



GSA Carbon Footprint Tool

The Key to Tracking and Managing Your Agency's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory to Reduce Emissions and Meet Sustainability Goals



Meeting the Requirements of Executive Order 13514

On October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order (EO) 13514 - Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance. This Order seeks to establish an integrated strategy towards sustainability in the federal government and to make reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions a priority for federal agencies. It requires all agencies to establish and report a comprehensive inventory of absolute GHG emissions, set percentage targets to reduce GHG emissions agency-wide, and develop a plan for meeting a wide range of sustainability goals and targets.

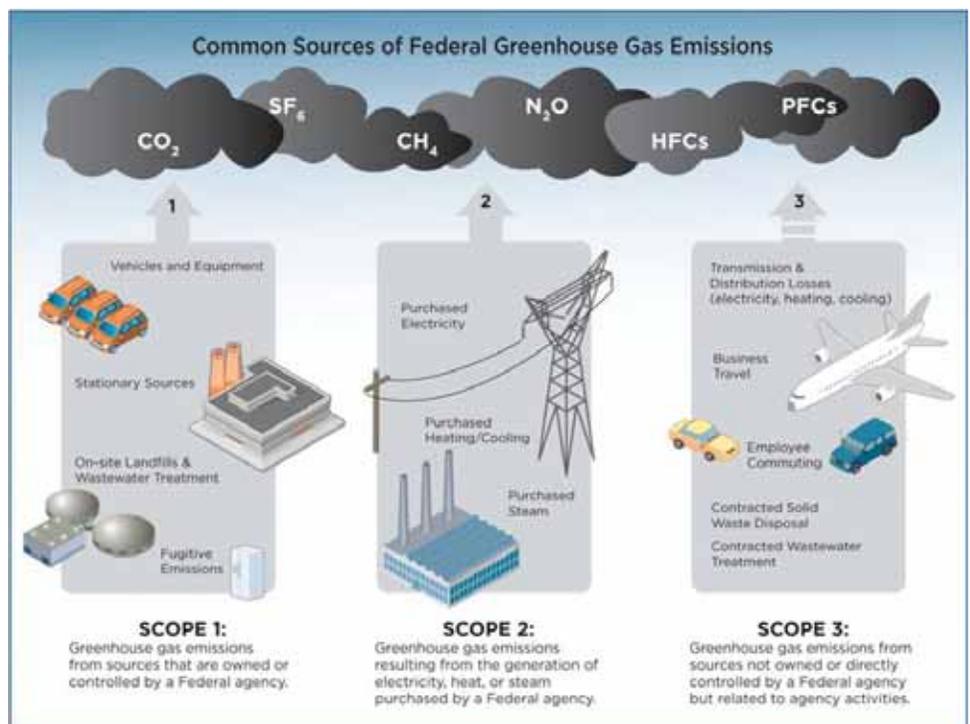
How Are Federal Agencies Affected?

In January 2010, federal agencies submitted GHG reduction targets for the two main categories of GHGs, Scope 1 and Scope 2. Scope 1 GHGs are direct emissions from the use of fuel, such as gasoline in vehicles, propane in cafeterias, natural gas in furnaces, and fugitive emissions such as the release of refrigerants from air conditioning units. Scope 2 refers to indirect GHG emissions, typically purchased electricity, most of which is generated from the combustion of fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide.

In June 2010, each agency was required to submit a Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan detailing how they will meet the various sustainability requirements of the EO. Agencies also had until that time to develop targets for the third category of GHG emissions, Scope 3. Scope 3 emissions include federal

employee travel, transmission and distribution losses from purchased energy, and GHG emissions resulting from contracted waste disposal.

Agencies have until January 31, 2011, to submit an inventory of GHG emissions generated during fiscal year 2010. Thereafter agencies are required to report annually, at the end of January, for the preceding fiscal year.



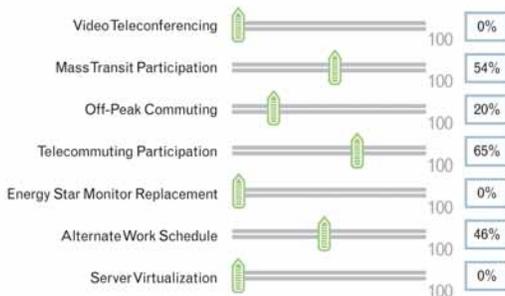


How Can the GSA Carbon Footprint Tool Assist Agencies?

A Tool Specifically Designed for a Bottom-Up, Comprehensive GHG Inventory

GSA has developed the GSA Carbon Footprint Tool to assist agencies in managing their GHGs as required by EO 13514. The tool can assist with a broad range of tasks including:

- Calculation of an agency's GHG baseline, broken down by the different scopes
- Assistance with developing GHG reduction targets
- Compilation of a building-by-building GHG emissions inventory
- Preparation for reporting emissions to the Department of Energy's GHG Reporting Portal



The GSA tool allows agencies to use "sliders", a form of scenario planning, which highlights how the use of certain policies, products and services – such as lighting retrofits and Energy Star computing equipment – can reduce energy consumption.

Scope 3 emissions pose a challenge to many agencies because they result from activities outside the direct control of the agency. The GSA tool is capable of capturing many of the Scope 3 elements. For example, decision makers can instantly see the GHG reductions from increasing telecommuting participation 10, 20, or 30 percent above the baseline.

The tool can be pre-populated with emissions resulting from business travel for agencies using the GSA E-Gov Travel Program, GSA Public Building Services energy consumption data, and relevant vehicle information from GSA's Fleet Program.

Agencies are required to achieve a two percent annual improvement in water efficiency through 2020, based on an FY 2007 baseline. The GSA tool has the features needed to assist in achieving this goal and tracking progress towards it.

Adherence to the Public Protocol Standard

The GSA Carbon Footprint Tool already adheres to the World Resources Institute's (WRI) GHG Protocol, an international standard upon which most other protocols are based, and the International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) 14064-1 Greenhouse Gases-Part 1: Specification.

How Can I Access the GSA Carbon Footprint Tool?

Go to www.carbonfootprint.gsa.gov to gain access to preview the tool and sign up for a demo. To acquire contractor support services that can help you gather data for developing your inventory, please go to www.gsa.gov/energyservices.

Additional Information

For more information, visit www.gsa.gov/carbonfootprint or e-mail us at carbonfootprint@gsa.gov.