

Data Quality Record for Long-Term Performance Goals

Long-Term Performance Goal Text: By September 30, 2026, assist at least 450 states, territories, local governments, and communities, especially communities that are underserved and disproportionately at risk from climate change, to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

Corresponding Annual Performance Goal: Cumulative number of states, territories, local governments, and communities (i.e., EPA partners) assisted by EPA to take action to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

Goal Number/Objective: Goal 1/Objective 1.2

NPM lead: Office of the Administrator (OA), Office of Policy (OP)

1a. Purpose of Long-Term Performance Goal:

The impacts of climate change are affecting people in every region of the country, threatening lives and livelihoods and damaging infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems in communities across the nation. Certain communities and individuals are particularly vulnerable to these impacts, including low-income communities and communities of color, children, the elderly, and Tribes and indigenous people. Climate change can also exacerbate existing pollution problems and environmental stressors. These impacts challenge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to accomplish its mission of protecting human health and the environment.

EPA is committed to strengthening the adaptive capacity of all 40,000 communities as it works to improve the adaptive capacity of the nation. The purpose of this long-term performance goal (LTPG) is to document the number of states, territories, local governments, and communities with environmental justice concerns that EPA has assisted in the year that have taken action as a result. This LTPG focuses on EPA's efforts to increase the nation's ability to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, or recover from the impacts of climate change.

1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

Climate change: Refers to changes in global or regional climate patterns attributed largely to human-caused increased levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases.

Climate change adaptation or climate adaptation: Indicates taking action to prepare for and adjust to both the current and projected impacts of climate change.

Assisted: For this LTPG, the number of assistance activities, types of assistance activity, and actual assistance will be collected. Note that for an assistance activity to be counted, a state, territory, local government, or community with environmental justice concerns must take proactive action following EPA assistance. Assistance may include, but not be limited to the following types of EPA activities:

- Funding and financial assistance: Grants, loans, or other financial support in which climate adaptation assistance is clearly delineated. A cooperative agreement would typically be considered financial assistance.

- Technical assistance: Events in which EPA or a representative (e.g., contractor) provides information or material or engages in collaborative problem solving with a particular partner or group of partners. Typically, technical assistance relates to a specific issue or topic area. Technical assistance is directly provided by EPA and may be provided remotely or on-site. Some examples include providing input on a Climate Adaptation Plan, helping partners understand EPA climate adaptation tools or resources, or working with the partners to identify, assess or implement adaptation strategies. Technical assistance does not include updates or general information-sharing.
- Trainings: Events held by EPA in which it and/or a representative (e.g., contractor) present climate adaptation information or material to multiple recipients. Training includes classroom or web-based training, including live webinars and recorded webinars posted on EPA's public website, that is related to an EPA-administered program and delivered at least in part by EPA, an EPA contractor, or a combination of the two.

To take action: For this LTPG, the aim is to report on assistance in which the recipient takes a proactive step after receiving EPA assistance. It is not intended to simply count the communities that have received outreach or general information on climate adaptation from EPA; rather it is intended to capture the number of communities that take action as a result of EPA assistance.

- Actions may be intermediate steps not an outcome itself. For example, EPA might provide financial assistance through a grant to fund development of a community's Climate Adaptation Plan. In this case, the assistance EPA provides through grant funding would be counted once the community initiates its Adaptation Plan rather than waiting for the Plan to be completed.
- Actions may include but are not limited to: developing a climate adaptation plan; identifying potential impacts; assessing vulnerability; planning efforts; applying for additional funding (e.g., applying for funding from others such as FEMA); adoption of adaptation measures such as green infrastructure; improved coordination with other key organizations (e.g., a state or federal partner); estimation of financial impacts; or more effective remedy selection in a hazardous waste cleanup program.

Anticipate: For this LTPG, it refers to efforts, including but not limited to identification of existing and future risks due to climate change, and assessment of vulnerabilities to anticipated climate risks (e.g., infrastructure at risk). (Note: EPA promotes anticipatory climate adaptation rather than reactive.)

Prepare for: For this LTPG, it refers to efforts that may include, but are not limited to developing adaptation plans, identifying adaptation strategies, seeking funding for adaptation performance measures, and establishing new contacts or networks to prepare for anticipated climate impacts.

Adapt to: For this LTPG, it refers to actions taken to reduce the impacts or vulnerability to the changing climate including, but not limited to relocation, green infrastructure, and physical barriers.

Recover from: For this LTPG, it refers to efforts related to actions taken in the aftermath of a federally declared climate disaster.

Underserved and disproportionately at risk from climate change: Those that score at or above the 80th percentile in one or more of the EJ Screen indices or meet other disproportionate impact criteria as determined by the program.

1c. Unit of Measure:

The number of states, territories, local governments, and communities assisted that have taken action.

2a. Data Source:

- EPA national program or regional program managers and staff assisting communities.
- The Office of Policy is working with the Office of Mission Support to develop a data collection tool.
- Quality Assurance Project Plan TBD with development of data system.

2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:

- The baseline for this LTPG is 200.
- Type of community assisted (e.g., state, territory, local government, community with environmental justice concerns).
- Number and types of assistance.
- Start and completion dates.
- Action taken

3. Calculation Methodology:

The total for this LTPG is the cumulative number of states, territories, local governments, communities assisted that have taken action.

4. Quality Assurance/Quality Controls:

To be determined.

5. Data Limitations/Qualifications:

This LTPG counts “assistance” only when it yields specific action(s) taken by states, territories, local governments, and communities with environmental justice concerns. This is beyond simply tracking the number of states, territories, local governments, communities that receive EPA outreach and/or general information related to climate adaptation. It requires EPA to track the results of its assistance efforts. This may be difficult as the actions taken are external to EPA. The Office of Policy will continue to consult and work with EPA’s Cross-agency Workgroup on Climate Adaptation to monitor the effectiveness of this LTPG and revise as necessary.

6. Technical Contact:

Vicky Salazar (OA), Office of Policy, 206-553-1060

7. Certification Statement/Signature:

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

DAA Signature Original signed by Acting DAA for OP, Andy Teplitzky **Date** 5/25/2022