



**U.S. Agency for Global Media  
2019 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan  
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**U.S. Agency for Global Media  
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Executive Summary**

The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) is the U.S. Government's civilian international media agency, encompassing the Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Radio Free Asia (RFA), the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN), and Radio and TV Martí (under the Office of Cuba Broadcasting – OCB). UASGM provides content in 58 languages to more than 100 countries via radio (satellite, FM, medium wave (AM), and shortwave), terrestrial and satellite TV, the web, live streaming, mobile devices, and social media to a weekly global audience of more than 278 million people. The Agency currently operates 114 motor vehicles overseas, which are located in 13 countries. Included in these numbers are five armored vehicles. Most of our overseas sites provide home-to-work (HTW) transportation for their Locally Employed Staff (LES). In addition to transporting people, the motor vehicles at our six overseas operational transmitting stations are employed in support of buildings and grounds maintenance, electrical maintenance, rigging, and broadcast equipment maintenance. These facilities house large radio transmitters that are used to transmit the signals that carry the Agency's broadcasts. These facilities also include a number of very large antennas.

1. **Implementation Status and Progress for FY 2018:** The Agency reports the following accomplishments, actions, and initiatives:

a. Energy Efficiency:

At the transmitter hall in Biblis Germany the fluorescent lighting was replaced by LED tubes, along with that the station replaced two lamps earlier this year. With the added upgrades the stations total power saving is estimated at 22,400kWh per year

- This year, the Germany Station purchased another John Deere Tractor equipped with a fuel efficient small turbo engine to augment the mowing services. A new Caterpillar small Excavator was also purchased in the 4th quarter of the year for the building and grounds maintenance and future civil work projects of the Station. The new excavator will replace the old and inefficient CAT Linear Tracked Excavator which is beyond economical repair. The Station has also created a ground maintenance schedule in order to reduce fuel usage in the future.
  
- At the Greenville North Carolina Station, the major energy savings available at the station lies mainly within the broadcast transmitters. With efforts commencing in FY2018 to replace three old 420A CEMCO transmitters that were only 33% efficient with updated 419F transmitters rated at 73% efficient the station anticipates a significant energy savings when the transmitters are fully commissioned. The remaining five (5) operating at the nominal 250 kW output include three (GE) operating at 50% efficiency, and two (BBC and AEG) operating at approximately 75%. Analysis based on initial investment and reimbursement based only on direct energy savings (commercial power), ESPC utilization for transmitter upgrades would not be a practical approach at this time but we are looking at replacing these in the future with more modern energy efficient equipment.

b. Water Efficiency:

- During this year at our Philippines Station, we were able to reduce the frequency of watering hedges and selected lawns from four days to one day a week, with 80% of compound lawn area now relying on natural rain. The roadway compound pressure washing frequency was also reduced from three times a year to just once a year.

c. Energy Metering:

- At the Philippines Station, additional meters were installed on the Shops building. Due to these upgrades the station is now able to monitor power usage of each building. Now the recording meters take a reading twice a week during business hours. One of the new meter was installed with LAN capability on the FMO building and a meter reading is done remotely at a computer station bi-weekly. The Station has a trial version of a proprietary software for the automated meter system but is still exploring its capability for power profiling and data logging.

2. **Priority Strategies for Energy and Environmental Performance will remain mostly the same for 2019 and 2020:**

- a. The Agency will continue its focus on advancing energy efficiency and cost savings at the transmitting stations by making use of more efficient modes of transmitter operations and replacing inefficient lighting and HVAC systems. In addition, the Agency will continue investigate the following forward-looking strategies:

- The use of direct digital control systems for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment at transmitting stations.
- Initiating a new cycle of energy audits at the transmitting stations.
- The feasibility of small-scale renewable energy systems at the transmitting stations.

A. In FY18, USAGM researched the possible implementation of a renewable energy project at the Sao Tome station by posting a request for information (RFI). The intention of the RFI was to receive feedback regarding the feasibility of a solar array photovoltaic system at the transmitting station. This FY, because of our priority strategies for energy and environmental performance we are looking for station to evaluate for possible small scale renewable energy projects that we could recommend for implementation.

B. **BOTSWANA's: Borehole/ Well Water filtration Project:** This 2019 project provides safe potable water from the current well located at the Medium Wave site. The filtered water will reduce the Station's dependency on the public supply system and ensure less exposure to bacteria such as E.coli. The project consists of a site visit by the contractor to take water samples who will then supply/install the correct filtration equipment based on the test results.

- Utilizing a new Orban AM/MW/SW audio processor to capture energy savings.

A. At the Kuwait Station, there has been a slight improvement in audibility, based on audio and reception reports from our monitoring team since acquiring the Orban AM/MW/SW audio processor. The station is currently working on the transmitters audio system settings. With the adjustment to the audio system settings there will be better potential improvements, which the manufacturer of the audio processing equipment has suggested, could yielded a greater energy savings in the future.

- b. The Agency will continue its focus on advancing cost savings and sustainability by reducing the consumption of water at the transmitting stations. With the small-scale renewable energy project at the Botswana Station project to start in early 2020 we expect a 20K reduction in the water bill and a 45% reduction in public water usage. Through conservation measures and greater use of alternative water sources for non-potable applications.
- c. The Agency will continue its focus on advancing energy efficiency and sustainability by reducing the size of its vehicle complement and taking other steps to improve efficiency. After a thorough analysis of the cost benefits in association with the GSA fleet leased vehicles telematics, program The USAGM has determined that due to our small fleet of vehicles and their primary mission the cost benefit of utilizing the telematics system would not be feasible for the Agency.