

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan
2020

Submitted: June 24, 2020

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 2020 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan

Executive Summary

The ACHP is fully committed to compliance with federal environmental and energy statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders in its daily operations. An independent agency established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA, 54 U.S.C. § 3001 *et seq.*), the mission of the ACHP is to promote the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of our nation's historic resources, and to advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. Consistent with its mission, the ACHP will encourage the preservation of historic properties as a sustainability strategy and will assist federal agencies in complying with federal historic preservation laws, regulations, and policies as they work toward achieving their sustainability goals.

In company with the National Building Museum and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the ACHP is a tenant at the Pension Building, a federally owned, GSA-managed National Historic Landmark building located at 401 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The ACHP's leased office space continues to meet a number of the principles for sustainable locations for federal facilities. These include (1) central business district location; (2) location promotes transportation choice; (3) location promotes walkability and bikeability; (4) location is accessible to a diverse range of employees and visitors; (5) location leverages investment in existing infrastructure; and (6) location promotes the preservation of historic resources and other existing buildings.

The ACHP has 37 full-time equivalent employees, and has no fleet of vehicles at its disposal. The ACHP has very limited opportunities to directly address sustainability targets and goals in carrying out its daily operations. However, within the agency's authorities and means, ACHP management and staff will continue to seek ways to achieve sustainability targets in such areas as green purchasing, travel management, video- and teleconferencing, distance learning, use of public transit, flexible work schedules, and telework, as well as through cooperation with GSA sustainable building management efforts. In response to COVID-19, the ACHP operated with full-time telework for all employees from mid-March through the end of the reporting period. While done out of necessity because of the pandemic, this had short-term sustainability benefits by significantly reducing the environmental impacts of staff trips to the office and use of office utilities.

Consistent with its mission, the ACHP will assist federal agencies in complying with federal historic preservation laws, regulations, and policies as they work toward achieving their sustainability goals. The ACHP also will promote the value of historic preservation as an integral part of sustainability planning and evaluation for federal land and property managers, non-federal government entities, and the private sector.

The ACHP devotes a portion of its website to sustainability and climate resilience. Materials from various federal agencies and nonprofits include general information on sustainability and historic preservation, and more specialized information on such topics as energy conservation and weatherization, community livability and smart growth, and climate adaptation and resilience. The ACHP will continue to maintain this public information resource, which is available at <https://www.achp.gov/initiatives/sustainability-climate-resilience>.