

POLICY STATEMENT

Marine Mammal Commission
Agency Policy Statement
On Greenhouse Gas Emissions

8 November 2012

The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent agency of the U.S. Government, established under Title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Commission is entrusted with the worldwide conservation of marine mammals and their ecosystems by providing independent oversight of marine mammal conservation policies and programs being carried out by federal regulatory agencies. The Commission is comprised of 14 fulltime permanent employees, all located in Bethesda, Maryland. The Commission is housed in GSA-leased space. The lease includes utilities.

The Commission recognizes that environmental protection is one of the most important issues facing the world today. The Commission is determined to increase efficiency, minimize waste, and monitor and reduce energy consumption and the consequential emissions of harmful greenhouse gases.

The Commission is committed to supporting staff in pursuit of the above by ensuring that staff members understand the value placed on their active involvement.

The Commission is committed to

- Increasing energy efficiency
- Reducing energy consumption
- Reducing emissions of CO₂ and other harmful greenhouse gases
- Reducing the environmental impact of Commission activities and
- Reducing consumption of raw and processed materials and minimizing waste disposal.

7 November 2012

Sustainability Plan
Greenhouse Gas Reduction

The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent agency of the U.S. government, established under Title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Commission provides independent advice to and oversight of other federal entities whose actions may affect marine mammals or the ecosystems of which they are a part. The Commission is comprised of 3 Commissioners, 9 members of the Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, and 14 fulltime permanent employees. The Commission's office is located in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Marine Mammal Commission does not own a vehicle and is housed in space leased by the General Services Administration. The lease includes utilities. Therefore, Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas Reduction will be addressed by the General Services Administration.

The Commission aims to raise the sustainability awareness of its staff and stakeholders by promoting the concept of sustainable development and by recognizing the ongoing need to move towards a more sustainable future. The Commission will provide appropriate sustainability education for its staff and will encourage them to apply sound sustainability practices at work, at home, and within their community. The Commission is committed to transparency in the formulation and implementation of its sustainability policy and objectives.

1. Summary of Accomplishments. The Commission is dedicated to reducing Level 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Prior to the Executive Order, the Commission implemented several initiatives that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

- Participation in the transit subsidy program
- Offering alternate work schedules to staff
- Offering telecommute opportunities to staff
- Installation of surge protector power strips on computer equipment to power down when employees are absent from their offices
- Participation in the building management's multi product recycling program

The Commission continues to support the above initiatives and looks for new ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Goal: Reduce Commuting Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 15%

a. Agency Lead for the Goal: Cathy Jones

b. Implementation Methods: Encourage more staff to use public transportation. Offer more staff the opportunity to work an alternate work schedule. Increase the number of staff who telecommute one or more days per week.

c. Position: The Commission provides the opportunity for all staff to participate in the transit subsidy program. More than 50% of the Commission's employees use Metro Rail or Metro Bus to commute to and from work.

Staff members are aware that the Commission offers the opportunity for them to work an alternative work schedule. Currently 25% of the Commission’s employees participate in this program.

The Commission’s small size makes it difficult to offer all staff the opportunity to telecommute. However, the Commission has offered most staff the opportunity to telecommute. Presently 21% of the staff telecommute one or more days per week. Another 21% telecommute regularly on an ad hoc basis. The Commission has increased the number of staff who telecommute by 35%.

3. Goal: Reduce Business Ground Travel Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 10%

a. Agency Lead for the Goal: Cathy Jones

b. Implementation Methods: Encourage staff to use public transportation. Explore the option for participation in meetings via teleconference.

c. Position: The Commission encourages the use of mass transit whenever possible, including transportation to and from meetings in the Washington, DC, area. For travel outside the commuting area, the Commission must approve the use of a rental car prior to travel. Rental cars are approved only when there is no public transportation or free shuttle available. The Commission will explore the option of staff participating in meetings through teleconferencing or webinars.

4. Goal: Reduce Business Air Travel Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 10%.

a. Agency Lead for the Goal: Cathy Jones

b. Implementation Methods: Encourage staff to participate, whenever possible, in meetings via teleconference, video teleconference, or webinar.

c. Position: Commission staff often must travel within and outside the United States to become familiar with and/or participate in local or regional marine mammal research and conservation issues, to meet with Alaskan Natives to discuss co-management issues, and most recently to support response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Travel locations often are determined by an outside party or circumstances beyond the Commission’s control. The Commission is dedicated to reducing Level 3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and will explore and attempt to develop alternative options for communicating and fulfilling Commission responsibilities as possible.

SCOPE 3 GHG TARGET	UNITS	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 20
Employee Commuting	mtCO ₂ e	4.00	3.94	3.88	3.82	3.76	3.40
Business Ground Travel	mtCO ₂ e	0.232	0.230	0.227	0.225	0.223	0.209
Business Air Travel	kg CO ₂ equivalent	65,083	64,432	63,781	63,131	62,480	58,575

The Commission's office is located in building space leased by the General Services Administration, and the building management company is dedicated to reducing energy waste. Building management offers clients recycle programs for paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, and cardboard. Building management also has installed diffusers to minimize water flow on all bathroom sinks, motion sensor lights to decrease electricity use, and maintains a limited schedule for use of heating and air conditioning equipment.

The Commission's Sustainability Plan can be found at www.mmc.gov

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marine Mammal Commission Greenhouse Gas Emissions Executive Summary

The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent micro agency of the U.S. government, established under Title II of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Commission provides independent advice to and oversight of other federal entities whose actions may affect marine mammals or the ecosystems of which they are a part. The Commission is comprised of 3 Commissioners, 9 members of the Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals, and 14 fulltime permanent employees. The Commission's office is located in Bethesda, Maryland. The Commission is housed in space leased by the General Services Administration and the lease includes utilities.

The Commission is one of the smallest agencies in the federal government; therefore, resources for implementing federal initiatives outside of the Commission's core mission are limited. Present staffing is adequate to develop and implement the policy goals related to Executive Order 13514. The Commission supports the goals set forth in Executive Order 13514 and is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions where feasible. In accordance with that commitment, the Commission established an agency-wide initiative to promote energy efficiency and resource conservation and to reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions. The Commission has reviewed its operations and activities to establish a baseline and to identify potential policy actions that can result in future greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Because of its leasing arrangement with the General Services Administration, the Commission is exempt from Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emission reductions targets.

The following policies have been implemented to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

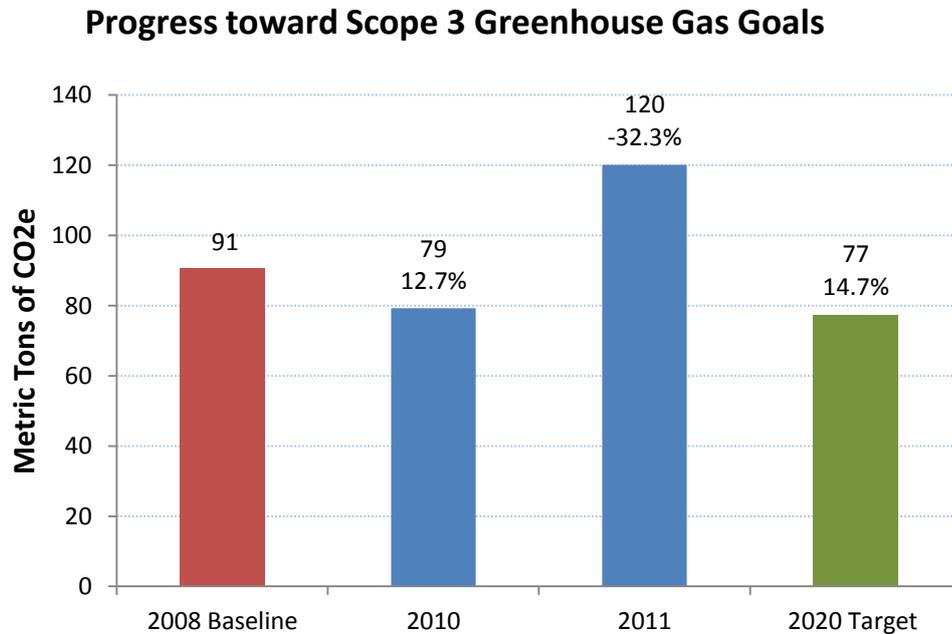
- Increase the use of teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and web conferencing in lieu of travel
- Use public transportation whenever possible to travel to/from meetings
- Encourage and promote employee teleworking and compressed work schedules
- Maximize efficiencies of information systems
- Power down computers and printers when not in use
- Recycle cardboard, paper, glass, aluminum, and plastic

TABLE 1: SIZE AND SCOPE OF AGENCY OPERATIONS

Agency Size and Scope	FY 2011
Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget	14
Total Acres of Land Managed	0
Total Number of Facilities Owned	0
Total Number of Facilities Leased (GSA and Non-GSA lease)	1
Total Facility Gross Square Feet (GSF)	5,384
Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.	1
Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.	0
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned	0
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased	0

GOAL 1: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF AGENCY COMPREHENSIVE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Agency-Specific Performance Metrics for Scope 3 GHG Emissions Reduction:



Note: E.O. 13514 requires each agency to establish a scope 3 GHG reduction target for FY2020. The FY2020 target for this agency is 14.7% compared to the FY2008 baseline. The red bar represents the agency's FY2008 baseline. The green bar represents the FY2020 target reduction. The blue bars show actual status in relationship to the target. The percentage on each bar shows the reduction or increase from the FY2008 baseline. A negative percentage reflects an increase in scope 3 GHG emissions.

APPENDIX 1: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN

Marine Mammal Commission
Climate Change Adaptation Policy
8 November 2012

As required by the Federal Agency Climate Change Adaptation Planning implementing Instructions, the Marine Mammal Commission is releasing a statement that commits the Commission to addressing the impacts climate change may have on our operations and assets through adaptation planning.

Climate disruption poses many challenges to marine mammals and their conservation. It is a driving force in the loss of polar sea ice that is now and will continue to have profound effects on Arctic and Antarctic marine ecosystems. It is leading and will continue to lead to acidification of the world's oceans, a phenomenon that may fundamentally disrupt the base of oceanic food webs with severe ecological consequences. It is causing and will continue to cause the melting of land-bound glaciers, which is raising and will continue to raise sea levels with potentially severe effects on coastal ecosystems. And it is now and will continue to alter weather patterns, leading to increased variability and/or severity of weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, drought, floods, and temperature anomalies.

Some marine mammal species are expected to adapt successfully to climate disruption and, indeed, may benefit from it. However, many others may not be able to adapt. Marine mammals are mobile and many may respond to climate disruption by, among other things, shifting their distribution to higher latitudes. However, some species may not be able to make such shifts, including those already occurring in polar ecosystems (e.g., polar bears). The loss of sea ice poses a grave threat to polar species that use the ice for foraging (e.g., walrus) and reproduction (e.g., ringed seal). But other species also will be affected; Hawaiian monk seals, for example, likely will lose much of the habitat they depend on for resting, molting, and reproduction. The Commission will support/promote studies to predict and determine how marine mammals are being and will be affected by climate disruption. In addition, it will emphasize management measures to enhance their conservation in the face of such changes.

The Commission also will continue to take actions to minimize its contribution to climate disruption and to ensure continuity of its operations. In Fiscal Year 2012 the Commission—

- is prepared to continue its operations in the event that its office must be closed because of severe weather conditions;
- will use public transportation systems to minimize contributions to greenhouse gas emissions;
- will emphasize the use of electronic communication rather than relying on paper products;
- will minimize its use of electricity by avoiding unnecessary use of lights, heating, and air conditioning, and placing all electric systems on switches that are turned off each night;
- will increase its use of internet meetings to limit the need to travel; and
- will maintain its recycling program.

The Commission would welcome comments or suggestions on how it might adapt its operations and activities to minimize their contribution to climate disruption and to ensure that the Commission continues to operate effectively despite the need to adapt to climate disruption. Please contact us at mmc@mmc.gov, call (301) 504-0087, or write the Commission at 4340 East-West Highway, Room 700, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814.

APPENDIX 2: FLEET MANAGEMENT PLAN

N/A

APPENDIX 3: BIOBASED PURCHASING STRATEGY

N/A