Climate Adaptation Plan

2022 Progress Report

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Agency Climate Adaptation Webpage	https://www.archives.gov/about/plans-reports/sustainability

SECTION 1: UPDATES ON PRIORITY ACTIONS

1. Priority action progress summary

Priority Action Progress			
Action	**Current Status**	**Estimated Date of Completion**	**Brief Description of Progress**
Develop Facility-Level Climate Risk Assessments	In progress	Initial 06/2022 Agency completion FY2026	The initial third-party site assessment took place in May 2022. Agency awaiting analysis and final results.
Strengthen NARA's Climate Resilience through Digital Operations	In progress	FY2030	NARA continues to prioritize the digitization of records for broader access, including digitization projects supporting underserved communities.
Climate Resilience as Mission Resilience	In progress	December 2026	NARA leadership briefed regarding Federal Mission Resiliency Strategy. Completing Business Process Analysis (BPA) and Business Impact Analysis (BIA) to validate Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEF), Mission Essential Functions (MEF), and Essential Supporting Activities (ESA).
Strengthen NARA's Climate Resilience by Leveraging Cloud-Based Solutions	In progress	FY 2026	Establishing a cloud-based Enterprise Physical Access Control System.
Improve NARA's Climate Resilience through Increased Facility Readiness	In progress	FY 2026	NARA has incorporated Facilities and Climate Change into its Risk Analysis processes, and will begin prioritizing facility investments beginning in FY2023

2. Priority Action Progress Examples

Example 1

Climate Resilience as Mission Resilience: NARA Leadership was briefed on the Federal Mission Resiliency Strategy. NARA plans to leverage resilience efforts by the end of 2026, to emphasize continuously maintaining and performing essential functions and services, without delay, by focusing on the framework, "Assess, Distribute, and Sustain." Our goal is to make NARA more resilient against climate threats by distributing risks and capabilities, thus minimizing single points of failure.

During NARA's Bi-Annual Business Process Analysis and Business Impact Analysis, 44 threat scenarios were reviewed, of which 11 were climate related (hurricanes, toronado, floods, etc.) . We reviewed and developed current and future mitigation strategies to protect NARA staff and facilities from climate-related events.

Example 2

Strengthen NARA's Climate Resilience by Leveraging Cloud-Based Solutions: In September 2019, NARA awarded a contract to establish the cloud-based NARA Enterprise Physical Access Control System (EPACS) at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC. Since then, NARA has added or awarded ePACs contracts for the following NARA facilities:

- The Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, Texas
- The Washington National Records Center in Suitland, Maryland
- The National Archives in Atlanta, Georgia
- The Federal Records Center in Ellenwood, Georgia
- The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta, Georgia

NARA will continue replacing stand-alone PACS on a phased implementation based on normal equipment replacement life cycle. We expect all PACS to be on the EPACS, which will be fully FIPS 201 compliant by 2026.

Example 3

Improve NARA's Climate Resilience through Increased Facility Readiness: NARA has conducted informal readiness improvements by reacting to previous climate challenges. For example, we installed floodgates, sealed utility conduits, constructed cofferdams and moved/protected sensitive equipment at the National Archives Building in response to flooding issues in the Federal Triangle. In May 2022, NARA conducted its first third-party, site-specific quantitative climate risk assessment at a NARA-owned facility. NARA is evaluating the results and plans to conduct additional assessments at remaining sites as time and budget allow.

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Example 4

Strengthen NARA's Climate Resilience through Digital Operations: Across multiple projects, NARA is digitizing and making publicly available records of interest to underserved communities. Most notably is the digitization of the Record Group 75, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) microfilm publications. The publications reproduce some of the most heavily used BIA records in NARA holdings. This work is about 95% complete. Several other textual series in the record group, including records formerly held by the National Archives at Anchorage, have also been prioritized for digitization,. including records formerly held by the National Archives at Anchorage. NARA is also focusing on digitization efforts for other underserved communities, including: African American, Hispanic American, Jewish American, Puerto Rican, and Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Digitized records are available through the NARA catalog on archives.gov.

OMB M-19-21, which was signed on June 28, 2019, requires that any federal records that federal agencies submit to NARA after December 31, 2022 must be in digital format (with very few exceptions). Specifically the memo directs all federal agencies to: 1. Ensure that all federal records are created, retained, and managed in electronic formats, with appropriate metadata; and 2. Consistent with records management laws and regulations, develop plans to close agency-operated storage facilities for paper and other analog records, and transfer those records to federal records centers operated by NARA, or NARA-approved commercial storage facilities.

SECTION 2: UPDATES ON OTHER INITIAL PLAN TOPICS

Climate-Risk Reduction:

NARA places a high priority on its holdings, and the structures that house those holdings, many of which are irreplaceable. NARA conducts regular inspections of buildings and has third-party inspections performed every 5 years. As part of the inspections, buildings are closely scrutinized for deficiencies in building structure, envelope, and building systems. These inspections include recommendations for improvements, better maintenance, and replacement, when necessary. Inspections weigh recommendations against LEED requirements and climate change trends. As items are identified, they are put on a recommended list of priority for attention. This information is presented to management for consideration for upcoming funding. High-priority and high-risk items receive the greatest attention during funding cycles. NARA tends to err on the side of caution in protecting its buildings and holdings to reduce risk of flooding and other climate-driven risks. The agency has taken several actions to reduce the risk of flooding at the National Archives Building located in the Federal Triangle area of Washington, DC. That location had coffer dams and flood gates installed, utility entrance locations sealed and sensitive equipment relocated to avoid damage and reduce risk to operations. Financial risk at this location to contents from climate-related trends are reduced by the proactive actions taken

in the past, as evidenced by how that location has performed during several flood events since experiencing significant flooding in 2006. The agency continues to monitor each event for any weaknesses in building envelopes, fail-safe systems, and other building systems, and makes timely improvements when weaknesses are identified.

At the Reagan Presidential Library, the opposite extremes for climate action are anticipated. This region regularly experiences drought conditions and wildfires, and steps were taken to reduce water use, yet have adequate water on hand to deal with fires. Additionally, goats are used each year to graze and reduce tinder surrounding the property, thus reducing risk of fire encroachment. In addition, redundant, controllable oversized HVAC, and specialized filter systems can deal with smoke in the area, thus helping protect contents, staff and visitors from toxic substances both outside and inside the buildings. Other than the above description of inspections, the agency does not conduct other assessments of financial risk for climate change at this time.

Since October 2021, the agency has conducted the first NARA-owned, site-specific quantitative risk assessment. These assessments will continue in FY23 and will ultimately be incorporated into the recurring 5-year whole-building inspections.

Climate Vulnerability Assessments:

The agency conducted the first third-party quantitative risk assessment in May 2022. Because of the records we hold, qualitative vulnerability assessments are conducted every 5 years at each NARA-owned location. Leased locations must meet stringent NARA requirements for housing documents for extended periods of time with minimal degradation, according to 36 CFR Part 1234 records storage facility standards.

Climate Literacy:

NARA implemented an agency-wide climate change training for employees in June 2022. This training is now required annually. The training includes basics of climate change, what NARA has done to reduce its carbon footprint, our five climate change priorities, and what steps employees can take at home and in the workplace to help with future climate change and adaptation strategies. We will modify the training in fiscal year 2023, as NARA expands and improves its climate adaptation activities.

Beginning in fiscal year 2022, we created a Climate Action Plan community on NARA's Internal Collaboration Network (ICN, NARA’s employee collaboration tool), where we post information about NARA's plans and invite discussion on how all staff can participate in reducing the effects of climate change at NARA and in our personal lives. We also advertised other NARA or government-wide climate programs, including "Protect the Planet, with Bill Nye the Science Guy" (April 11, 2022), and "Championing Climate Action in the Federal Workspace with Dr. Katharine Hayhoe" (January 19, 2022).

Facility and Property Management Division staff have taken several initiatives over the years to make NARA facilities more energy efficient, including installing new solar panels,

and green roofs to help reduce the need for cooling. Staff have made numerous suggestions on the ICN on ways to help the environment, including biking to work, and highlighting NARA records that promote an understanding of environmental risks.

Tribal Engagement:

Tribal nations have interests in archival records held by the agency. NARA engages with tribal nations on matters impacting our records and makes it a priority to make those records available to all stakeholders, including tribal communities.

Environmental Justice:

We have purchased high-speed scanners, and are loading massive amounts of information to the cloud to make the information available to all on the web, improving access to historical records. Through this work to digitize holdings, NARA has focused on records of underserved communities. For example, NARA is currently digitizing Record Group 75, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) microfilm publications, which is of great importance to Tribes. NARA is also focusing on digitization efforts for other underserved communities, including: African American, Hispanic American, Jewish American, Puerto Rican, and Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Beginning in 2023, all federal agencies will have to submit records to NARA digitally, with very few exceptions, thus eliminating much of the time and resource consuming work of scanning paper documents. NARA also has a team working on making reparative descriptions and digitization of existing historical documents.

Partnerships:

A. NARA has developed many partnerships over the years. Several of our Presidential Libraries are co-located with universities and we work closely with them on climate and other issues. Similarly, other Presidential Libraries are co-located on National Park Service land and we collaborate with them on mutual concerns.

Finally, we have developed close relationships with the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, and other institutions along the National Mall to address mutual flooding concerns and approaches. We participated with GSA and the DC area Silver Jackets organization, along with many other agencies, to further address Tidal Basin and Federal Triangle flooding. We will continue these valuable collaborations and information sharing as COVID restrictions lessen.

We recently demonstrated our self-rising flood gates at the National Archives Building to the City of Annapolis, Maryland, as they are contemplating installing similar gates along the significant city seawall. Similarly, we previously demonstrated them to New York City representatives after Hurricane Sandy as a possible solution to their flooding concerns.

SECTION 3: NEW TOPICS FROM E.O. 14057

1. Policy Review

NARA is establishing the process to incorporate climate change into new and revised policies, by examining points in the update and review processes where input on climate change impacts will be considered.

1. Climate Scenario Analysis

NARA uses scenario analysis to enhance critical strategic thinking, thus challenging conventional wisdom about the future. These scenarios explore alternatives that may significantly alter "business-as-usual" assumptions.

FEMA Flood Map updated and drought maps: This method helps NARA develop plans that address plausible future states. Given the importance of forward-looking assessments to climate-related risk, scenario analysis is an important tool to assess business implications of climate-related risks and opportunities, and to inform stakeholders about how NARA positions itself in light of those risks and opportunities. Each scenario describes a path of development leading to a particular outcome. Scenarios highlight central elements of a possible future, and draw attention to likely key factors driving future developments. They are hypothetical constructs, not forecasts, predictions or sensitivity analyses.

Each scenario focuses on different combinations of key factors. Multiple scenarios explore how different permutations and/or temporal developments of the same key factors yield different outcomes. Each scenario explores the way that factors interact, noting each action implies a reaction. Each scenario, and the set of scenarios taken as a whole, contribute specific insights into the future, relating to strategic and financial implications of climate-related risks and opportunities.

The scenarios developed by the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are used by internal NARA Preservation Strategy Board and Risk Guidance Groups and by NARA contractors to assess vulnerability to climate change, our customers and key stakeholders.

The groups examine scenarios by quantitative, or a mix of quantitative and qualitative means, considering timing (e.g. at a decadal level 2020; 2030; 2040; 2050) implications under the scenarios.

The assessments address physical risks and their severity (e.g., temperature, precipitation, flooding, storm surge, sea-level rise, hurricanes, water availability/drought, landslides, wildfires, or others). NARA continually assesses the physical impact to its portfolio.

NARA incorporates climate resilience into our planning and engagement of primary mission essential functions (PMEF) to include business process analysis (BPA) and business impact analysis (BIA).

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