



At a Glance

Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Why We Did This Review

We performed this review to evaluate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) progress toward meeting the requirements of Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Specifically, we sought to determine EPA's status in planning and measuring reductions of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at Agency facilities.

Background

On October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514 to establish an integrated strategy toward sustainability in the federal government. The executive order introduced new GHG emissions management requirements. It also prioritized the reduction of GHG emissions for all federal agencies and required them to measure, report, and reduce their GHG emissions.

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional, Public Affairs and Management at (202) 566-2391.

The full report is at:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2011/20110412-11-P-0209.pdf

EPA's Plan to Reduce Agency Greenhouse Gas Emissions Is on Track to Meet Executive Order 13514 Requirements

What We Found

We found that EPA has completed its plan to reduce GHG emissions as required by Executive Order 13514. However, projected GHG reductions are contingent on the full funding and implementation of the plan's energy efficiency projects.

EPA established a 25 percent GHG emission reduction target by fiscal year 2020. To reach this target, the Agency's primary strategy is to reduce its facility energy intensity by 3 percent annually through fiscal year 2020. EPA's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan outlines specific projects that the Agency will undertake to reduce GHG emissions. Funding for some of the projects in the plan has not been authorized or appropriated, and delays or deficits in plan funding may adversely impact the Agency's ability to meet its GHG reduction goals.

What We Recommend

We recommend that EPA's annual update of its Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan report describe changes to GHG emission reductions and/or reduction goals based on actual funding and status of projects, and make adjustments to the overall reduction goal as needed.

The Agency found the report to be factually accurate and concurred with the findings and recommendation.