

Department of Energy

Climate Change Adaptation Policy Statement

Purpose and Scope

This policy statement affirms the Department of Energy's commitment to plan for and manage the short and long-term impacts of climate change on its mission, policies, programs and operations.

Policy

The mission of the Department of Energy is to enhance U.S. security and economic growth through transformative science, technology innovation, and market solutions to meet our energy, nuclear and environmental challenges. DOE works on the frontiers of scientific understanding and technical innovation to mitigate the impacts of climate change by researching, developing, and deploying innovative and promising clean energy technologies. Climate change is a key challenge for the energy sector. DOE will support implementation of the President's Climate Action Plan to cut carbon pollution and prepare the United States for climate change. Moreover, DOE understands its urgent mission is performed in an already changing climate. Sustaining this mission is dependent on DOE's ability to successfully identify aspects of climate change likely to impact our mission and operations, as well as our ability to respond strategically.

Climate change adaptation is a crucial complement to mitigation, and DOE will continue to develop adaptation approaches that allow its mission, programs, policies and operations remain effective in current and future climate conditions. Adaptation planning has been underway since 2011 and will continue through a flexible, incremental process informed by the best science and technical information effectively translated into action. The Department built upon the lessons learned from our 2012 Climate Change Adaptation Plan and subsequent adaptation activities in the development of the 2014 Adaptation Plan. In accordance with Executive Order 13653, *Preparing the United States for Climate Change*, DOE will continue to update its Adaptation Plan to provide for the ongoing success and continuity of our mission.

The DOE vision for climate change adaptation is the integration of climate change resiliency across the Department wherever appropriate. DOE will look to incorporate the risks and impacts posed by climate change in DOE plans, programs and policies, and mission. Considerations of climate change, informed by the best available science, are seen as an integral part of the rigorous planning, risk assessment, and careful investment that define the DOE mission. The 2014 Adaptation Plan addresses the national context of the DOE mission, as well as the local perspective of DOE facilities and community stakeholders. The 2014 Adaptation Plan details a variety of adaptation activities with the goal of increasing resilience to climate change impacts. These actions, in concert with those associated with the Presidential Climate Action Plan (released June 2013), form the core of the agency's commitment to building internal resilience at DOE.

Responsibilities

The plan will be integrated into DOE's planning, operational, and budget development processes through its integration in the *Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP)*) and Presidential Climate Action Plan deliverables. The SSPP is implemented by DOE's Senior Sustainability Officer, Sustainability Performance Office, and Senior Sustainability Steering Committee. The Department will look to include adaptation in Departmental Orders, guides and planning documents as applicable to safeguard our infrastructure, programs and employees are resilient.

Further, the Department will engage and share best practices with other Federal agencies as appropriate through the White House Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, interagency working groups, and also by joining or forging new collaborations with other agencies and stakeholders. DOE will continue to leverage its unique modeling, climate science expertise, and engineering capabilities in collaboration and partnership with other agencies, institutions, and regional entities to continuously improve our understanding of the effects of climate change and identify appropriate adaptation strategies.

With a strong commitment to adaptation, DOE will continue to prepare for and adapt to the effects of a changing climate to complete our mission and operations. The regions and surrounding communities where our facilities operate will be engaged in these efforts to ensure they are prepared for the short and long term impacts of climate change.



Ernest J. Moniz
Secretary of Energy

June 30, 2014

Date