

National Capital Planning Commission 2019 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan

Executive Summary

POLICY STATEMENT

The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), an independent executive branch agency, defines and protects the federal government's interests in the development of the National Capital Region. We are guided by the National Capital Planning Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; and environmental and energy statutes, regulations, and executive orders. Through planning, policymaking, and project plan review, we protect the broad and multifaceted interests related to federal land; buildings and operations; parks and open space; and the form, character, and experience of the nation's capital.

VISION

The NCPC's mission is to protect capital investments and enhance the extraordinary historic, cultural, and natural resources of the National Capital Region in a cost-effective manner. Pursuant to Section 4(a) of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. §8721(a)), the NCPC is responsible for the preparation of the Comprehensive Plan's Federal Elements, which address matters related to federal properties and interests in the National Capital Region. The NCPC's mission and strategic goals are consistent with and advance the goals in Executive Order 13834, *Executive Order Regarding Efficient Federal Operations* (E.O. 13834). The NCPC's development review and long-range planning promote efficient energy and water use, enhanced environmental performance, and waste reduction. Through the annual sustainability reporting and planning process, the NCPC evaluates how to meet E.O. 13834's intent through its work plan.

The *Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital* (Comprehensive Plan) supports several of the goals and requirements in E.O. 13834. The Comprehensive Plan includes goals and policies for effectively siting federal facilities, supporting transportation management and sustainable development patterns, creating and preserving parks and open space, and flood risk mitigation to provide an efficient workforce and public use, protection, and enhancement of federal assets.

LEADERSHIP

A Commission of twelve federal and local members leads NCPC and reviews and acts on the Comprehensive Plan, agency-prepared plans and studies, federal projects, and a range of other projects and plans. NCPC and the District of Columbia share planning responsibilities: in 1973, the District of Columbia Home Rule Act established the Mayor as the chief planner for private development in the District of Columbia; however, NCPC retained review authority for all development proposals on public land in the National Capital Region. For proposals on federal land in the District of Columbia, the Commission has review and approval authority in lieu of zoning approval. These authorities allow the Commission to monitor and promote compliance with E.O. 13834 requirements. The NCPC applies sustainability policies on a regular basis when reviewing development plans, which includes all federal facilities, planned and constructed in the National Capital Region. The NCPC also incorporates sustainable development practices in our long-term planning initiatives to support the agency's mission to protect the region's cultural and natural resources.

The agency's Executive Director is the designated Chief Sustainability Officer. The agency also appointed a lead sustainability planner to manage the agency's operations in meeting the goals and requirements of E.O. 13834. Daily decisions such as taking public transit to meetings, encouraging digital distribution of information instead of traditional hard-copy documents, promoting web-based training, and recycling demonstrate some ways employees reduce costs and increase efficiency.

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FY 2020-2021 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The agency's annual Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan supports the goals and requirements of E.O. 13834. The NCPC's goal is to use agency resources effectively, and coordinate and promote efficient decision-making in compliance with federal policies and regulations. A summary of the NCPC's top strategic priorities for fiscal year 2020-2021 include:

- The NCPC is a small contributing agency and does not own federal building space or vehicles. To continue advancing efficient use of agency resources in fiscal year 2020, the NCPC will work with the General Services Administration (GSA) to finalize and implement a plan to reduce the NCPC's leased space by approximately 30%; procure ENERGY STAR and Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) designated electronics; and continue to identify communication and information sharing methods that limit use of paper or printed products. This includes advancing the review and analysis of local and federal projects by streamlining and digitizing the Commission review process and implementing a newly developed process for digital project submissions.
- Work with the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative and Monumental Core Streetscape Project interagency committees to improve coordination and align efforts and resources among multiple local and federal agencies to advance smart technologies, environmental best practices, and economic vitality of shared interests within the capital city.
- Ensure compliance with federal requirements to minimize stormwater runoff and deforestation and promote reductions in emissions by minimizing the need for single-occupancy vehicles through the review of development projects and master plans within the National Capital Region.
- Facilitate stakeholder coordination and exchange of information on flood mitigation and stormwater infrastructure in the National Capital Region to align efforts among local and federal agencies to protect assets within the capital city, including coordination towards a comprehensive flood risk management strategy for the Federal Triangle area.
- Streamline and update current policies and plans to include:
 - Revising the Comprehensive Plan's Workplace and Transportation Elements to promote excellence in the workplace and to improve guidance on land use, transportation, and federal workplace issues; and collaborating with the District of Columbia on District Element updates.
 - Updating the Memorials and Museums Master Plan to include strategies to efficiently use federal land, engage both local and national communities, and identify local-national memorial and museum sites.

In summary, through our agency operations, initiatives, planning, and policymaking, the NCPC is committed to efficient operations and advancing resilient infrastructure and development in the National Capital Region.