target.

Per Guidance from CEQ, VA has chosen to not submit a percentage at this time. Please input the percentage here <00>%.

**Table 2-1: Goal 2 Strategies – Sustainable Buildings**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Use remote building energy performance assessment auditing technology 3(a)(A)	No	VA performs four year energy audits based on EISA 432 guidance. The audits, along with re- and retro-commissioning, identify energy conservation measures that VA incorporates into ESPCs or other VA-funded projects.  VA looks forward to additional guidance regarding applicability to different types and sizes of buildings and the relationship of this requirement to EISA.	
Participate in demand management programs 3(a)(B)	No	VA has incorporated demand management guidance in the VA Sustainable Design Manual. VA will evaluate the appropriateness of demand management in different types of existing buildings.	
Ensure that monthly performance data is entered into the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager 3(a)(C)	No	VA collects monthly performance data through internal databases. That data is analyzed to benchmark buildings for energy performance and analyze anomalies. VA plans to award a contract for utility data management and integration with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.	



(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Where feasible: Incorporate Green Button data access system into reporting, data analytics, and automation processes 3(a)(D)	No	VA facilities staff currently enter monthly utility data manually into VA energy collection databases. There may be technical challenges integrating Green Button data into existing VA energy collection databases.	
Implement space utilization and optimization practices and policies 3(a)(E)	Yes	VA's SCIP process is designed to reduce gaps in space utilization and access while improving the quality and cost efficiency of the delivery of VA benefits and services through facilities that match current and future demand.	Evaluate VISN-level action plans and business cases for FY 2016 projects.
Identify opportunities to transition test-bed technologies to achieve the goals of this section 3(a)(F)	No	VA participates in the ISWG and monitors DOE, DoD, and GSA pilot projects. VA is especially interested in technologies or strategies that will improve patient outcomes.	
Where feasible: Conform to city energy performance benchmarking and reporting requirements 3(a)(G)	No	VA facilities and projects conform to local requirements. VA's strategy to improve data transfer to ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager will better enable the sharing of utility information to meet local reporting requirements.	
Begin planning for FY 2020 requirement: Ensure all new construction of Federal buildings greater than 5,000 gross square feet that enters the planning process be designed to achieve energy net-zero and, where feasible, water or waste net-zero by FY 2030 3(h)(i)	No	VA is awaiting additional guidance regarding this strategy and looks forward to guidance for net-zero buildings and the new Guiding Principles.  VA plans to establish a net-zero working group to determine how to implement this measure.	
In all new agency lease solicitations over 10,000 rentable square feet, include criteria for energy efficiency as a performance specification or source selection evaluation factor 3(h)(iv)	No	VA uses GSA lease solicitation and lease agreement language including GSA Green Lease Policies and Procedures.  VA looks forward to GSA updating these lease specifications based on E.O. 13693.	
In all new agency lease solicitations over 10,000 rentable square feet, include requirements for building lessor disclosure of carbon emission or energy consumption data for leased portion of building 3(h)(iv)	No	VA uses GSA lease solicitation and lease agreement language including GSA Green Lease Policies and Procedures. VA looks forward to GSA updating these lease specifications based on E.O. 13693.  VA will update its internal databases to collect energy consumption data for leased facilities to report as part of Scope 3 emissions in the Annual DOE Energy and GHG report.	



(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
In planning new facilities or leases, include cost-effective strategies to optimize sustainable space utilization and consideration of existing community transportation planning and infrastructure, including access to public transit 3(h)(vi)	No	<p>VA's SCIP process is designed to reduce gaps in space utilization and access while improving the quality and cost efficiency of the delivery of VA benefits and services through facilities that match current and future demand.</p> <p>VA Directive 0066 - Sustainable Locations Program implements guidance to address the federal requirements to maximize use of existing federal space.</p> <p>VA's Sustainable Design Manual requires consideration for community transportation and access to public transit.</p>	
Ensure that all new construction, major renovation, repair, and alteration of agency buildings includes appropriate design and deployment of fleet charging infrastructure 3(h)(vii)	No	VA's Sustainable Design Manual and Site Design Manual include requirements to implement this strategy. VA will ensure that these documents are kept up-to-date with any new fleet charging requirements or guidance.	
Include climate resilient design and management into the operation, repair, and renovation of existing agency buildings and the design of new buildings 3(h)(viii)	No	VA recognizes that climate change will impact Department services, operations, programs, and assets and has broad national security implications. VA has requirements in the Sustainable Design Manual incorporating climate resiliency into design and new VA facilities must integrate climate change adaptation concepts into site selection and design.	
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Deploy CEQ's Implementing Instructions –Sustainable Locations for Federal Facilities.	Yes	In FY 2012, VA issued Directive 0066 on sustainable locations for VA facilities. VA also deploys a strategy to minimize greenfield construction in choosing new sites. Sustainable siting has been added to the Sustainable Design Manual.	Continue to incorporate sustainable locations metrics in siting new buildings.
Install and monitor energy meters and sub-meters as soon as practicable.	No		
Collect and utilize building and facility energy use data to improve building energy management and performance.	No		

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Incorporate green building specifications into all new construction and major renovation projects.	Yes	VA released three Guiding Principles checklists for new construction and major renovation projects concurrently with the Sustainable Design Guide in May 2014. VA's Master Specifications have a section titled "Sustainable Design Requirements." The Master Specifications are updated on a 3 year cycle, and the Sustainable Design Requirements section was last updated in FY 2013. VA's projects must adhere to VA's Sustainable Design Manual.	1) Complete update of the "Sustainable Design Requirements" in the Completion of VA Master Specifications (contract awarded in early 2015).  2) Document progress toward GBI Guiding Principles Compliance for New Construction for pilot design project.  3) Evaluate USGBC Guiding Principles compliance rating system for potential pilot.
Redesign or lease interior space to reduce energy use by implementing daylighting, space optimization, sensors/control system installation, etc.	No		
Develop and deploy energy and sustainability training for all facility and energy managers.	No		
Include in every construction contract all applicable sustainable acquisition requirements for recycled, biobased, energy efficient, and environmentally preferable products.	No		
Conduct sustainability assessments of existing buildings.	Yes	In FY 2014, a multi-year contract for third-party certification was awarded. Under this contract, over 30 buildings were certified in 2014. As of April 2015, approximately 11.5% of owned and direct-leased buildings over 5,000 GSF have been verified as sustainable. VA will continue to conduct annual sustainability self-assessment surveys for each VA facility greater than 5,000 GSF.	Meet the E.O. 13514 target that 15% of owned and direct-leased buildings over 5,000 GSF are verified as sustainable by the end of FY 2015.
Develop and maintain data and metrics to track the sustainability of existing buildings.	Yes	In the past year, VA began the development of a database to track the certification status of existing buildings. Difficulties associated with lease identification in the Capitol Asset Inventory impeded the development of the database. These issues were resolved at the end of 2014. VA plans to implement changes to the sustainability portion of the database following the summer 2015 data call to update information about capital assets.	1) Complete certification status database by the end of FY 2016.  2) Ensure data transfer between VA databases and ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager.

**Table 2-2: Goal 2 Strategies – Data Center Efficiency**

Section 3(a)(ii) of E.O. 13693 states that agencies must improve data center efficiency at agency facilities. Section 3(a)(ii)(C) requires that agencies establish a power usage effectiveness target in the range of 1.2-1.4 for new data centers and less than 1.5 for existing data centers.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Ensure the agency chief information officer promotes data center energy optimization, efficiency, and performance 3(a)(ii)(A)	Yes	VA is evaluating the recently updated Federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement changes where necessary.	Begin identifying viable, alternative strategies for reaching OMB targets in light of current and projected funding constraints.
Install and monitor advanced energy meters in all data centers by fiscal year 2018 3(a)(ii)(B)	Yes	As decisions regarding the revised consolidation plan may impact which data centers will be closed and which will require energy meters, installation of metering will not likely begin in FY 2016, but will be addressed in the revised consolidation plan for FY 2017 and beyond pending validation of cost effectiveness.	Evaluate recently issued Federal guidance for this requirement in order to explore strategies to implement it. Begin investigating available procurement vehicles for low- or no-cost implementation of advanced energy metering for data centers in preparation for future energy metering deployment.
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Optimize agency Data Centers across total cost of ownership metrics.	Yes	In FY 2015, OMB changed the metric for Core data center cost per operating system per hour (COSH). VA is evaluating the impact of this change. To ensure VA understands and addresses the appropriate costs of ownership, a Pilot project was initiated in Q1 FY 2015.	Expect to complete Pilot project site investigations for several selected sites and analyze alternatives and pre-decisional recommendations based on the results of the pilot.
Improve data center temperature and air-flow management.	No		
Identify and consolidate obsolete and underutilized agency computer servers into energy efficient data centers.	Yes	VA's Virtualization First policy prioritizes consolidation of obsolete and underutilized servers into virtualized environments that improve efficiency as prescribed by OMB.	Continue prioritizing the elimination of obsolete and underutilized servers through its Virtualization First policy.
Identify agency "Core" and "Non-Core" Data Centers.	Yes	VA completed identification of Core and Non-core data centers as directed by OMB.	Explore the need for re-classifying Core and Non-core data centers based on the results of the Pilot project.

## Goal 3: Clean & Renewable Energy

### Agency Clean Energy Share of Total Electric and Thermal Energy Goal

E.O. 13693 3(b) requires that, at a minimum, the percentage of an agency's total electric and thermal energy accounted for by renewable and alternative energy shall be not less than: 10% in FY 2016-17; 13% in FY 2018-19; 16% in FY 2020-21; 20% in FY 2022-23; and 25% by FY 2025.

### Agency Renewable Energy Share of Total Electricity Consumption Goal

E.O. 13693 3(c) sets a second schedule that addresses specifically renewable energy. It requires that renewable energy account for not less than 10% of total electric energy consumed by an agency in FY 2016-17; 15% in FY 2018-19; 20% in FY 2020-21; 25% in FY 2022-23; and 30% by 2025.

**Table 3: Goal 3 Strategies – Clean and Renewable Energy**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Install agency-funded renewable on-site and retain corresponding renewable energy certificates (RECs) or obtaining replacement RECs 3(d)(i)	Yes	VA has installed agency-funded solar photovoltaic systems for on-site energy generation. In FY 2016, VA will continue to conduct feasibility studies and install cost-effective, agency-funded renewable systems.	1) Track number of renewable energy feasibility studies and project contracts awarded in FY 2016. 2) Track number of renewable energy installations installed on-site in FY 2016.
Contract for the purchase of energy that includes installation of renewable energy on or off-site and retain RECs or replacement RECs for the term of the contract 3(d)(ii)	No		
Purchase electricity and corresponding RECs or obtaining equal value replacement RECs 3(d)(iii)	No		
Purchase RECs 3(d)(iv)	Yes	VA meets federal renewable energy mandates through on-site generation of renewable energy and the purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs). VA will continue to purchase RECs in an amount sufficient to meet federal mandates after accounting for renewable energy generated on-site.	Document RECs purchased. RECs will be purchased by the end of FY 2016.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Install thermal renewable energy on-site at Federal facilities and retain corresponding renewable attributes or obtain equal value replacement RECs 3(e)(i)	Yes	VA requires each Administration and VISN to create plans that evaluate facility energy needs and renewable energy feasibility on-site. VA conducts detailed feasibility studies to evaluate potential renewable energy installations of thermal technologies such as geothermal and solar thermal. Renewable energy projects are submitted through the SCIP process for prioritization.	1) Track number of renewable energy feasibility studies and project contracts awarded in FY 2016.  2) Track number of renewable energy installations installed on-site in FY 2016.
Install combined heat and power processes on-site at Federal facilities 3(e)(ii)	Yes	VA requires each Administration and VISN to create plans that evaluate facility energy needs and renewable energy feasibility on-site. VA conducts detailed feasibility studies to evaluate potential renewable energy installations of combined heat and power processes. Renewable energy projects are submitted through the SCIP process for prioritization.	1) Track number of renewable energy feasibility studies and project contracts awarded in FY 2016.  2) Track number of renewable energy installations installed on-site in FY 2016.
Identify opportunities to install fuel cell energy systems on-site at Federal facilities 3(e)(iii)	Yes	VA requires each Administration and VISN to create plans that evaluate facility energy needs and renewable energy feasibility on-site. VA will begin to conduct detailed feasibility studies to evaluate potential renewable energy installations of fuel cell energy systems. Renewable energy projects are submitted through the SCIP process for prioritization.	1) Track number of renewable energy feasibility studies and project contracts awarded in FY 2016. 2) Track number of renewable energy installations installed on-site in FY 2016.
Identify opportunities to utilize energy from small modular nuclear reactor technologies 3(e)(iv)	No		
Identify opportunities to utilize energy from a new project that includes the active capture and storage of carbon dioxide emissions associated with energy generation 3(e)(v)	No		
Implement other alternative energy approaches that advance the policy set forth in section 1 and achieve the goals of section 2 of E.O. 13693 3(e)(vii)	No		
Consider opportunities to install or contract for energy installed on current or formerly contaminated lands, landfills, and mine sites.	No		

## Goal 4: Water Use Efficiency & Management

### Potable Water Consumption Intensity Reduction Goal

E.O. 13693 section 3(f) states that agencies must improve water use efficiency and management, including stormwater management. E.O. 13693 section 3(f)(i) requires agencies to reduce potable water consumption intensity by 2% annually through FY 2025 relative to an FY 2007 baseline (measured in gallons). A 36% reduction is required by FY 2025.

### ILA Water Consumption Reduction Goal

E.O. 13693 section 3(f)(iii) also requires that agencies reduce their industrial, landscaping and agricultural (ILA) water consumption measured in gallons by 2% annually through FY 2025 relative to a FY 2010 baseline.

**Table 4: Goal 4 Strategies – Water Use Efficiency & Management**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Install appropriate green infrastructure features to help with storm- and wastewater management (such as rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, or impervious pavement) 3(f)(iv)	Yes	VA continues to conduct audits at all VA facilities to optimize water use. In FY 2016, VA will improve upon this process by prioritizing cemeteries with larger water consumption and those in severe drought areas, in order to establish a baseline irrigation performance.	In FY 2016, VA will continue to perform irrigation audits by prioritizing cemeteries with larger water consumption and those in severe drought areas, in order to establish a baseline irrigation performance.
Install and monitor water meters; collect and utilize building and facility water data for conservation and management 3(f)(ii)	Yes	VA currently monitors, collects, and utilizes water meter data for water efficient practices.	In FY 2016, VA will continue to collect and analyze building and facility water data collected from water meters.
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Install high efficiency technologies (e.g., WaterSense).	No		
Prepare and implement a water asset management plan to maintain desired level of service at lowest life cycle cost (for best practices from the EPA, go to <a href="http://go.usa.gov/KvbF">http://go.usa.gov/KvbF</a> ).	No		
Minimize outdoor water use and use alternative water sources as much as possible.	No		

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Design and deploy water closed-loop, capture, recharge, and/or reclamation systems.	Yes	VA installs water reclamation systems at facilities where this practice is feasible and sanitary. In FY 2016, VA will continue to use energy audits to identify new opportunities for designing and deploying capture, recharge and reclamation systems where feasible.	Evaluate facility energy audits to select water reclamation upgrades or installations and identify best implementation methods where these practices are feasible and sanitary.
Install advanced meters to measure and monitor (1) potable and (2) industrial, landscaping and agricultural water use.	Yes	VA has installed meters to monitor industrial and landscaping water use at eligible facilities. Meter data is reviewed to identify any unusual variances. In FY 2016, VA will continue to install and train users on soil moisture sensors to help reduce water consumption and experiment with advanced data analysis tools, such as cloud-based irrigation controllers.	1) Review water data throughout the year. 2) Continue to train cemetery field staff and MSN engineers/agronomists on how to use handheld soil moisture meters.
Develop and implement programs to educate employees about methods to minimize water use.	No		
Assess the interconnections and dependencies of energy and water on agency operations, particularly climate change's effects on water which may impact energy use.	No		
Consistent with State law, maximize use of grey-water and water reuse systems that reduce potable and ILA water consumption.	No		
Consistent with State law, identify opportunities for aquifer storage and recovery to ensure consistent water supply availability.	No		
Ensure that planned energy efficiency improvements consider associated opportunities for water conservation.	Yes	VA is installing energy and water efficient fixtures when energy audit findings suggest that these upgrades are needed or potential water savings are demonstrated. Using the audit results, VA decides which upgrades to implement. VA will continue to employ this strategy in FY 2016.	Evaluate facility audits to select water efficiency upgrades and identify the best implementation method.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Where appropriate, identify and implement regional and local drought management and preparedness strategies that reduce agency water consumption including recommendations developed by Regional Federal Executive Boards.	No		



## Goal 5: Fleet Management

### Agency Progress toward Fleet Per-Mile Greenhouse Gas Emissions Goal

E.O. 13693 section 3(g) states that agencies with a fleet of at least 20 motor vehicles will improve fleet and vehicle efficiency and management. E.O. 13693 section 3(g)(ii) requires agencies to take actions that reduce fleet-wide per-mile greenhouse gas emissions from agency fleet vehicles relative to a new, FY 2014 baseline and sets new goals for percentage reductions: not less than 4% by the end of FY 2017; not less than 15 % by the end of FY 2020; and not less than 30% by then end of FY 2025.

E.O. 13693 section 3(g)(i) requires that, as a part of the Sustainability Planning process agencies should determine the optimum fleet inventory, emphasizing eliminating unnecessary or non-essential vehicles. This information is generally available from the agency Vehicle Allocation Methodology (VAM) process that is completed each year. To satisfy this requirement for 2015, please include the VAM results and the appropriate agency fleet management plan to the appendix of this document. Future versions of this plan will require similar submissions by agencies.

**Table 5: Goal 5 Strategies – Fleet Management**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Collect and utilize agency fleet operational data through deployment of vehicle telematics – as soon as is practicable, but not later than two years after date of order 3(g)(iii)	No	VA has been installing telematics systems in its vehicles for many years. The process will continue, and will require VA to determine how telematics will be integrated with GSA data collection.	
Ensure that agency annual asset-level fleet data is properly and accurately accounted for in a formal Fleet Management System as well as submitted to the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool reporting database, the Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System, and the Fleet Sustainability Dashboard (FLEETDASH) system 3(g)(iv)	Yes	In FY 2016, VA will complete conversion of its agency-wide Fleet Management Information System to the GSA systems. VA will continue to populate and submit all fleet-related reporting systems.	Ensure the necessary data is properly and accurately populated into the Federal Fleet Management System (FedFMS) and FMVRS. Utilize FleetDASH to the fullest extent possible.
Plan for agency fleet composition such that 20% of passenger vehicle acquisitions are zero emission or plug-in hybrid vehicles by 2020, and 50% by 2025. Vehicles acquired in other vehicle classes count double toward this target 3(g)(v)	Yes	VA fleet composition includes several types of low emission vehicles. As part of VA's commitment to low emission vehicles, VA will develop a plan on how to expand acquisition its of electric vehicles to meet the goals of E.O. 13693.	Develop a plan for expansion of zero emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles by the end of FY 2016.
Plan for appropriate charging or refueling infrastructure for zero emission or plug-in hybrid vehicles and opportunities for ancillary services to support vehicle-to-grid technology 3(g)(vi)	Yes	VA will develop a plan to expand appropriate infrastructure meet the goals of E.O. 13693.	Develop a plan for infrastructure to support the expansion of zero emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles by the end of FY 2016.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Optimize/Right-size the composition of the fleet (e.g., reduce vehicle size, eliminate underutilized vehicles, acquire and locate vehicles to match local fuel infrastructure).	No		
Increase utilization of alternative fuel in dual-fuel vehicles.	No		
Use a Fleet Management Information System to track fuel consumption throughout the year for agency-owned, GSA-leased, and commercially-leased vehicles.	Yes	VA has determined that GSA DriveThru and FedFMS will be the best option to track vehicle fuel consumption. VA is working with GSA to transition to FedFMS.	Ensure that FedFMS is used by all affected fleets in VA.
Increase GSA leased vehicles and decrease agency-owned fleet vehicles, when cost effective.	No		
Implement vehicle idle mitigation technologies.	No		
Minimize the use of "law enforcement" vehicle exemption and implementing the GSA Bulletin FMR B-33, <i>Motor Vehicle Management, Alternative Fuel Vehicle Guidance for Law Enforcement and Emergency Vehicle Fleets</i> of November 15, 2011.	N/A	Due to the unique uses of VA law enforcement vehicles, the classifications in B-33 do not fit well for the VA fleet. Therefore, this strategy will not be applied to VA vehicles.	
Where State vehicle or fleet technology or fueling infrastructure policies are in place, conform with the minimum requirements of those policies.	No		
Reduce miles traveled (e.g., share vehicles, improve routing with telematics, eliminate trips, improve scheduling, use shuttles, etc.).	No		
Develop and deploy an agency wide training for fleet managers.	Yes	VA will continue to develop and deploy an agency wide training program for fleet managers to ensure consistency through staffing turnover. VA is developing a series of modules for fleet manager training. In the interim, GMP has been conducting comprehensive on-site training for fleet managers as needed.	Develop and deploy Phase I training for fleet management staff by the end of FY 2016.

## Goal 6: Sustainable Acquisition

### Sustainable Acquisition Goal - Biobased

E.O. 13693 section 3(i) requires agencies to promote sustainable acquisition by ensuring that environmental performance and sustainability factors are considered to the maximum extent practicable for all applicable procurements in the planning, award and execution phases of acquisition.

Sections 3(iv) and 3(iv)(A) also require that agencies act, as a part of the implementation and planning requirements of section 14 of E.O. 13693, until agencies have achieved at least 95% compliance with the BioPreferred and biobased purchasing requirement, to establish an annual target for the number of contracts to be awarded with BioPreferred and biobased criteria and dollar value of BioPreferred and biobased products to be delivered and reported under those contracts in the following fiscal year.

To establish this target, agencies shall consider the dollar value of designated BioPreferred and biobased products reported in previous years, the specifications reviewed and revised for inclusion of BioPreferred and biobased products, and the number of applicable product and service contracts to be awarded, including construction, operations and maintenance, food services, vehicle maintenance, and janitorial services.

Per Guidance from CEQ, VA has chosen to not submit a percentage at this time. Please input the number of contracts targeted for FY 2016 here 00 and dollar value here \$00.

**Table 6: Goal 6 Strategies – Sustainable Acquisition**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Meet statutory mandates that require purchase preference for recycled content products designated by EPA 3(i)(i)(A)	No	This requirement has already been incorporated in VA Green Purchasing Program, via VA Directive & Handbook 0058.	
Meet statutory mandates that require purchase preference for energy and water efficient products and services, such as ENERGY STAR qualified and FEMP-designated products, identified by EPA and DOE 3(i)(i)(B)	No	This requirement has already been incorporated in VA Green Purchasing Program, via VA Directive & Handbook 0058.	
Meet statutory mandates that require purchase preference for Biopreferred and biobased designated products designated by the USDA 3(i)(i)(C)	No	This requirement has already been incorporated in VA Green Purchasing Program, via VA Directive & Handbook 0058.	
Purchase sustainable or products and services identified by EPA programs such as the ones outlined in 3(i)(ii)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Purchase Significant New Alternative Policy (SNAP) chemicals or other alternatives to ozone-depleting substances and high global warming potential hydrofluorocarbons, where feasible 3(i)(ii)(A)	No	The requirement to buy non-ozone depleting substances has already been incorporated in VA Green Purchasing Program, via VA Directive & Handbook 0058. VA is also evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	
Purchase WaterSense certified products and services (water efficient products) 3(i)(ii)(B)	No	This requirement has already been incorporated in VA Green Purchasing Program, via VA Directive & Handbook 0058.	
Purchase Safer Choice labeled products (chemically intensive products that contain safer ingredients) 3(i)(ii)(C)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	
Purchase SmartWay Transport partners and SmartWay products (fuel efficient products and services) 3(i)(ii)(D)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	
Purchase environmentally preferable products and services that meet or exceed specifications, standards, or labels recommended by EPA that have been determined to assist agencies in meeting their needs and further advance sustainable procurement goals of this order 3(i)(iii)(A)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	
Meet environmental performance criteria developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies consistent with section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 3(i)(iii)(B)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	
Ensure contractors submit timely annual reports of their BioPreferred and biobased purchases 3(i)(iv)(B)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	
Reduce copier and printing paper use and acquiring uncoated printing and writing paper containing at least 30% postconsumer recycled content or higher as designated by future instruction under section 4(e) of E.O. 13693 3(i)(v)	No	VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Update and deploy agency procurement policies and programs to ensure that federally- mandated designated sustainable products are included in all relevant procurements and services.	Yes	VA issued a procurement policy memorandum promoting compliance with the 95% sustainable acquisition goal under E.O.13514 and FAR 23.103. VA also issued an Acquisition Policy Flash reminding the acquisition workforce of recent FAR revisions regarding EPEAT procurement requirements. VA continues to use its Directive 0057, VA Environmental Management Program, which requires VA to ensure the acquisition of environmentally preferable goods and services, and VA Directive and Handbook 0058, VA Green Purchasing Program. These documents provide policy and guidance to the acquisition workforce and other staff on how to integrate sustainable acquisition into agency procurements.	Continue to utilize the policy and guidance in VA Directive and Handbook 0058, VA Green Purchasing Program.  Begin to explore potential revisions to existing procurement policy documents that would be needed to address the new E.O. 13693.
Deploy corrective actions to address identified barriers to increasing sustainable procurements with special emphasis on biobased purchasing.	No		
Include biobased and other FAR sustainability clauses in all applicable construction and other relevant service contracts.	Yes	VA's electronic contract management system (eCMS) makes available biobased and other FAR sustainability clauses. In addition, VA's Sustainable Design Manual and master construction specifications include biobased and other sustainable procurement requirements. VA will continue to promote biobased and other types of sustainable acquisitions.	Continue to use 5% contract reviews to demonstrate compliance with the inclusion of applicable biobased and sustainability clauses.  Continue to use the VA Master Specifications and Sustainable Design Manual to help ensure applicable construction contracts contain appropriate green criteria.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Review and update agency specifications to include and encourage biobased and other designated green products to enable meeting sustainable acquisition goals.	Yes	VA reviewed many of its specifications for biobased applicability and updated several of the specifications with biobased procurement criteria. VA issued a task order to update Master Construction Specification Section 01 81 11 (Sustainable Design Requirements). This section will be updated to reflect changes in federal requirements and to support requirements shown in VA's Sustainable Design Manual. This update will include a review of all green purchasing requirements.	Continue to review and update specifications with biobased criteria, where appropriate.
Use Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiatives, such as Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) for office products and imaging equipment, which include sustainable acquisition requirements.	Yes	1) The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Logistics signed a memo on March 19, 2015, instructing Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative for Office Supplies Third Generation (FSSI OS3) as the mandatory source of office supplies within VA. FSSI OS 3 BPAs help VA effectively meet its sustainable acquisition goals. 2) GSA's Managed Print Services (MPS) Commodity Team, OMB's Category Management Leadership Council, and the Vendor Community jointly decided to manage MPS requirements at the "buyer level" through GSA Schedule 36, Defense Logistics Agency Document Services, SEWP, and other government solutions.	1) Continue to utilize FSSI OS 3. VA will continue to monitor enterprise spend for the purchase of office supplies to determine if the FSSI OS 3 BPAs help VA achieve significant savings on their office supply purchases.  2) Plan to use the VA's Transformational Total Technology Twenty-One (T4) BPA and the GSA FSSI MPS BPA to meet MPS requirements.
Report on sustainability compliance in contractor performance reviews.	No		
Ensure that agency purchase-card holder policies direct the exclusive use of the GSA Green Procurement Compilation where desired products are listed in the Compilation.	No		
Employ environmentally sound disposal practices with respect to agency disposition of excess or surplus electronics.	No		

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Develop and implement green purchasing training.	Yes	During the past year, VA revised training materials and delivered green purchasing training to an acquisition risk management shop. VA also hosted two webinars on the GPC tool conducted by GSA. VA issued quarterly <i>GPN</i> electronic newsletter focusing on biobased procurement requirements and other aspects of sustainable acquisition. VA co-chaired the SAMM training sub-group, which updated the Sustainable Acquisition Training Resources tool that is available at <a href="http://FedCenter.gov">FedCenter.gov</a> .	Continue to conduct outreach and training on green purchasing requirements through existing training and communications methods.



## Goal 7: Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction

### Agency Progress toward Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction

E.O. 13693 section 3(j) requires that federal agencies advance waste prevention and pollution prevention. E.O. 13693 section 3(j)(iii) requires agencies to annually divert at least 50% of non-hazardous construction and demolition debris and section 3(j)(ii) requires agencies to divert at least 50% of non-hazardous solid waste, including food and compostable material, and to pursue opportunities for net-zero waste or additional diversion.

**Table 7: Goal 7 Strategies – Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Report in accordance with the requirements of sections 301 through 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C 11001-11023) 3(j)(i)	No	VA has a program in place to ensure that all covered facilities and operations report in accordance with the requirements of sections 301-313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.	
Reduce or minimize the quantity of toxic and hazardous chemicals acquired, used, or disposed of, particularly where such reduction will assist the agency in pursuing agency greenhouse gas reduction targets established in section 2 of E.O. 13693 3(j)(iv)	Yes	VA employs a mature Chemicals Management Program at the facility level in order to meet federal, state, and local regulations. VA updates the Chemicals Management Program as necessary to assess toxic and hazardous chemicals maintained in facility inventories and also to ensure that refrigerants and other fugitive emissions are reduced and recovered where they cannot be eliminated.	Continue to follow the Chemicals Management and Pollution Prevention Directive, and monitor execution of the VA Chemicals Management Program.
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Eliminate, reduce, or recover refrigerants and other fugitive emissions.	No		
Reduce waste generation through elimination, source reduction, and recycling.	Yes	VA's Waste Management and Recycling Program is administered through environmental management systems all VA facilities. VHA uses Practice GreenHealth, a service which enables VHA to track waste generation and diversion rates.	Continue to expand the number of facilities using Practice GreenHealth to track waste generation and diversion at VHA facilities.
Implement integrated pest management and improved landscape management practices to reduce and eliminate the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals/materials.	No		



(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Establish a tracking and reporting system for construction and demolition debris elimination.	Yes	VA manages construction and demolition waste through the VA Waste Management and Recycling Program. This program ensures that construction waste prevention and recycling policies are incorporated into contracts and staff training as applicable. GMP will continue to conduct annual data calls on construction and demolition waste to inform progress against this initiative.	Conduct an annual data call on construction and demolition waste.
Develop/revise Agency Chemicals Inventory Plans and identify and deploy chemical elimination, substitution, and/or management opportunities.	Yes	VHA employs a service to track SDSs and chemical inventories on-site at 176 VA facilities/locations, and to support the use of the GPA. GPA allows safety and environmental staff to assess the relative hazard impact of a product and its more sustainable alternatives. This system has helped VA establish a baseline and methodology to measure performance in eliminating, substituting and managing chemicals onsite. VA is continuing to expand the use of this service across VHA.	Track percentage of facilities transitioned and utilizing the SDS/Chemical Inventory Service as the enterprise standard, with full implementation by the end of FY 2016.
Inventory of current HFC use and purchases.	Yes	In 2014, VA developed an approach for development of an HFC tracking system. VA is testing and refining its initial methodology and tracking system for HFC use and purchases.	Test initial tracking system by collecting data from multiple facilities across VA, and discuss ideas for improvement.
Require high-level waiver or contract approval for any agency use of HFCs.	No		
Ensure HFC management training and recycling equipment are available.	No		

## Goal 8: Energy Performance Contracts

### Agency Progress on Energy Performance Contracting

E.O. 13693 section 3(k) requires that agencies implement performance contracts for federal buildings. E.O. 13693 section 3(k)(iii) also requires that agencies provide annual agency targets for performance contracting to be implemented in FY 2017 and annually thereafter as part of the planning of section 14 of this order.

**Table 8: Goal 8 Strategies – Energy Performance Contracting**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Utilize performance contracting to meet identified energy efficiency and management goals while deploying life-cycle cost effective energy and clean energy technology and water conservation measures 3(k)(i)	No	VA is dedicated to utilizing energy performance-based contracting to improve its energy efficiency. In the past year, VA has awarded over \$23 million in energy performance-based contracts and is moving forward on contracts for facilities in seven regions.	
Fulfill existing agency performance contracting commitments towards the \$4 billion by the end of calendar year 2016 goal established as part of the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, Climate Change Cross Agency Priority process 3(k)(ii)	No	During FY 2014, VA continued to participate in the President's Performance Contracting Challenge and track measurement and verification data for all awarded projects. VA is on track to meet its 2016 Presidential Performance Contracting Challenge (PPCC) commitment. During the upcoming year, VA will develop data and requirements language for additional performance contracts in additional regions while expanding project work at selected current project regions.	
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Evaluate all buildings over 50,000 sq. ft. for use with energy performance contracts	Yes	VA performs audits of all large buildings to identify buildings with the greatest potential energy and cost savings.	1) Report energy audits at 25% of covered facilities in the next 12 months with a reporting deadline in CTS of June 30, 2016. 2) Report audits in CTS on an annual basis.
Evaluate 25% of agency's most energy intensive buildings for use with energy performance contracts	No		
Prioritize top ten projects which will provide greatest energy savings potential	No		
Cut cycle time of performance contracting process by at least 25%	No		

<b>(A) Strategy</b>	<b>(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA</b>	<b>(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)</b>	<b>(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months</b>
Assign agency lead to participate in strategic sourcing initiatives	Yes	VA's Office of Asset Enterprise Management has assigned a point of contact to support strategic sourcing initiatives. The Program Office explores potential opportunities with every project as well as one-off opportunities.	Assign at least one agency lead from the Office of Asset Enterprise Management to participate in strategic sourcing initiatives. The agency lead will participate in every applicable strategic sourcing initiative and implement opportunities where feasible.
Devote 2% of new commitments to small buildings (<20k sq. ft.)	No		
Identify and commit to include 3-5 onsite renewable energy projects in energy performance contracts	No		
Ensure relevant legal and procurement staff are trained by FEMP ESPC/ UESC course curriculum	Yes	VA's centralized performance contracting office receives FEMP ESPC and UESC training on a regular basis.	Have each member of the Energy Performance Contracting Team within Program Contracting Activity Central (PCAC) participate in at least one FEMP ESPC/UESC online or in-person course curriculum per year.
Provide measurement and verification data for all awarded projects	Yes	Under the requirements of VA's energy performance-based contracting program, VA collects performance and savings data for all awarded and accepted projects. After construction is complete on an ESPC contract, VA begins to receive measurement and verification reports in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the contract.	Track measurement and verification data for all awarded and accepted energy performance-based contracts in a centralized database managed by PCAC.
Enter all reported energy savings data for operational projects into MAX COLLECT (max.gov)	Yes	VA submits all reportable energy savings data each month.	Enter 100% of reportable energy savings data for awarded projects into MAX COLLECT by the 15th of each month.

## Goal 9: Electronic Stewardship

### Agency Progress on Electronic Stewardship

E.O. 13693 section 3(l) requires that agencies promote electronics stewardship and requires ensuring procurement preference for environmentally sustainable electronic products as established in section 3(i); (ii) establishing and implementing policies to enable power management, duplex printing, and other energy-efficient or environmentally sustainable features on all eligible agency electronic products; and (iii) employing environmentally sound practices with respect to the agency's disposition of all agency excess or surplus electronic products.

**Table 9: Goal 9 Strategies – Electronic Stewardship**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Establish, measure, and report procurement preference for environmentally sustainable electronic products 3(l)(i)	Yes	The VA Directive and Handbook 0058 VA Green Purchasing Program addresses federal requirements for purchasing environmentally preferable products, including electronics.  VA is evaluating the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and will be exploring strategies to implement it.	Evaluate the recently issued federal guidance for this requirement and explore strategies to implement it.
Establish, measure, and report policies to enable power management, duplex printing, and other energy-efficient or environmentally sustainable features on all eligible agency electronic products 3(l)(ii)	Yes	VA continues to ensure that eligible PCs, monitors, and laptops are power management enabled. This strategy is for current and new electronic products as they are brought into use. VA Information Letter 049-07-03, Cost Effective Paper Waste Reduction and Prevention Efforts (11-28-2006) provides guidance on duplexing and other methods for reducing paper consumption. VA also provides employees with duplexing and other green printing tips as part of an online "greening toolkit."	Continue monitoring compliance auditing via the 1E Agility Framework Reporting (AFR) server/ Microsoft Systems Center Configuration Manager 2007.
Establish, measure, and report sound practices with respect to the agency's disposition of excess or surplus electronic products 3(l)(iii)	Yes	VA used Unicor to recycle 5,311,024 lbs. of end-of-life electronics in FY 2014.	Continue utilizing Unicor R2-certified facilities to recycle VA end-of-life electronics.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Update and deploy policies to use environmentally sound practices for disposition of all agency excess or surplus electronic products and monitor compliance.	Yes	VA's policy is to use environmentally sound practices with respect to the disposition of electronic equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. VA utilizes a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Unicor, whose e-recycling facilities are R2-certified.	Continue to deploy VA's MOU with Unicor to recycle VA end-of-life electronics in an environmentally sound manner.
Promote acquisition of EPEAT registered, ENERGY STAR qualified, and FEMP designated electronic office products	Yes	Issued a procurement policy memorandum to promote compliance with federal sustainable acquisition requirements, including EPEAT, ENERGY STAR, and FEMP. VA also issued an Acquisition Policy Flash to remind the VA Acquisition Workforce of recent revisions to the FAR regarding the requirement to procure EPEAT products. VA Directive and Handbook 0058 VA Green Purchasing Program addresses federal requirements for purchasing EPEAT, ENERGY STAR, and FEMP designated products. VA acquired EPEAT and ENERGY STAR electronic products through the Commodities Enterprise Contract (CEC), the NASA SEWP IV and V contracts, and the Dell ID/IQ PC Refresh contract.	Plan to continue purchasing EPEAT and ENERGY STAR electronic products using the CEC and NASA SEWP V contracts. Continue outreach with acquisition workforce on EPEAT requirements.

## Goal 10: Climate Change Resilience

**Table 10: Goal 10 Strategies – Climate Change Resilience**

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
<b>(A) Required Strategy under E.O. 13693</b>			
Update agency external programs and policies (including grants, loans, technical assistance, etc.) to incentivize planning for, and addressing the impacts of, climate change. (In column C, identify names of agency programs or policies)	No	VA will continue to explore opportunities to update agency external programs and policies. VA will also consider adopting language to incentivize planning for, and addressing the impacts of, climate change.	
<b>(A) Recommended Strategy</b>			
Update agency emergency response procedures and protocols to account for projected climate change, including extreme weather events.	No		
Ensure workforce protocols and policies reflect projected human health and safety impacts of climate change.	Yes	VA promotes climate change adaptation awareness through traditional workforce events, activities, and programs. In 2015, there were Earth Day events at numerous VA locations to raise employee environmental awareness. VA has health and safety programs to ensure that workers take the appropriate actions when exposed to extreme weather.	Develop materials, events, activities, and programs.
Update agency external programs and policies (including grants, loans, technical assistance, etc.) to incentivize planning for, and addressing the impacts of, climate change.	No		

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Ensure agency principals demonstrate commitment to adaptation efforts through internal communications and policies.	Yes	VA's Climate Change Adaptation Directive 0065 was signed on June 29, 2012. The Directive sets forth VA policy related to climate change adaptation planning, including the implementation of strategies to minimize the impacts of climate change while carrying out the Department's core mission. In FY 2015, VA reviewed the directive and ensured that the content is current and accurate. VA has also shared information and created a collaborative environment for adaptation efforts using an internal SharePoint site and has participated in interagency meetings.	1) Review Climate Change Adaptation Directive 0065 annually and update as needed.  2) Monitor and review climate change information on a regular basis. Establish protocol (e.g., frequency and level of detail) for tracking climate change science advancements on SharePoint.  3) Facilitate introductions among technical peers at VA and other organizations to share best practices.
Identify vulnerable communities that are served by agency mission and are potentially impacted by climate change and identify measures to address those vulnerabilities where possible.	Yes	VA developed and utilizes a disease surveillance tool (HAISS- Healthcare Associated Infections and Influenza Surveillance System) that tracks the infection rate of vector borne diseases in VHA's patient population. This system is able to track dengue in addition to other vector borne diseases associated with a changing climate.	Continue to utilize the VA disease surveillance tool to track additional vector borne diseases.
Ensure that agency climate adaptation and resilience policies and programs reflect best available current climate change science, updated as necessary.	Yes	VA will continue to send a representative from the Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM) to the multi-agency Climate Change Community of Practice (COP) meetings.	Attend COP meetings.
Design and construct new or modify/manage existing agency facilities and/or infrastructure to account for the potential impacts of projected climate change.	Yes	VA has started to develop guidance for project teams on how to incorporate climate change adaptation into project planning and development. This has primarily been through continued development of a new sea level rise design standard that will include site selection guidance, sea level rise data and mapping resources, sea level rise and storm surge adaptation strategies, and consideration of more frequent and intense storm surge events.  VA has also started to analyze vulnerability from SLR sea level rise and sea level rise enhanced storm surge at all VA medical centers.	Finalize and adopt a new sea level rise design standard for new and renovated facilities.

(A) Strategy	(B) Top Five? Yes/No/NA	(C) Strategy Narrative (100 word limit)	(D) Specific targets/metrics to measure success including milestones in next 12 months
Incorporate climate preparedness and resilience into planning and implementation guidelines for agency-implemented projects.	No		
Ensure climate change adaptation is integrated into both agency-wide and regional planning efforts, in coordination with other Federal agencies as well as state and local partners, Tribal governments, and private stakeholders.	No		



# Appendices

Appendix A: FY 2015 Fleet Management Plan and Budget Narrative for the U.S. Department Of Veterans Affairs

Appendix B: Summary of actions planned for GHG supply chain.

Appendix C: Revised Climate Adaptation Plan and Preliminary Plan to Address the Preparedness and Resilience Requirements of E.O. 13693.