



CONCEPT NOTE

Background and Objective

The Greening Government Initiative (GGI) is an international community of practice that was launched by the Governments of the United States and Canada in April 2021. GGI is a new initiative that enables countries to exchange information, promote innovation, and share best practices in order to green government operations and help meet Paris Agreement commitments. Greening government includes activities such as increasing government's use of renewable energy, transitioning national government buildings and fleets to net-zero emissions, enhancing the resilience of government buildings, establishing governmental sustainable procurement policies, and identifying nature-based solutions. GGI participation does not require membership, financial commitments, or sector commitments.

Scope

GGI's scope is focused on national government operations. This focus includes elements such as government buildings, energy use, water use, fleets, workplaces, and purchasing sustainable products. This effort will contribute to but is separate from broader efforts such as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The target participants for this effort are leaders and teams directly responsible for greening national government operations.

Through this initiative, there will be opportunities for countries to share ongoing efforts, present projects, discuss potential ways to work together, and help each other recognize and address challenges involved in greening national government operations. Further, GGI will facilitate government officials making direct connections with their peers in other countries to discuss how to best make government operations more sustainable. No direct financial assistance is expected to be provided through this initiative.

Desired Outcomes

GGI seeks to build a community of practice among sustainability leaders in order to strengthen and accelerate green government operations. Accordingly, GGI aims to be a platform to share information and best practices, develop collaborative relationships, and showcase innovation and success. Through GGI, governments can demonstrate to the international community how they, through their own operations, are leading by example in climate resilience and sustainability.

Participation/Criteria to Participate

For regular GGI meetings and communications, participating governments are asked to identify a single representative with a senior role for policy or implementation of sustainable or lower carbon national government operations. Other government representatives are welcome and expected to join GGI events. Further guidance will be provided in the future.

Roles

The White House Council on Environmental Quality of the United States and the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada will co-chair the meetings for the first year, and be responsible for:

- Organizing agendas, including setting the dates, organizing speakers and issuing invitations;
- Maintaining a participant list; and
- Establishing and maintaining a website.

A system of rotating chairs will be considered in the future on a voluntary basis.

Participants will be responsible for:

- Participating in a minimum of four virtual meetings a year;
- Sharing their experiences, through presentations or other forms of communication, as appropriate;
- Notifying GGI of changes in points of contact; and
- Suggesting topics for future meetings.

Contact Information

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