



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# **USAID 2012 SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

**JUNE 2012**



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## Section 1: Agency Policy Statement

### 2012 USAID Agency Sustainability Policy Statement

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the U.S. Government's lead agency in providing assistance to the developing world consistent with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, other foreign assistance legislation and the National Security Strategy.

USAID is committed to integrating the ideals and practices of environmental sustainability into its administrative, operational and program policies and activities; and minimize, to the extent practicable, negative environmental impacts of USAID operations and programs.

As climate change occurs on a global level and the earth's resources are finite, USAID believes it necessary to apply sustainability practices not only to domestic operations, but also to USAID's development assistance activities worldwide. USAID will lead by example to create a greener environment and to comply with the spirit of Executive Order 13514, both at our Washington D.C. and overseas facilities.

USAID operates in over 80 countries worldwide and recognizes that application of environmentally sound practices in our overseas activities will achieve the greatest benefit towards realization of our sustainability goals. In recognition of our worldwide presence, USAID will strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the international level.

USAID is committed to the ideals and practices of environmental responsibility through the implementation of measures designed to:

- Integrate the principles of environmental sustainability into its administrative, operational, and program policies and activities;
- Implement processes of support of continual improvement and strategic investment;
- Create opportunities for good environmental practice and awareness of environmental policies and issues amongst Agency personnel;
- Foster the continued development of best practices and expertise in environmental disciplines in order to provide knowledge and capacity



- building related to environmental sustainability throughout USAID and its programs; and
- Establish transparent decision-making processes that encourage the expression of alternative solutions and promote sustainability.

USAID will implement its sustainability program through a comprehensive plan with measurable goals and with monitoring and analysis of performance against the plan. USAID is dedicated to partnering with the federal and private community to address environmental issues domestically and internationally.



## Executive Summary

Executive Order 13514 requires federal agencies to make reduction of greenhouse gas emissions a priority. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) currently occupies seven buildings in the Washington DC and over 80 countries worldwide. All the Washington based offices are operated by the General Services Administration (GSA) and the vast majority of USAID operated facilities are collocated with the U.S. Department of State.

As GSA is responsible for reporting to the Council on Environmental Quality for their facilities, USAID only reports on GHG from Scope 3 emissions that includes business air travel, ground travel, employee commuting, and waste water treatment. EO 13514 is voluntary for facilities and activities that occur outside the United States. USAID is committed to applying sustainability principles to our overseas activities. The Department of State operates the vast majority of facilities overseas with USAID being collocated at those posts. USAID only owns a total of 13 facilities worldwide. USAID's greatest contribution to a reduction of GHG emissions will derive from decreased international air travel, alternative working arrangements, and USAID low impact development and carbon sequestration program activities.

USAID established an initial goal of a 7% reduction in GHG emissions from air business travel by 2013 in the original Agency Sustainability Plan submitted in June of 2010. In FY2010, air travel emissions generated by USAID direct hires were 28% less than in FY 2008. In FY 2011, emissions from air travel were 10% less than in baseline year 2008. Total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions for 2011 were 7670 metric tons. Total reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in FY2011 from 2008 is 854 metric tons. The 854 metric ton reduction is equivalent to the annual emissions of 167 passenger vehicles, annual energy use of 74 houses, or the carbon sequestration benefits of an additional 8.5 acres of forest land.

To maintain GHG emissions reductions, USAID will continue consolidating travel, utilize video conferencing technology (VCT), limiting the number of employees traveling to the same event, and prioritizing travel.



USAID's mission to provide development assistance to partner countries requires frequent air travel by Agency employees. Air travel is also the Agency's contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. In order to compensate for the GHG emissions from air travel, USAID will investigate the purchase of carbon offsets by Agency employees. The program would be voluntary for Agency employees. For participating employees, a portion of their meals and expenses reimbursement would be directed to a carbon offset program. Carbon offsets programs fund a variety of green programs including clean energy, reforestation, and environmental restoration.

Employee work commutes constitute the second largest component of Scope 3 GHG emissions from Agency activities. Employee commuter emissions were calculated at 2318 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2010 and 1982 metric tons in 2008. This increase is due to an increase in the overall number of employees during the time period. However, in June of 2011 USAID expanded its telework policy that permits up to eight days per pay period of telework. A comprehensive survey of employee commuting activities will be issued by the end of FY2012 to assess current telework rates and calculate GHG emissions post roll-out of the expanded telework policy.

USAID will release a bicycle commuting benefit policy in 2012. The benefit allows up to \$20/month and \$240/year for expenses incurred and related to biking. These expenses can include maintenance, repair, purchases, and membership in the Capitol bike share program. The implementation of the bike commuting benefit should result in a small reduction in GHG emissions if employees opt to take the bike subsidy over mass transit or passenger vehicles.

Major items for 2012 include completion of a green procurement plan in accordance with E.O. 13514 that requires federal agencies to ensure 95% of new contract actions contain sustainable acquisition requirements. The Agency will also finalize a bicycle subsidy policy which allows eligible employees to receive reimbursement for bicycle related work commuting expenses.

In accordance with the December 2, 2011, Presidential Memorandum, USAID is pursuing the use of energy savings performance contracts for Agency-owned overseas facilities.



New initiatives to be taken in 2012 and beyond include surveying all USAID missions on best green practices, evaluating the purchase of carbon offsets to compensate for greenhouse gas emissions, and an expansion of the recycling program to include organic waste.

USAID endeavors to provide foreign assistance through sustainable development practices. As we work with numerous foreign governments and organizations, USAID is in a unique position to lead by implementation of sustainable development practices that can be adopted by our developing nation partners and lead to a more sustainable environment on a global scale.

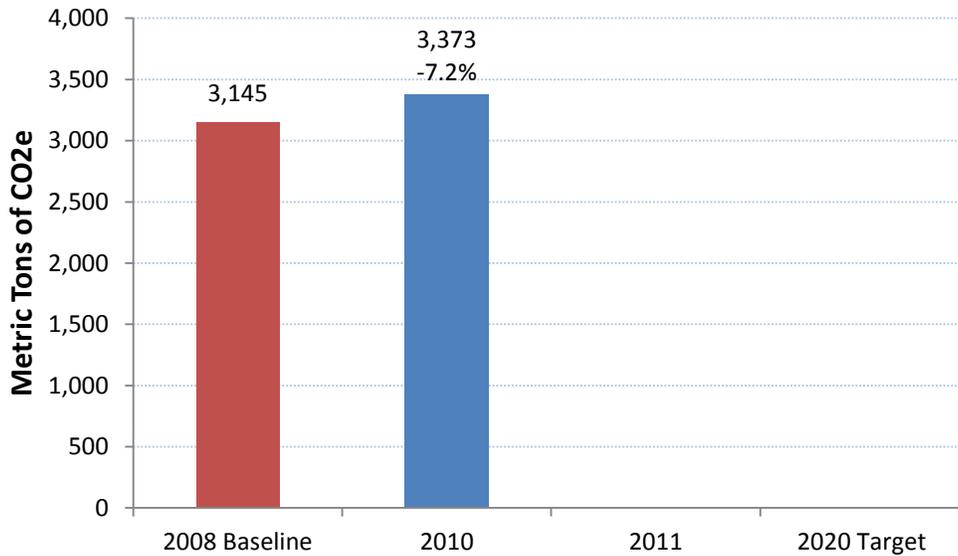
**TABLE 1: SIZE AND SCOPE OF AGENCY OPERATIONS**

<b>Agency Size and Scope</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
<b>Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget</b>	9,475
<b>Total Acres of Land Managed</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Facilities Owned</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Facilities Leased (GSA and Non-GSA lease)</b>	10
<b>Total Facility Gross Square Feet (GSF)</b>	899,434
<b>Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.</b>	7
<b>Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.</b>	106
<b>Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned</b>	0
<b>Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased</b>	4



## Section 2: Goal Analysis Graph

### Progress toward Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Goals



Note: E.O. 13514 requires each agency to establish a scope 3 GHG reduction target for FY2020. This agency has not set a target for FY2020. The red bar represents the agency's FY2008 baseline. The green bar represents the FY2020 target reduction. The blue bars show actual status in relationship to the target. The percentage on each bar shows the reduction or increase from the FY2008 baseline. A negative percentage reflects an increase in scope 3 GHG emissions.