

A Synopsis of the New Environmental Executive Order 14057

President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 14057 ([Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability](#)) in December 2021. This EO sets requirements for federal agencies to reduce their impact on the environment and to reduce the impact of climate change. This EO replaces and expands upon the requirements from the revoked EO 13834 (Efficient Federal Operations). EO 14057 sets defined metrics that must be met by specific deadlines. Many future actions and decisions at the NIH will be made with these requirements in mind.

EO 14057 establishes requirements for these environmental goals as described below (please note that these are summarized, not listed in full):

- **Transition to 100% carbon-free electricity** – facilities shall consume 100% carbon pollution-free electricity on an annual basis and 50% carbon pollution-free electricity on an hourly basis by FY2030.
- **Transition to a zero-emission fleet** – all light-duty vehicle acquisitions must be zero-emission vehicles by FY2027. In addition, agencies must develop a strategy for obtaining a zero-emission fleet and set targets for throughout the transition process.
- **Achieve net-zero emissions for building portfolios** – reach net-zero emissions across all buildings, campuses and installations by FY2045 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by FY2032 (compared to FY2008 baseline data).
- **Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction** – reduce [Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions](#) by 65% by FY2030 (compared to FY2008 baseline data).
- **Net-zero emissions from federal procurement** – includes a Buy Clean policy to promote use of construction materials with lower embodied emissions (emissions from the production of a product)
- **Sustainable Buildings** – design new construction and modernization projects greater than 25,000 gross square feet to be net-zero emissions by 2030. Implement the [Council on Environmental Quality \(CEQ\) guidelines](#) for the design, construction and operation of new buildings and renovations.
- **Increasing Energy and Water Efficiency** – increase facility energy efficiency and water efficiency, in addition to establishing targets for FY2030 for agency-wide facility energy use intensity and potable water use intensity.
- **Waste Reduction** – divert at least 50% of non-hazardous solid waste by FY2025 and 75% by FY2030.
- **Sustainable Procurement** – reduce emissions, promote environmental stewardship, support resilient supply chains, drive innovation and incentivize markets for sustainable products and services by prioritizing products that can be reused, refurbished or recycled. In addition, agencies must maximize environmental benefits and cost savings through the use of full lifecycle cost methodologies and by purchasing products that contain recycled content, are biobased, or are energy and water efficient.
- **Federal Supply Chain Sustainability** – Federal supply chains should support a government and economy that serves all Americans by creating and sustaining well-paying union jobs, protecting public health, advancing environmental justice, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate change.

- **Engaging, Educating & Training the Federal Workforce** – foster a culture of sustainability and climate action, build employees’ skills and knowledge through engagement, education, and training, and incorporate environmental stewardship values and sustainability goals and objectives into performance plans of staff.

The requirements laid out by EO 14057 are meant to transform federal operations and procurement in response to the current climate crisis. The goal is to have the federal government lead by example to achieve a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035 and net-zero emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. The next steps for meeting these goals at HHS and the NIH have already begun, with much more to be shared in the future!