

August 15, 2018

FY 2019-2020 Sustainability Implementation Plan



Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection FY 2019-2020 Sustainability Implementation Plan

1. Executive Summary

In accordance with the Executive Order 13834 and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Office's guidance for Small Agencies, the Bureau submits its FY 2019-2020 Sustainability Implementation Plan as an Executive Summary.

The Bureau is committed to ensuring all levels of its organization are aware of sustainable opportunities and determining how best to implement those opportunities within functional areas. The Bureau's strategies to improve energy efficiency in operations and achieve or exceed statutory requirements include the following:

1. Pursuing a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification of Gold for the Bureau's headquarters building renovation located at 1700 G Street, NW in Washington, DC.
2. Improving the energy efficiency of its facilities by reducing greenhouse gas emissions with sustainable transportation programs, preventing pollution through sustainability awareness programs, and reducing waste through sustainable practices in Bureau facilities.
3. Supporting initiatives and strategies that promote a sustainable future.
4. Increasing stakeholder education and engagement in sustainable practices.

The Bureau has received a LEED Certification for three office floors in a GSA leased building occupied by Bureau staff at 1990 K Street, Washington, DC. Additionally, the Bureau developed an intranet sustainability web page for staff's awareness. The Bureau continues to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability in the following areas: (1) greenhouse gas reduction, (2) sustainable buildings, (3) water use efficiency, (4) pollution prevention and waste reduction, (5) sustainable acquisition, (6) electronic stewardship and data centers.

(1) Greenhouse gas reduction: The Bureau has a Transit Subsidy Policy for its Transit Program to encourage employees to use public transportation when commuting to and from work. Employees are provided a public transit benefit that is equal to participating employees' actual monthly commuting costs, up to the maximum tax-free limit allowed by law. Additionally, the Bureau participates in the Capital Bikeshare Program which provides over 4,300 bicycles at 500 stations across the Washington, D.C. Metro Area to help reduce Bureau employees' carbon footprint and encourages sustainable commuting strategies. In addition to these efforts, the Bureau has provided bicycle racks for occupants and seven charging stations for electric vehicles within the underground parking garage.

The following steps have been taken to keep travel to the minimum required: (1) locating the duty stations for examiners near areas where they conduct examinations; (2) ensuring that on-line training programs are available to employees; (3) making a variety of outreach efforts available without the need for travel; and (4) using the desktop video calling capability for employees to facilitate virtual face-to-face conversations in lieu of distance travel for meetings.

The Bureau utilizes an array of social networking tools and programs to expand prospective candidate outreach nationally as needed without requiring physical travel to help reduce greenhouse gases. The Bureau's telework program as well as the alternative work schedules (AWS) program also help reduce greenhouse gases by allowing for greater workplace flexibilities to minimize commuting.

(2) Sustainable buildings: The Bureau renovated its headquarters building at 1700 G Street NW, Washington D.C. which included strategies addressing sustainable site selection and development, water and energy efficiency, and improved indoor air quality for occupants. The energy model prepared for the renovated building estimates an approximately 20% reduction in energy costs for the building. In addition, the upgraded mechanical systems use refrigerants that have a decreased effect on ozone depletion. The building systems are undergoing a commissioning process to ensure they operate and perform efficiently and effectively. Daylighting is used as a method of conserving energy by illuminating the perimeter office space with natural light. Additionally, the Bureau's headquarters has an outdoor air delivery monitoring system to ensure the ventilation systems maintain the minimum outdoor air rate at all times.

(3) Water use efficiency: The Bureau implemented two innovative strategies to manage rainfall on-site and increase the water efficiency of the building and exterior areas. One strategy is the inclusion of a vegetated roof area on a large portion of the building roof to mitigate an urban heat island effect. The second strategy is to collect rain water that falls on the building and plaza area and divert it to an underground cistern, then treat and reuse it for landscape irrigation and other non-potable purposes within the building to minimize the need for potable water and irrigation. Water-efficient plumbing fixtures were also installed as part of the headquarters renovation.

(4) Pollution prevention & waste reduction: The Bureau's headquarters renovation focused on the conservation and responsible sourcing of materials in order to reduce waste and emissions from material transportation. During construction, all materials were tracked and sent to reuse or recycling centers to minimize the amount of waste going to landfill sites. This diverted more than 75% of the construction waste from landfill. Additionally, the Bureau has contract services to provide shredder bins on each floor in Bureau facilities for collection of paper and CDs that contain privacy information. The contract requires the services contractor to provide verification that materials are recycled. Lastly, the Bureau operates a library of online reference materials which allows less use of paper, ink, production, and transportation to help reduce carbon emissions, pollution, and waste.

(5) Sustainable acquisition: The Bureau is committed to sustainable acquisitions and explores opportunities to leverage acquisitions that include sustainable materials, equipment, products, services, and practices. The Procurement Office utilizes GSA's Federal Supply Schedules that include sustainability acquisition clauses. The Bureau also procures equipment with the ENERGY STAR efficiency rating.

(6) Electronic stewardship & data centers: The Bureau provides software tools such as Microsoft Lync, as well as hardware tools such as the multiple Video Telecommunications (VTC) systems to its staff to make it easier for staff in different locations to work together without the need to travel. The Bureau's technology capabilities support staff's capability to telework. There are plans to move most of its data and systems out of data centers to cloud service providers who are more energy-efficient. Additionally, the Bureau enables energy saving strategies for electronic equipment such as computers, monitors, and printers.



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