

Corporation for National and Community Service 2018 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan

Executive Summary

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is an independent Executive Branch Agency. Our mission is to engage Americans in service and volunteering across the country to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement. CNCS is the nation's largest grant maker for service and volunteering and supports hundreds of programs that focus on the environment. In addition, thousands of national service participants are poised to assist with disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and preparation in the event of disasters caused by climate change.

In the past year, one hundred and twenty three AmeriCorps projects and 16,125 AmeriCorps member positions were awarded to work on environmental stewardship projects in their communities. Of these, 85 projects are primarily focused on environmental issues.¹

CNCS has 45 facilities located throughout the country that are leased through and managed by the General Services Administration (GSA). CNCS has an additional four campuses that are leased independently of GSA and support AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). These numbers reflect the recent disposition of CNCS space by one program office in San Francisco, California and one NCCC campus location in Baltimore, Maryland.

CNCS is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under Executive Order 13834, "Efficient Federal Operations." To that end, CNCS works closely with GSA to obtain new space, conduct renovations or provide equipment to meet energy efficiency and sustainability standards. CNCS inputs utility billings for energy and water use into Energy Star Portfolio Manager.

CNCS initiated a Transformation and Sustainability Plan for the agency to make CNCS more efficient, effective, and accountable. Among the planned goals, CNCS is aligning workforces and workplaces to better serve our customers. CNCS is laying the groundwork for restructuring the geographic footprint of its offices and consolidating from 45 locations to eight regional hubs. This will enable CNCS to develop new locations with GSA that meet goals of improved energy efficiency.

Further, CNCS has partnered with GSA's Total Workplace Office to relocate some of its offices to space that GSA has built out for its own employees. This allows our agency to use available GSA space that is retrofit to meet sustainable design principles. The space provides the benefit of sharing space that is constructed and furnished, and allows GSA to increase utilization counts. CNCS hopes to pursue more relocations in the next few years.

To meet sustainable acquisition and procurement goals, CNCS plans to establish and implement policies to meet statutory mandates 1) for requesting offerors and contractors to submit hazardous materials data whenever the supplies being acquired are identified as such; and 2) for acquiring energy- and water-efficient products and services, and products that use renewable energy technology. CNCS will also explore using an energy-savings performance contracts (ESPCs) to obtain energy-efficient technologies at Government facilities without Government capital expense. ESPCs are vehicles whereby the government partners with commercial vendors to improve energy measures, such as lighting replacement or HVAC.

¹ Represents the number of AmeriCorps State & National projects awarded in FY 2017 that indicated a focus on environmental stewardship in their application, and the number of AmeriCorps positions these projects were awarded to carry out environmental activities.

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The cost for these contracts is typically measured against the future energy savings, with a positive return on investment and a lower initial cost by the government.

Fleet Implementation Summary

The AmeriCorps NCCC program leases a fleet of GSA vehicles to support staff and volunteer members who travel the country overseeing the CNCS mission. The AmeriCorps NCCC vehicle fleet and its fuel usage are monitored and managed by the GSA, and CNCS works with GSA to try to obtain the most efficient vehicles to support its mission. AmeriCorps NCCC primarily uses vans and minivans to transport multiple team members to their assignments and has modified the size of some vehicles to reduce emissions.

CNCS partners with GSA to reduce petroleum use within its vehicle fleet, increase the use of alternative fuels, and use low emission economy vehicles when possible. Since 2016, CNCS reduced its fleet from 413 vehicles to approximately 320 vehicles, largely due to the reduction of AmeriCorps NCCC campus locations from five to four in June 2018.

CNCS has ensured carbon offset to fleet vehicle travel by:

- Maximizing van and minivan use for team members before making multiple trips.
- Providing regular checks of vehicle tire inflation by trained staff and program members.
- Using 12 or 15 passenger vans.
- Requiring that all vans have multiple occupants before making any trips.
- Grouping support trip vehicles, which transport tools, supplies and personal equipment, to ensure that vehicles are supporting multiple teams, rather than a single team.

The size of the CNCS fleet, and in particular, the quantity of 12-15 passenger vans, fluctuates based on the number of AmeriCorps NCCC members serving.

Notable Projects and Highlights

CNCS vacated two locations in FY 2018. One was a NCCC Campus in Baltimore, Maryland that was vacated in June 2018 as NCCC consolidated operations to its four remaining campuses. CNCS also closed a state program office in San Francisco, CA and consolidated employees to a Los Angeles, California location in April 2018. This represents a disposition of 61,881 square feet; a 7% reduction in real property.