Climate Action Plan
2022 Progress Report

Agency	Social Security Administration
Climate Adaptation Official	Daniel F. Callahan
Agency Climate Adaptation Webpage	SSA Sustainability Documentation
Agency Head Approval	 Kilolo Kijakazi, Ph.D., M.S.W. Acting Commissioner
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SECTION 1: Updates on Priority Actions

1. Priority action progress summary

ACTION	CURRENT STATUS	ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRESS[1]
Priority Action #1: Prepare for Increased Disruptions to the Power Supply from the Electricity Grid from Storms or Heatwaves	**Ongoing**		We utilize advanced metering systems to identify high-energy usage and determine if we can reduce electrical load, and assess the need for any additional emergency generators and Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) systems. In addition to our back-up generators, we utilize a campus cross tie system that allows us to supply 100 percent electrical power to the facilities on our headquarters (HQ) campus in the event of a power disruption from our initial supply source.
Priority Action #2: Plan Backup Water Supply to Respond to Reduced Water Supply for Facilities	**Ongoing**		We maintain and track the adequate supply/stock of water in the event of a shortage.

[1] As noted in our May 2021 initial Climate Action Plan, the focus of our efforts is on our 11 delegated facilities on our HQ campus, our data centers at the National Support Center and Second Support Center, and the 5 regional delegated facilities around the contiguous United States.

Action	Current Status	Estimated Date of Completion	Brief Description of Progress[2]
Priority Action #3: Prepare for Coastal Flooding, Including Increased Flooding, or Inundation in Coastal Locations	**Ongoing**		We monitor our delegated facilities for any imminent flooding caused by sea level rise.
Priority Action #4: Prepare for Increased Flooding in Non-Coastal Locations	**Ongoing**		We monitor for any changes in flood plain areas that may affect our delegated facilities. If changes occur and the need arises to close and move personnel, we will relocate our staff to an alternate facility to maintain operations.
Priority Action #5: Prepare for Increased Disruptions and Damage to Transportation Infrastructure	**Ongoing**		We oversee and inspect the results of the road and parking lot maintenance programs. Our Snow Team uses our snow removal procedures to keep our employees safe.

2. Priority Action Progress Examples

Priority Action #1: In addition to the use of back-up generators and UPS systems to reduce electrical loads, we have energy reduction plans that go into effect when the grid is reaching its capacity, usually during heat waves. Additionally, we remain aware of any increased risk by following information from the National Climate Task Force, the National Climate Assessment reports, and through interagency initiatives.

Priority Action #2: In severe water shortages, we may need a backup water supply for our employees, although it will not likely impact the ability to operate our facilities.

Priority Action #3: There is a very high probability for sea level rise. If we experience or foresee any inundation, funding will be required to reduce the risks.

Priority Action #4: In July 2004, a flood closed one of our HQ leased buildings. We successfully worked with the General Services Administration (GSA) and relocated our staff to an alternate facility to maintain operations.

Priority Action #5: In addition to the maintenance of Government-owned roads and parking lots, we utilize telework for employees, full-time if needed, in emergencies, and provide electronic services via the internet and over the phone for customers. We are installing pervious parking surfaces and grass islands in our parking lots.

[2] As noted in our May 2021 initial Climate Action Plan, the focus of our efforts is on our 11 delegated facilities on our HQ campus, our data centers at the National Support Center and Second Support Center, and the 5 regional delegated facilities around the contiguous United States.

SECTION 2: UPDATES ON OTHER INITIAL PLAN TOPICS

1. Climate-Risk Reduction:

On summer days, we start the air conditioning (AC) two hours before opening. On days that are extremely hot, we run the AC 24 hours a day to keep the facilities cool. At our HQ campus in Baltimore, we are exploring an opportunity to conduct a Green House Gas (GHG) study to identify all equipment where we use natural gas and steam. In addition to identifying the equipment and calculating the amount of energy it produces, the study will provide available options to replace the equipment with new technology that will not produce GHG. Our financial risk exposure related to climate change mainly concerns the impact of energy usage to cool and heat our delegated sites. We budget for energy use and use previous years usage to adjust for the upcoming year for our delegated sites. We also budget for snow removal yearly.

2. Climate Vulnerability Assessments:

We surveyed our staff in our delegated facilities to conduct climate change vulnerability assessments in May 2022. We completed assessments for HQ buildings and our five delegated regional buildings: Frank Hagel Federal Building; Harold Washington Social Security Center; Joseph P. Addabbo Federal Office Building; Mid-Atlantic Social Security Center; and the Wilkes-Barre Data Operations Center. Our staff rated the risk and vulnerabilities to the electrical supply from occurrences due to heat events as low to medium. We rated this vulnerability as low to medium because our facilities have backup generator power. The assessments determined that the HQ buildings have enough generator power to remain 100 percent operational if a power grid failure occurred. Flooding vulnerability and risk ranked low to no impact on this assessment. All buildings are above sea level and there is very little to no impact from river flooding or increased precipitation.

Table 1 shows the results of the 2022 assessment of delegated facilities. We ranked relevant issues in order of urgency, on a scale from 1 to 10 (very low to very high).

Table 1. Results of Vulnerability and Risk Analyses, and Prioritization of Issues

Potential Problem Resulting from Climate Change	Vulnerability	Risk	Priority
Electricity Grid from Storms or Heatwaves	**3** (low)	**2** (very low)	**5** (medium)
Sea Level Rise	**1** (very low)	**2** (very low)	**3** (low)
Increased Flooding or Inundation in Coastal Locations	**1** (very low)	**2** (very low)	**3** (low)
Increased Flooding in Non-Coastal Locations	**1** (very low)	**1** (very low)	**2** (very low)

10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
VH	H	MH	M	M	M	ML	L	VL

Priority Scale (2 to 10)

3. Climate Literacy:

We provide employees climate literacy training conducted by the Federal Energy Exchange, Sustainable Facilities Tool, and Federal Energy Management Program. Employees put this knowledge into practice during their work and personal lives by investing in water conservation, energy savings, and other environmental programs. We also have a *Tackling the Climate Crisis* webpage available to all agency employees that provides important information on how we are supporting Climate Change initiatives and how employees can implement changes at home. In addition, we share training information with employees regarding events from the Sustainability Speaker Series for the Federal Community hosted by the White House Office of the Federal Chief Sustainability Officer.

4. Tribal Engagement:

At this time, we have no plans or actions identified in our Climate Action Plan to support Tribal Treaty and Reserved Rights. There are also no plans identified to incorporate Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

5. Environmental Justice:

We have taken environmental justice into consideration. At our Frank Hagel Federal Building, Addabbo Federal Building, and our National Support Center, we have Photovoltaic technologies to assist in the decrease of power company electrical use, which frees up power use in the disadvantaged areas around these buildings.

6. Partnerships:

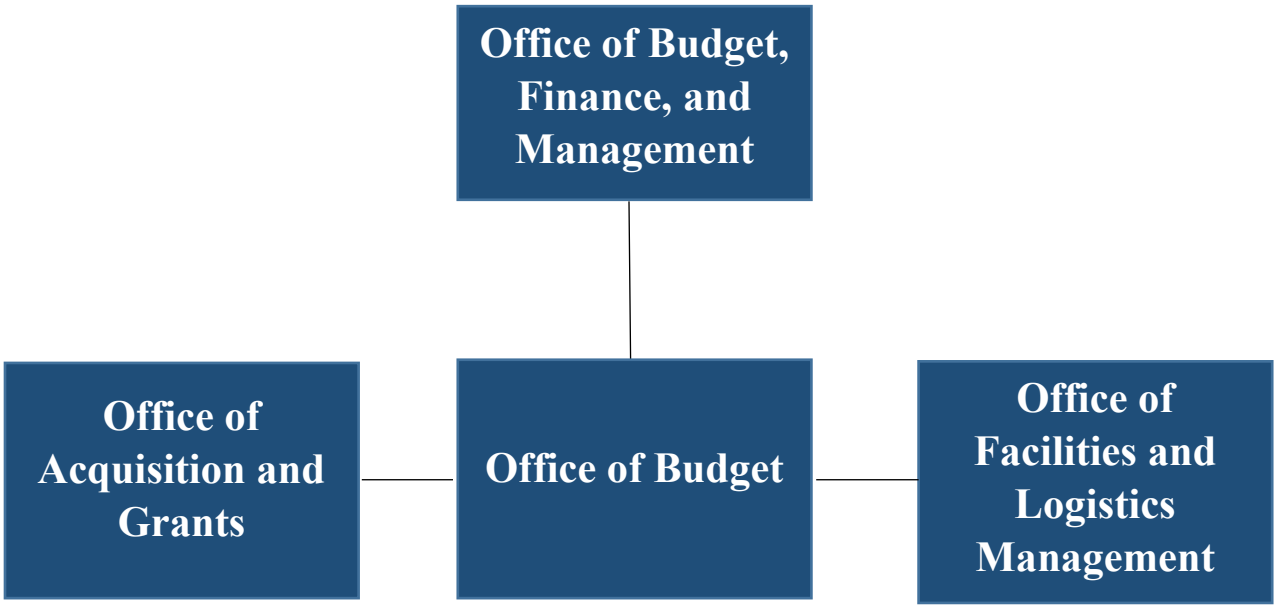
We do not currently have any partnerships. However, we work closely with GSA on leasing facilities and considering climate vulnerabilities of these leased locations and delegated facilities.

SECTION 3: NEW TOPICS FROM E.O. 14057

1. Policy Review:

Our policies have stayed consistently strong in ensuring climate-resilient investment. We believe we have no maladaptive policies and programs with barriers in completing policy review.

2. Climate Scenario Analysis:

We plan to advance climate adaptation actions in all aspects of managing our delegated facilities, including design, construction, operations, maintenance, and asset management. We also plan to incorporate climate projections in future planning with GSA and future climate projections that may affect our operation by collaborating with GSA on decision making for field office relocations in the event an office must move (e.g., in the event of a flood) and to assist in monitoring flood plain areas, which may affect our delegated facilities and field offices. We plan for snow events at our HQ campus each year and assess the snow removal resources we will need. We possess and use all the climate information needed for decision-making.

The following organizations within the agency incorporated climate information into decision-making: