

# U.S. Department of Education 2018 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan

## Executive Summary

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The U.S Department of Education (ED) is a tenant in all of the buildings it occupies, and energy, water, and waste management services are all included in its leases and thus paid by the General Services Administration (GSA). Because ED does not own any of the buildings it occupies, it does not report on the following goals of Executive Order 13834 within its Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan: Facility Energy Efficiency; Efficiency Measures, Investment, and Performance Contracting; Renewable Energy; Water Efficiency; High Performance Sustainable Buildings; and Waste Management and Diversion.

As an agency, ED continues to improve its sustainability efforts. Specifically, ED is working with GSA to reduce its footprint, generate rent savings, and continue ED's efforts to reduce Scope 1&2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. In addition, ED has promoted efforts to support reductions in Scope 3 GHG emissions. In the area of Sustainable Acquisition, ED continues to ensure that applicable contracts contain the appropriate sustainable acquisition requirements. ED has also met all Electronic Stewardship goals and continues to address challenges related to fleet management.

Working with GSA, through ED's Space Modernization Initiative, ED is: 1) reducing the size and number of leased locations, resulting in substantial overall rent savings; 2) redesigning spaces to support different work patterns and activities, including, innovative space layouts, increased natural lighting, and enhanced technology integration; and 3) meeting the OMB guidelines to achieve an average of 150-180 usable square feet per person.

Over the last few years, GSA and ED have collaborated to reduce energy consumption at ED's headquarters, the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) building and maintain LBJ's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) status for Operations and Maintenance. In 2018, ED staff continued to strengthen our partnership with GSA through working closely on the ED Space Modernization Initiative, which goal was to reduce rentable square footage and to achieve savings in annual rental costs. Specifically, ED reduced its overall rentable square footage by 10,099 square feet (sf) in the high-cost DC market, resulting in a \$563,000 rent cost avoidance in FY 2019 and beyond.

As part of ED's Space Modernization Initiative, and to comply with OMB Memorandum M-12-12 Section 3: Reduce the Footprint, ED will continue to reduce its overall rental footprint in coming years. In Chicago, ED expects to reduce its footprint by 28,428 rentable sf in FY 2019, resulting in a 44% space reduction and \$2.1M in rental savings. In Dallas, ED expects to reduce its footprint by 32,141 rentable sf in FY 2020, resulting in a 53% space reduction and \$1.2M in rental savings.

All remaining ED facilities are undergoing an evaluation in FY 2019 for opportunities to save space and costs. Additionally, as part of ED's Space Modernization Initiative, a complete renovation of the fifth floor of the LBJ building will begin in FY 2019. This will include the addition of energy efficient lighting and motion light sensors, provide for better use of natural lighting, and use existing space more efficiently. Upon completion, the fifth floor will accommodate nearly twice as many personnel as currently. Additional floors will be similarly renovated as funds become available. The ultimate goal is to reduce ED's presence in DC from three to two facilities.

Beyond these internal changes, the Department administers a Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) awards' program to recognize schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions for their work in developing

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healthy, environmentally sustainable learning spaces, and in promoting environmental literacy education

The year 2018 marked the seventh year of Green Ribbon School honorees. The Department recognized 46 schools and six districts for their promising efforts to reduce adverse environmental impacts, reduce utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education (e.g. STEM, civics, and green career pathways programs). In addition, in 2018, six postsecondary institutions were honored with the Postsecondary Sustainability Award. Honored schools exercise a comprehensive approach to creating sustainable environments through reducing environmental impact, promoting health, and ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education to prepare students with the 21st century skills and sustainability concepts needed in the growing global economy.

**Implementation Summary**

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**1. Fleet Management:**

**TRANSPORTATION / FLEET MANAGEMENT**

FY 2017 Status: Change in petroleum fuel use in covered fleet compared to FY 2005 - 58%  
 Change in petroleum fuel use in covered fleet compared to prior year - 0.2 %  
 Alternative fuel use as a percentage of total covered fleet fuel use - 0.4%

<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>Operational Context</i>	<i>Priority Strategies &amp; Planned Actions</i>
ED replaced gas conventional vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles as leases expired in FY 2018 and thus reduced its overall fleet size. During this same time period, ED realized an almost 10% reduction in vehicles designated as exempted-fleet vehicles.	In FY 2009, under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), ED’s Office of Inspector General more than doubled ED’s fleet. As a result, when compared to the FY 2005 baseline, ED faces challenges in achieving the necessary “Change in petroleum fuel use in covered fleets compared to FY 2005.”	Optimize and right-size fleet composition, by reducing vehicle size, eliminating underutilized vehicles, and acquiring and locating vehicles to match local fuel infrastructure.  Increase utilization of alternative fuels in dual-fuel vehicles.

**2. Cross-Cutting:**

**SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION / PROCUREMENT**

FY 2017 Status: Percentage point difference of sustainable contract actions from prior year -0.2%  
 Percentage point difference of value of contracts with sustainable requirements from prior year - 0.04%

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<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>Operational Context</i>	<i>Priority Strategies &amp; Planned Actions</i>
ED was 100% compliant with applicable contracts containing sustainable acquisition requirements. Throughout FY 2018, ED was responsive to OMB category management requests and requirements including analyzing ED's spend under management. Throughout FY 2018, ED maintained a FedDataCheck alert on any Product Service Codes for products that trigger sustainability requirements.	Very few bio-preferred products are part of ED's contract spend. However, further analysis can be conducted regarding office supplies; a bio-preferred category that could be relevant to ED.	<p>Establish and implement policies to purchase environmentally preferable products and services that meet or exceed specifications, standards, or labels recommended by EPA.</p> <p>Improve quality of data and tracking of sustainable acquisitions by ED through the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS).</p> <p>Work with contracting staff of the Department to establish Bio-based Product Purchase Target.</p>

**ELECTRONICS STEWARDSHIP**

FY 2017 Status: 100% equipment acquisition meeting Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) requirements, 100% equipment with power management, & 100% compliance with disposal guidelines

<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>Operational Context</i>	<i>Priority Strategies &amp; Planned Actions</i>
Throughout FY 2018, ED used government-wide strategic sourcing vehicles to ensure procurement of equipment that met sustainable electronics criteria. ED enabled and maintained power management on all eligible electronics. ED ensured environmentally sound disposition of all agency excess and surplus electronics, consistent with Federal policies on disposal of electronic assets.	ED's contractor owned, contractor operated system provides ED with 100% in each electronic stewardship categories.	When awarding new IT contract, ensure the new contractor will: procure equipment that meets sustainable electronics criteria; enable and maintain power management on all eligible electronics; and ensure environmentally sound disposition of all agency excess and surplus electronics.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

FY 2017 Status: -65.7% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions

<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>Operational Context</i>	<i>Priority Strategies &amp; Planned Actions</i>
ED partnered with GSA to begin implementing best management	Scope 1 emissions are direct GHG emissions	Use the Federal Energy Management Program GHG

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<p>practices identified for emission generating and energy consuming equipment to address Scope 1 &amp; 2 emissions.</p> <p>As of FY 2018, ED was on track to meet the FY 2025 emissions' target established for Scope 3 emissions well in advance of the deadline. ED realized decreases in total commuter travel emissions and in Ground Business Travel.</p>	<p>from sources that are owned or controlled by the Federal agency, including covered fleets. In FY 2009, under ARRA, ED's Office of Inspector General more than doubled ED's fleet, adversely impacting ED's Scope 1&amp;2 GHG emissions.</p>	<p>emission report to identify/target high emission categories and implement specific actions to address high emission areas identified.</p> <p>Identify and support management practices or training programs that encourage employee engagement in addressing GHG reduction.</p>
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