



2015 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan



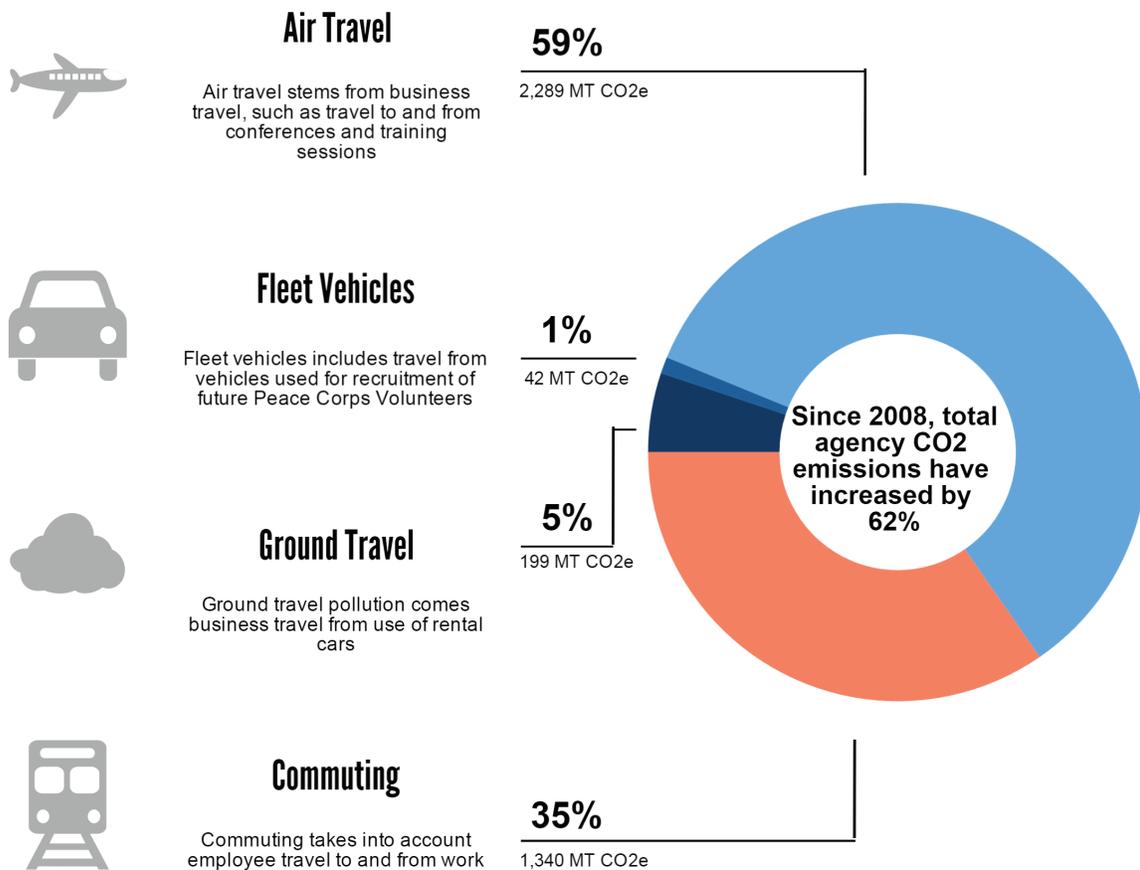


The Peace Corps Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan 2015

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This report is available at www.peacecorps.gov/docs.
Send comments or questions to greenteam@peacecorps.gov
or to the Peace Corps mailing address above.

Peace Corps Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fiscal Year 2014



The graphic above displays the Peace Corps fiscal year 2014 greenhouse gas emissions as reported to the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program. Peace Corps' emissions include domestic mobile combustion, business air travel, business ground travel, and employee commuting. Peace Corps does not own any buildings greater than 10,000 square feet and is not required to report leased building space data that is reflected in scope 2 reporting requirements.



Since 1961.

June 8, 2015

Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade

The Peace Corps contributes to the U.S. Government's consumption of energy by Volunteers, staff, facilities, air travel and vehicles in the United States and 61 countries. Executive Order (EO) 13693 reflects an aspiration to reduce government-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by fiscal year 2025.

To comply with the President's Executive Order, Peace Corps maintains programs directed by a Chief Sustainability Officer. Sustainability programs align with the Agency's strategic plan and address the risk of climate change by creating strategies to reduce greenhouse emission and adapt to anticipated climate stressors. Sustainability at Peace Corps is significantly enhanced by the remarkable spirit, creativity and innovation of Volunteers and staff.

The Peace Corps provides leadership in enhancing programs that build capacity and strengthen resilience among the most vulnerable communities where Volunteers serve. Policies and programs related to climate change are designed to help support the Peace Corps mission and enhance the resilience of climate-sensitive program sectors.

The Peace Corps is committed to meeting the goals of EO 13693.

Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Director

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Executive Summary

Since its establishment in 1961, the Peace Corps has been guided by a mission of world peace and friendship. In supporting its mission, the Peace Corps Act (1961) articulates three core goals to advance a vision of world peace, sustainable development, and friendship.

- To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served
- To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans



Sustainability is fundamental to the Peace Corps mission. Peace Corps Volunteers strengthen local communities' understanding of environmental sustainability through intercultural exchange and empowering grassroots initiatives.

Although the agency is mandated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it is also tasked with maintaining future operations with a diverse cohort of Volunteers serving abroad.

In this way, the Peace Corps' sustainability initiatives are faced with an ecological paradox: How can the agency meet business-related metrics while reducing greenhouse gas emissions? To address this challenge, agency-level sustainability strategies must involve the creativity and innovation of staff and Volunteers to ensure agency operations consider global environmental impacts.

These core goals remain at the heart of the Peace Corps mission, and are reiterated in three strategic goals that serve as the foundation of the Peace Corps Strategic Plan FY 2014–18:

Strategic Goal 1:

Building Local Capacity

Advance local development by strengthening the capacity of local communities and individuals through the service of trained Volunteers

Strategic Goal 2:

Sharing America with the World

Promote a better understanding of Americans through Volunteers who live and work within local communities

Strategic Goal 3:

Bringing the World Back Home

Increase Americans' awareness and knowledge of other cultures and global issues through Volunteers who share their Peace Corps experiences and continue to serve upon their return

The Peace Corps' Vision

Communities depend on clean air, water, healthy soils, trees, and biodiverse resources to help maintain healthy livelihoods. However, a changing environment negatively impacts a community's ability to plan for the future. To counteract this, Peace Corps Volunteers and staff build host communities' capacity and availability of social resources for diverse adaptation activities. By applying the same principles of adaptation and resilience to its own operations, the Peace Corps models comprehensive sustainable business-management strategies for Volunteers and host country partners alike.

Leadership

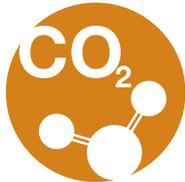
The agency's sustainability programs are organized under the Peace Corps Office of Management and directed by a chief sustainability officer, who establishes the agency's framework for achieving resilient operational goals that align with the cross-cutting goals in the Peace Corps Strategic Plan FY 2014–18. Within the Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, the Peace Corps' annual sustainability strategies build on previous years' progress and the President's more recent Executive Order addressing leadership in planning for federal sustainability in the next decade.



Performance Review

The Peace Corps continues to prioritize resilience and adaptation planning addressed by the National Climate Assessment as a part of the agency's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan. The Peace Corps is aware of both the operational vulnerabilities as a result of climate change, and its unique opportunity to act as a leader across the global landscape. In reviewing its 2014 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, the Peace Corps has learned many lessons and demonstrated areas of successful integration.

GOAL 1 Greenhouse Gas Reduction



In 2014, the President's Executive Order 13514 required each agency to establish a scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emission reduction goal to be achieved by fiscal year 2020.

Scope 1 and 2 goals represent direct emissions as a result of agency actions, i.e., building energy or vehicle petroleum consumption. The agency set a target to reduce emissions based on default reporting methods provided by the Department of Energy Federal Energy Management Program and reports its results annually using 2008 as the agency's baseline year.

The greenhouse gas emissions report provides a good framework for measuring success; however, staff numbers directly impact emissions at the Peace Corps. Because staff numbers fluctuate frequently, the Peace Corps is evaluating how best to use this data to measure success. One area of focus is the need for additional behavior change programs to reduce emissions. To mitigate the Peace Corps' contributions to greenhouse gas emission, the agency is committed to meeting the President's target to reduce emissions by 40 percent by FY 2025.

At this time, the agency is working to set specific targets for overseas locations but continues to be limited by the uncertainty of data accuracy. However, the Peace Corps has identified opportunities to reduce energy consumption through trainings, evaluations, and management systems pertaining to its global operations. Specifically, the agency continues to build the capacity of systems that manage and monitor energy data at overseas locations. In 2015, the Peace Corps will continue to collect energy data from leased facilities overseas and distribute energy scorecards to post's country directors and directors of management and operations.

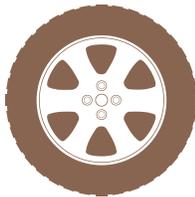
GOAL 2 Sustainable Buildings



Executive Order 13514 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) require that, by FY 2015, agencies reduce fleet petroleum use by 20 percent compared to a FY 2005 baseline.

To address better management of the agency's fleet, the Peace Corps implemented its first car-sharing program to remove underutilized domestic vehicles and reduce per-mile vehicle emissions by having access to a network of vehicles utilizing renewable technologies. In coordination with the contractor, the Peace Corps is monitoring greenhouse gas emissions as a result of using a new network of vehicles.

GOAL 3 Fleet Management



Executive Order 13514 requires federal agencies to promote pollution prevention and eliminate waste.

The EO requires agencies to minimize the use of toxic and hazardous chemicals and pursue acceptable alternatives. To fulfill these directives, the agency has implemented a single-stream recycling and commercial composting program at its headquarters building, which takes less time and effort for occupants to determine what is recyclable (or not). In addition to headquarters-specific efforts, Volunteers and their local partners implemented 69 communitywide solid waste management programs in four countries during FY 2014.

GOAL 4 Sustainable Acquisition



Executive Order 13514 required agencies to advance sustainable acquisitions and ensure that, annually, 95 percent of applicable new contract actions meet 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.

Although agency-designated contracting officer representatives include environmentally preferable specifications into contract requirements packages, the agency has not met the goal in this category. With technology advances in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS), the Peace Corps is confident in its ability to ensure 100 percent of applicable new contract actions meet federal mandates for acquiring sustainable/recovered products and energy-efficient alternatives. Given the high rate of staff attrition, this requires leadership and continued staff training of Federal Acquisition Regulations related to environmentally preferable procurements.

GOAL 5 Electronic Stewardship and Data Centers



GOAL 6 Climate Change Resilience



The Peace Corps provides leadership to enhance programs that build capacity and strengthen resilience in the most vulnerable communities where Volunteers serve. Policies and programs related to climate change are designed to help further the Peace Corps mission, enhance the resilience of climate-sensitive program sectors, and reduce the agency's risks to the continuity of operations worldwide.

Consistent with the framework and principles set forth in Executive Order 13677 on Climate-Resilient International Development, the agency started designing, and plans to implement, monitor, and evaluate, programs that prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change with input from offices across the agency. Peace Corps programs will incorporate the best available science and technology, prioritize the most-vulnerable communities and populations, and integrate adaptation into post strategic plans and programs to increase ecosystem resilience.



2015 Sustainability Program Accomplishments

Green Energy Challenge

To date in FY 2015, 49 overseas posts have participated in the agency's Green Energy Challenge, tracking energy use, developing plans for appropriate energy improvements, and educating staff about their efforts. Through their commitment to energy conservation, the top three performing regional overseas offices reduced their energy consumption by 164,355 kWh between FY 2013 and FY 2014. By implementing energy savings measures at post headquarters, Zambia saved nearly \$6,000 in FY 2014.

2015 Federal Bike-to-Work Challenge

In May 2015, Peace Corps staff participated in Federal Bike-to-Work month. With more than 117 riders agencywide, the Peace Corps rode 19,644 miles.

Community Supported Agriculture

In its third year, the agency's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program comprises a network of individuals who are supporting a local farm—and sustainable food production. To date in 2015, 51 employees have participated in the CSA program, helping to build a culture of sustainability and wellness within the agency.

Car-sharing

In fiscal year 2015, the Peace Corps awarded its first on-demand car-sharing contract in an effort to eliminate underused vehicles, better plan for strategic travel, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In FY 2015, the Peace Corps began using Zipcar in an effort to reduce the number of underutilized vehicles and vehicle miles traveled. Since October 2014, 57 drivers have driven 7,267 miles using Zipcar and three vehicles have been removed from the domestic fleet as a result of using on-demand car-sharing services.



Agency Size and Scope



Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget



Total Number of Buildings Owned



Total Buildings Gross Square Feet



Total Number of Buildings Leased (GSA and Non-GSA Lease)



Total Acres of Land Managed



Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned



Total Number of Exempted-Fleet Vehicles (tactical, law enforcement emergency, etc.)



Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased



Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.

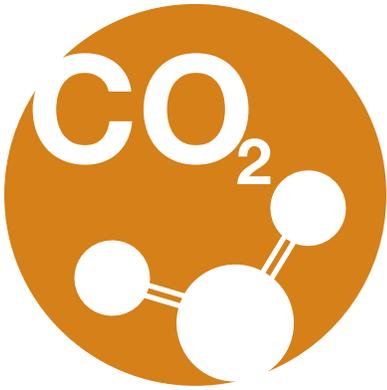


Total Amount Contracts Awarded as Reported in Federal Procurement Data System)



Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.





GOAL 1

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Agency Progress Toward Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas Goals

EO 13693 recognizes the opportunity for the federal government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent by FY 2025 and directs individual federal agencies to set specific extended scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for FY 2025 from a FY 2008 baseline.

Strategy 1

Ensure that all major renovations and new building designs are 30 percent more efficient than applicable code.

The agency continues to explore alternative workspace to better capitalize on its visibility within the community. The agency is piloting a new storefront concept to reduce its building footprint, utilize open-space concepts, and incorporate U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) strategies in sourcing sustainable furnishings.

Metric:

75%

of build-to-suit lease solicitations shall include LEED specifications where fiscally practicable.





Peace Corps Progress toward Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas Goals

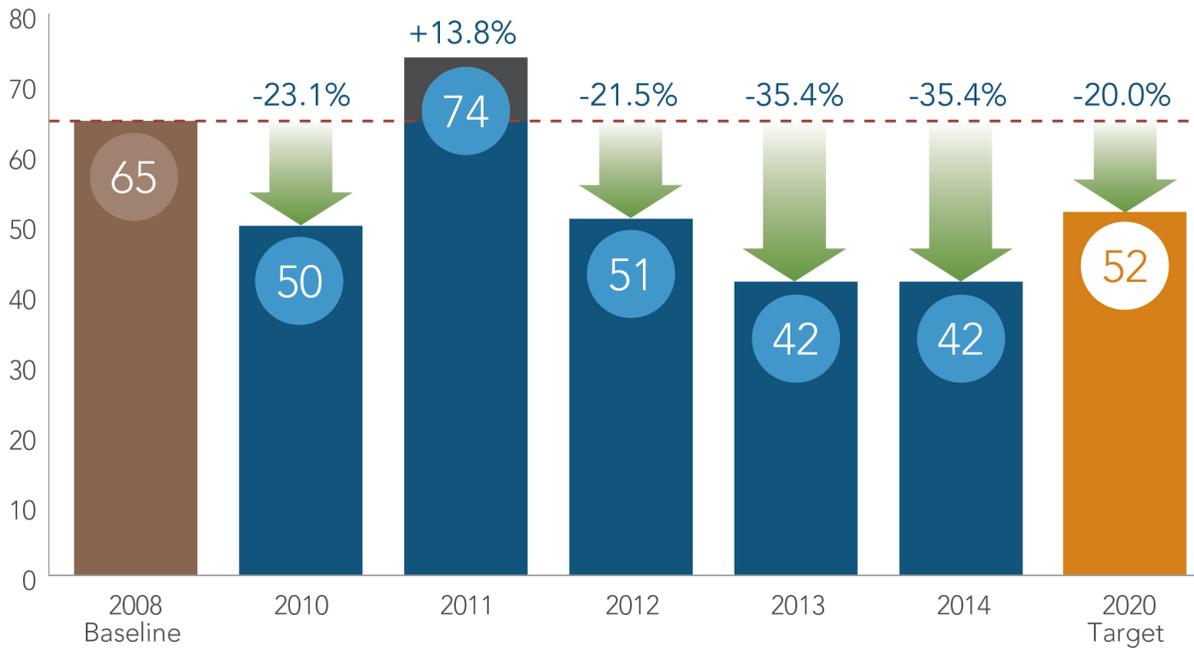


Figure 1. The Peace Corps' progress toward Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas goals. Metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted by the agency from 2008–14, and the 2020 target goal.



Agency Progress Toward Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Goal

In FY 2010, under EO 13514, federal agencies were directed to set reduction targets for FY 2020 from a FY 2008 baseline for six categories of indirect scope 3 greenhouse emissions; individual agency goals taken together resulted in a federal government commitment of approximately 13 percent reduction by FY 2020 from a FY 2008 baseline. EO 13693 commits the federal government to continue progress in scope 3 emission reductions and further asks agencies to set extended scope 3 emissions reduction targets for FY 2025 from a FY 2008 baseline. (Figure 2)



Peace Corps Progress Toward Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Goals

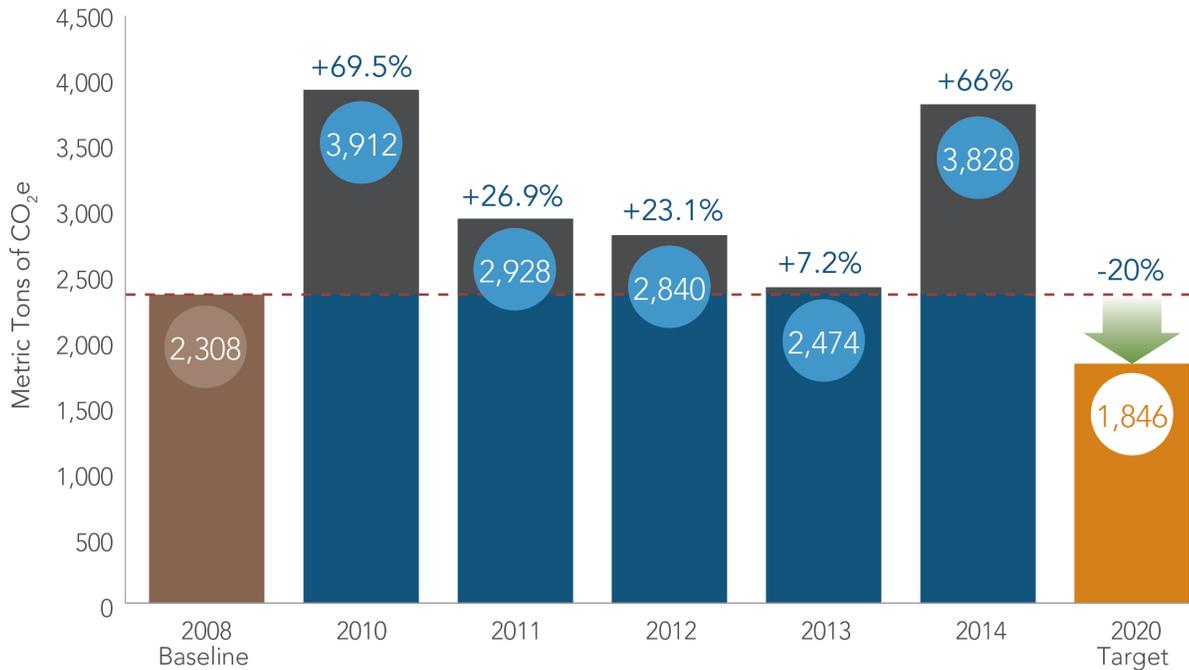


Figure 2. The Peace Corps’ progress toward Scope 3 greenhouse gas goals. Metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted by the agency from 2008–14, and the 2025 target goal.

Strategy 1

Use the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) greenhouse gas emission report to identify and target high-emission categories and implement specific actions to reduce high-emission areas.

The FY 2014 scope 3 commuter survey found that 77.45 percent of domestic employees use the Peace Corps’ transit benefit program. In addition, the commuter survey found 30.3 percent of respondents telework at least one day per week. The responses from the scope 3 commuter survey prompted the agency to explore additional employee programs to reduce employee emissions.

Metric:

Reduce scope 3 emissions by

20%

by FY 2020, relative to the FY 2008 baseline.

Strategy 2

Reduce employee business ground travel.

To reduce scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions, the Peace Corps is committed to limiting regional leadership’s trips, prioritizing them based on the greatest return on investment; using distance recruitment techniques, such as WebEx video conferencing, to reduce mission-critical travel; and using mapping analytics create strategic travel plans to provide the greatest return on investment and reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled.

Metric:

Using a car-sharing network and mapping analytics, identify and prioritize strategic travel to provide the greatest return on investment.



GOAL 1: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Strategy 3

Develop and deploy employee commute-reduction plan.

The Peace Corps provides employees with a maximum monthly fare subsidy specified under Internal Revenue Code (26 USC Section 132 [f]). The commuter subsidy programs apply to Peace Corps domestic employees who use mass transportation, commuter rail, or commuter highway vehicles (such as vanpools and buses) to commute to and/or from work.

Metric:

Maintain current alternative commute incentives and encourage ride sharing, carpooling, and biking.

Strategy 4

Develop and implement a bike-sharing strategy.

The Peace Corps currently offers subsidized Capital Bikeshare memberships to staff. Subsidizing Capital Bikeshare memberships provides two benefits to the agency: an alternative transportation option and health and wellness benefits. In addition, the agency will explore if purchasing Peace Corps-branded bikes could provide a bike-sharing benefit to the agency.

Metric:

Increase Capital Bikeshare memberships offered to staff from

250 to 500.

Purchase branded bike-sharing bicycles as a local transportation alternative.

Strategy 5

Provide bicycle commuting infrastructure.

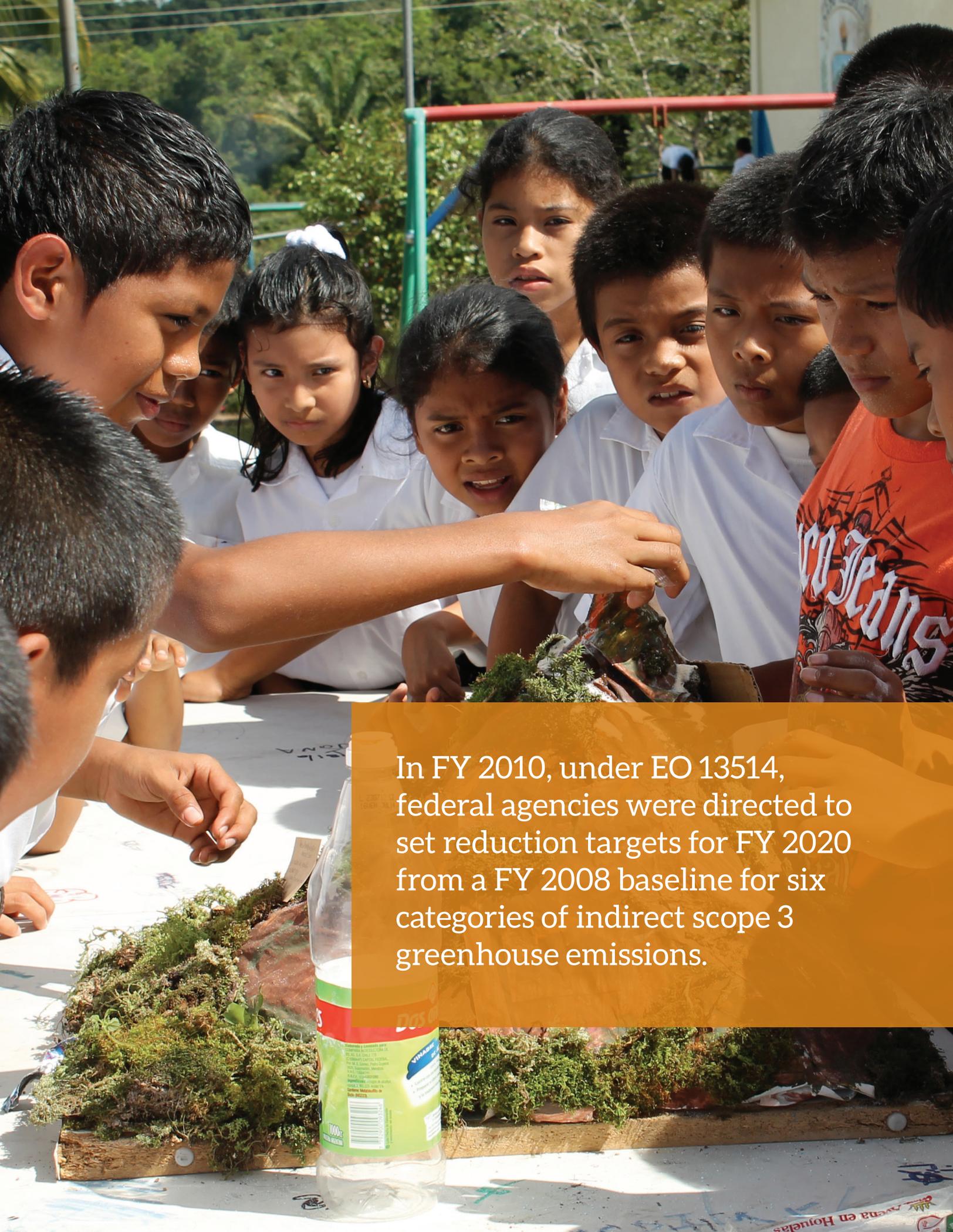
A Qualified Bicycle Commuting Reimbursement is available to Peace Corps headquarters employees who use non-motorized bicycles for a substantial portion of travel between their residences and worksite. Peace Corps Administrative Services provides covered bike parking, shower facilities, and bike repair kits, as well as hosts quarterly bike-education meetings.

Metric:

Improve bike programs by providing bike reimbursements to

30%

of eligible domestic employees.



In FY 2010, under EO 13514, federal agencies were directed to set reduction targets for FY 2020 from a FY 2008 baseline for six categories of indirect scope 3 greenhouse emissions.



GOAL 2

Sustainable Buildings

Agency Progress Toward Total Buildings Meeting the Guiding Principles

As outlined in Executive Order 13693, agencies are required to improve building efficiency, performance, and management. Consistent with federal policy, statutes, executive orders, and supplemental agency policies and guidance, the Peace Corps collaboratively seeks to create and follow an established common set of sustainable guiding principles for integrated design, energy performance, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, and materials. This common set of sustainable guiding principles aim at helping agencies do the following:

- Reduce the total ownership cost of facilities
- Improve energy efficiency and water conservation
- Provide safe, healthy, and productive building environments
- Promote sustainable environmental stewardship

During fiscal year 2016, the Peace Corps will identify buildings greater than 10,000 square feet that will comply with the Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings by 2025. The strategies outlined in this section further outline the agency's commitment to sustainable building in the U.S. and abroad.



Strategy 1

Posts will submit monthly energy consumption data, including dollars spent, kWh used, and backup generator fuel consumed, to the Office of Management for its annual energy data call.

Metric:

100%

data submission for leased facilities greater than 10,000 square feet by FY 2018.

Energy Use Intensity Overseas Regional Average

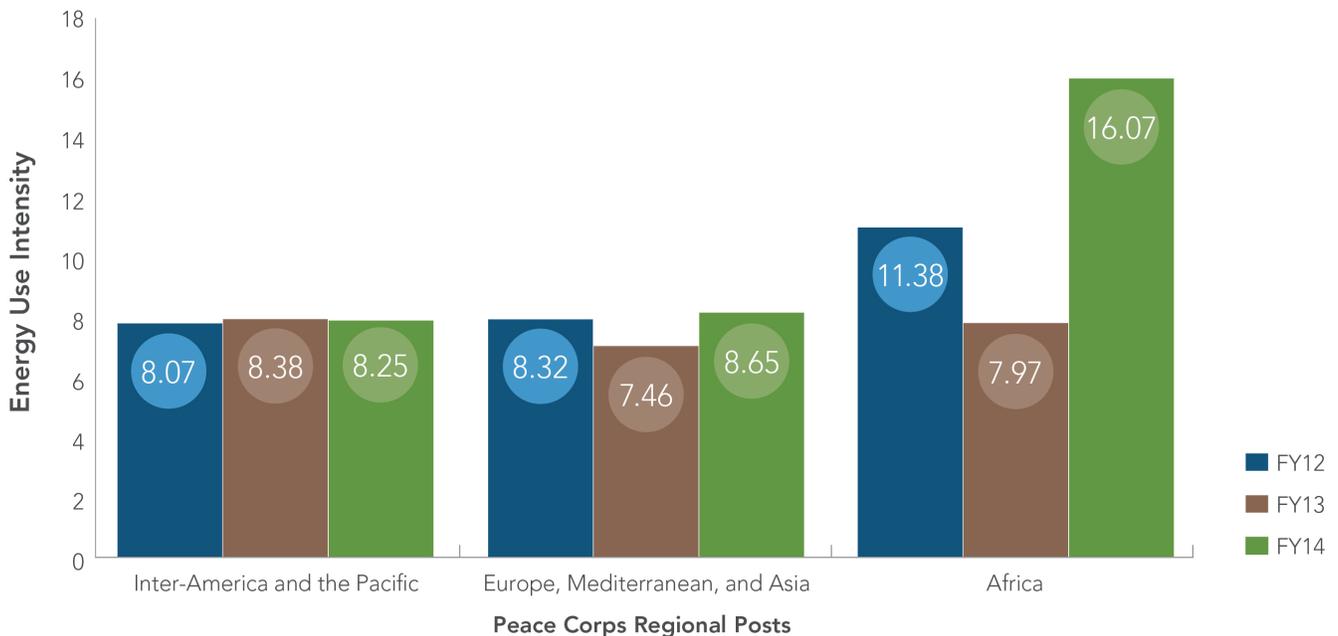


Figure 3. The Peace Corps' overseas regional post energy use from FY 2012–14.



Strategy 2

Identify overseas facilities where renewable energy sources could provide a financial return on investment within the boundaries of the Peace Corps Act, and provide funding to install and monitor renewable energy capital improvements.

Metric:

20%

of overseas leased facilities greater than 10,000 square feet will generate electricity from a renewable energy source by fiscal year 2020.



Strategy 3

Reduce space utilization rates by better managing space needs in order to maximize the value of federal real property resources and improve employee productivity.

Metric:

Reduce utilization rates to 150 square feet per person.

Strategy 4

Where applicable, the Peace Corps shall use U.S. Postal Service BlueEarth and/or U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when disposing of electronics.

Metric:

100%

of electronic disposals will use a certified recycler in calendar year 2016.

Strategy 5

The Administrative Services division will maintain a centralized supply of everyday office supplies to implement zero-net waste strategies that focus on cradle-to-cradle and cradle-to-grave best management practices. In this system, waste is minimized and unused supplies can be recycled and reused.

Metric:

100%

of supply orders will be managed by a centralized supply ordering process at Peace Corps' headquarters building in FY 2016.

Strategy 6

Reduce waste generation through elimination, source reduction, and recycling. Waste audits conducted annually intend to show 90 percent efficient waste diversion programs at the Peace Corps.

A FY 2013 waste audit, which will be used as the baseline, found 70 percent of waste by weight was diverted from landfills through composting or recycling programs at Peace Corps headquarters.

Metric:

Conduct a waste audit in FY 2016 to ensure that Peace Corps is diverting at least 70-80 percent waste from the landfill.

Strategy 7

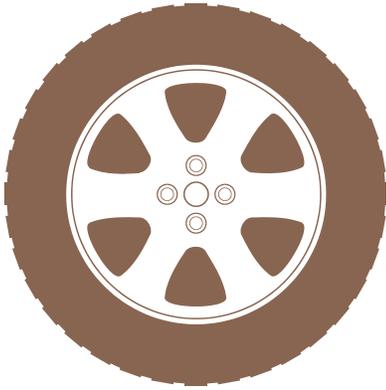
Employ operations and management best practices for energy-consuming and emission-generating equipment.

To reduce overseas fuel consumption from inefficient backup generators, the agency is collecting fuel-use consumption data from posts using backup generators at energy-insecure locations.

Metric:

20%

of overseas leased facilities larger than 10,000 square feet will generate electricity from a renewable energy source by FY 2020.



GOAL 3

Fleet Management

Agency Progress Toward Fleet Petroleum Use Reduction Goal

EO 13693 requires that if an agency operates a fleet of at least 20 motor vehicles, it must improve its fleet vehicle efficiency and management. The Peace Corps' domestic fleet includes 23 leased vehicles managed by the Office of Volunteer Recruitment and Selection and the Office of Administrative Services. The fleet is limited to mission-essential vehicles, and allocations, acquisitions, and disposals are examined annually to determine the optimal fleet size and composition at each office, including efforts to economize and downsize vehicles wherever possible. Currently, the Peace Corps' overseas fleet vehicles and domestic law enforcement vehicles are exempt from governmentwide reporting requirements. However, to achieve the intent of the President's Executive Order, the Peace Corps is committed to reducing per mile greenhouse gas emissions where economically feasible.





Peace Corps Progress Toward Fleet Petroleum Reduction Goals
Domestic Consumption

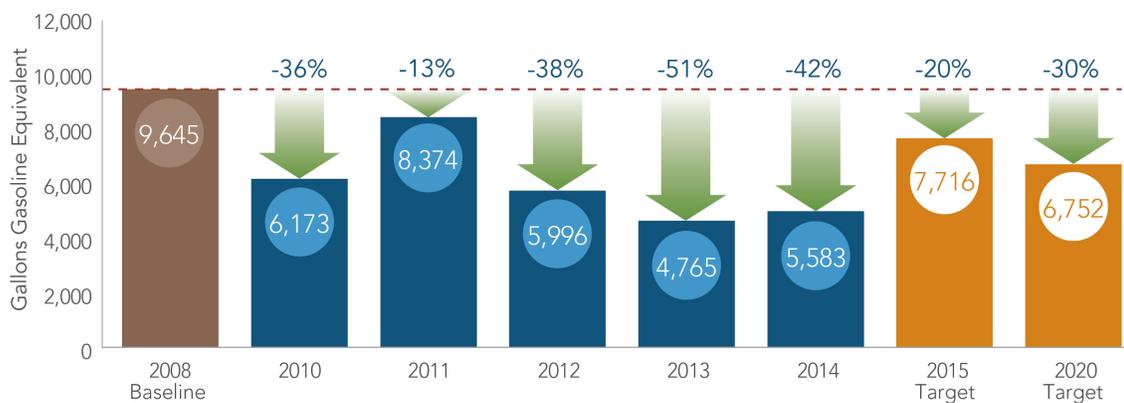


Figure 4. The Peace Corps’ domestic gasoline consumption from FY 2010–14, with a baseline from FY 2005. It also shows FY 2015 and FY 2020 target goals.

Domestic and Overseas Emissions from Traditional Fuel Consumption

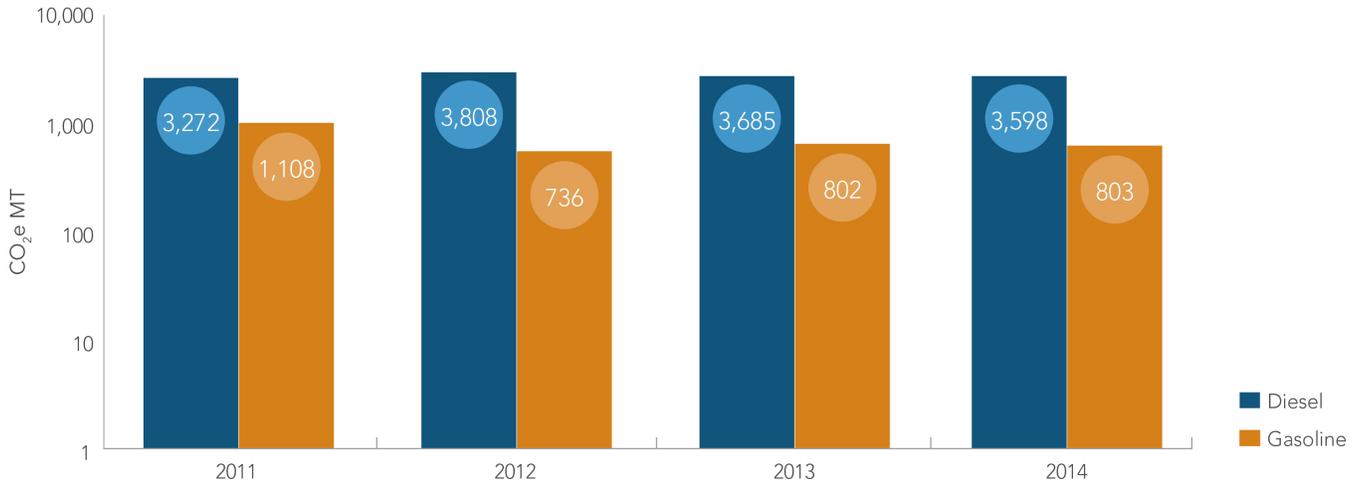


Figure 5. The Peace Corps’ metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from domestic and overseas traditional fuel consumption (diesel and gasoline) for FY 2011–14. Conversion formulas were used based on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Direct Emissions from Mobile Combustion Sources guidelines.

Overseas Emissions from Overseas Alternative Fuel Consumption

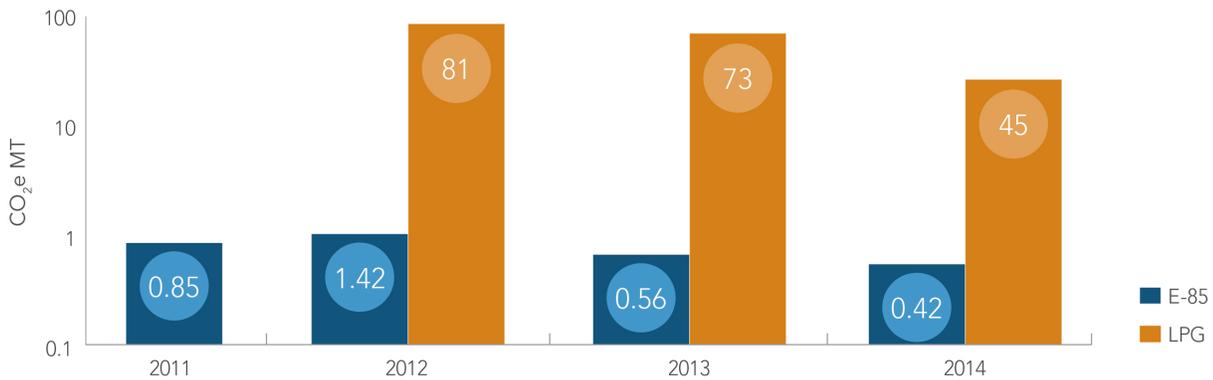


Figure 6. The Peace Corps’ metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from overseas alternative fuel consumption (E-85 and LPG) for FY 2011–14. Conversion formulas were used based on the EPA’s Direct Emissions from Mobile Combustion Sources guidelines.

Strategy 1

Use a fleet management information system to track fuel consumption throughout the year for agency-owned, GSA-leased, and commercially leased vehicles.

In 2013, the Peace Corps implemented a Vehicle Management Information System and is in compliance with Federal Management Regulation 102-34.340. The web-based VMIS is hosted and maintained by the Department of Energy's Idaho National Lab and is used globally by the Peace Corps to capture vehicle data and transmit directly to the Federal Automotive Statistical Tool.

Metric:

100%

capture of overseas and domestic fleet vehicle data by FY 2016.

Strategy 2

Reduce miles traveled by utilizing car sharing, eliminating excess trips, improving routing and vehicle scheduling, and using on-demand vehicle rentals.

Metric:

Provide fleet training to

100%

domestic and international drivers and administrative staff on an annual basis.

Strategy 3

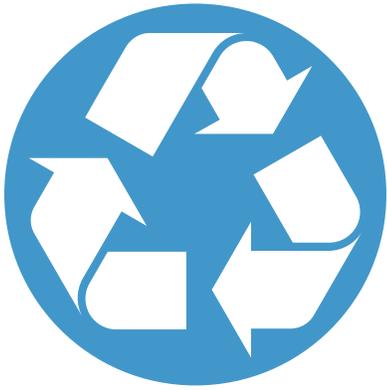
Optimize/right-size the composition of the fleet.

The Peace Corps will begin to remove underutilized vehicles and use commercial vehicle-on-demand services in FY 2015.

Metric:

Maintain the agency vehicle fleet ceiling outlined in the Peace Corps' vehicle allocation methodology.





GOAL 4

Sustainable Acquisition

Agency Progress Toward Sustainable Acquisition Goals

The goal of EO 13693 is to maintain federal leadership in sustainability and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Section 3, paragraph (i) of EO 13693 directs agencies to promote sustainable acquisition and procurement by ensuring that the following environmental performance and sustainability factors are included to the maximum extent practicable for all applicable procurements in the planning, award, and execution phases of the acquisition.

Additionally, EO 13693 requires agencies to advance sustainable acquisition and ensure that 100 percent of applicable new contract actions meet 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.





Strategy 1

Update and deploy agency procurement policies and programs to ensure that federally mandated designated sustainable products are included in all relevant procurements and services.

Draft agency green procurement policy and implement an internal exemption request process to ensure policies and procedures align with current Federal Acquisition Requirements (FAR), EO 13693 requirements.

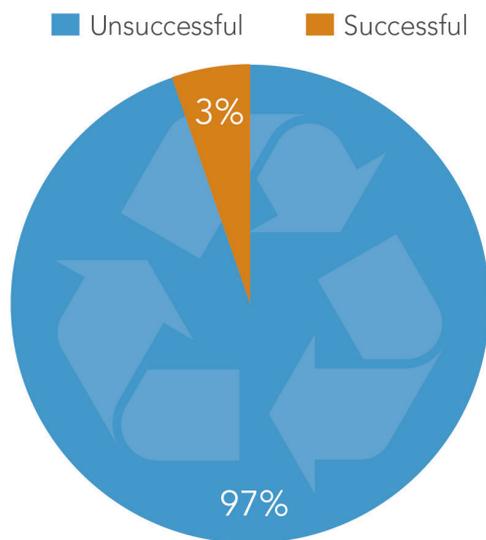
Metric:

Ensure

100%

of new contract actions using FY 2015 baseline data for products and services include appropriate specifications in the following categories: energy efficient, water efficient, biobased content, environmentally preferable, non-ozonedepleting, recycled content, and non-toxic or less-toxic alternatives.

Peace Corps FY 2015 Sustainable Acquisition



Total FY15 Acquisition Actions: \$114,180,923

Figure 7. The percent of applicable new contract actions that meet federal mandates for sustainable acquisition, and the percent of applicable new contract actions that do not meet federal mandates for sustainable acquisition.



Strategy 2

Deploy corrective actions to address barriers to increasing sustainable procurements with special emphasis on biobased purchasing.

Train acquisition personnel and employees who participate in the acquisition process on FAR, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency sustainability requirements through presentations and web video trainings.

Metric:

100%

of acquisition personnel will participate in sustainable procurement training before September 30, 2016.

Strategy 3

Include biobased and other FAR sustainability clauses in all applicable construction and service contracts.

Continue to include FAR requirements for energy efficient, recycled, biobased, and other relevant sustainable specifications in all new contract actions and conduct quality assurance reviews after award.

Metric:

In FY 2016, increase purchases of biobased products by

10%

over FY 2015, increase energy-efficient product purchases by 5 percent, and increase recycled content purchases by 15 percent.

Strategy 4

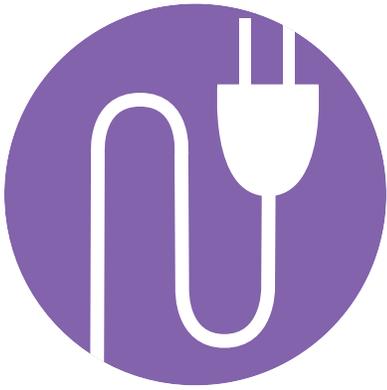
Accurately record the frequency and usage of sustainability clauses in the contracts system.

Report data regarding the usage of sustainability clauses in the contracts system to track progress toward achieving sustainability goals.

Metric:

Develop a methodology of collecting data from the contracts system in FY 2015, which will include a way to report on sustainability compliance in contractor performance reviews.





GOAL 5

Electronic Stewardship and Data Centers

Agency Progress Toward Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool, Power Management, and End of Life Goals

Like EO 13514 and 13423, EO 13693 requires that agencies promote electronic stewardship throughout the acquisition life cycle and ensure a procurement preference for environmentally sustainable electronic products. To satisfy these requirements and to assist agencies in identifying suitable environmentally sustainable electronic products, several tools are currently available, including the EPA Environmentally Preferable Products program, online EPEAT product registry, and the GSA Green Procurement Compilation.

The Peace Corps has created the following strategies to meet the intent of EO 13693 related to electronic stewardship and data centers.



Strategy 1

Ensure that power management, duplex printing, and other energy efficient or environmentally preferable options and features are enabled on all eligible electronics and monitor compliance.

The Peace Corps has implemented standard network printer configurations across the enterprise that default to duplex printing. The Peace Corps is implementing power management on the workstations in posts with the deployment of Windows 7. A similar implementation will be done for domestic workstations, once Windows 7 is deployed and Microsoft Systems Center is properly configured to “wake up” the workstations for after-hours patching and maintenance. The full enterprise implementation for all workstations is expected to be completed by December 2015.

Metric:

Deploy power management solutions to desktops globally by December 2015.

Strategy 2

Ensure acquisition of 95 percent EPEAT registered and 100 percent of ENERGY STAR qualified and FEMP designated electronic office products.

The Peace Corps Office of Acquisition and Contract Management (OACM) is incorporating a standard FAR contract clause requiring compliance with these energy-efficient ratings in all new contracts that cover equipment purchasing. OACM expects to include this clause in new and existing contracts by September 30, 2015. The Peace Corps purchases standard hardware (desktops, laptops, monitors, servers, printers) and procures EPEAT and/or ENERGY STAR compliant equipment whenever possible.

Metric:

Peace Corps Office of Acquisition and Contract Management will incorporate a standard FAR clause requiring energy-efficiency compliance into all new contracts by September 30, 2015.



GOAL 6

Climate Change Resilience

Agency Climate Change Resilience

Consistent with the framework and principles pursuant of EO 13677 on Climate-Resilient International Development, the agency will design, implement, monitor, and evaluate programs to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change with input from offices across the agency. Peace Corps programs will incorporate the best available science and technology, prioritize the most-vulnerable communities and populations, and integrate adaptation to increase ecosystem resilience.





Strategy 1

Update agency external programs and policies (including grants, loans, technical assistance, etc.) to prioritize planning for and addressing the impacts of climate change.

The Peace Corps supports two small grants programs through strategic partnerships that address the impacts of climate change on rural communities. The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas grant mechanism, funded by the Department of State, provides training for Volunteers and host communities on renewable energies, including improved cookstoves that reduce environmental impacts. The Peace Corps also implements a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Small Project Assistance (SPA) program. SPA trainings assist communities to adapt to climate change by implementing projects such as forest rehabilitation, fire management, cookstove educational exhibits, environmental education, and bird conservation and ecological clubs.

Additionally, Peace Corps Response is beginning a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, to help local counterparts and stakeholders in the Pacific region better address issues related to climate change, protecting biodiversity, environmental law, and improved information sharing and collaboration among Pacific Island nations.

Metric:

Peace Corps is exploring the feasibility of a broader regional Climate Change Adaptation project, which will support families and communities in some of the highest-risk areas of the island nations in the Pacific where Peace Corps serves.

Strategy 2

Ensure agency leadership demonstrates commitment to adaptation efforts through internal communications and policies.

Peace Corps senior leadership demonstrates its commitment to adaptation efforts through support of the agency's climate change policy statement written and signed by the then-acting Director. The agency Climate Adaptation Plan aims to align climate change resilience strategies with the missions of all internal Peace Corps offices.

Metric:

Peace Corps senior leadership will hold annual meetings to discuss climate change policies and how to integrate them into each office's operations.

Strategy 3

Identify vulnerable communities served by agency mission that have the potential to be impacted by climate change and identify measures to address those vulnerabilities where possible.

The agency will pilot a community framework model to address local climate readiness and adaptive capacity in the communities where Volunteers serve.

Metric:

Three Peace Corps Volunteer training groups will swear in to service FY 2016, with the intent to address climate change initiatives.



Peace Corps programs will incorporate the best available science and technology, prioritize the most-vulnerable communities and populations, and integrate adaptation to increase ecosystem resilience.



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