

## USPS policy statement: climate change adaptation

While the scope, severity and pace of future climate change impacts are difficult to predict, it is clear that potential changes could burden and disrupt the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) ability to fulfill its mission — to provide every U.S. residence and business with reliable, affordable, universal mail service, now and for future generations. Climate change adaptation planning (CCAP) will better prepare USPS to avoid or minimize negative impacts on our business operations and ability to carry out our mission, that could be caused by a range of climate change scenarios.

The Postal Service is a leader among the federal government in accounting for its contribution to global climate change, and establishing and reporting performance towards energy and transportation goals to mitigate its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. USPS recognizes that climate change adaptation is a critical complement to mitigation – to address the consequences as well as the causes of climate change.

In response to Executive Order (EO) 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance Section 8(i), the Postal Service will (1) identify how climate change is likely to impact our ability to achieve our mission, operate our facilities, and meet our policy and program objectives; and (2) develop, prioritize, implement, and evaluate actions to moderate climate change risks and exploit any new opportunities that climate change may bring. These actions will be informed by the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force's relevant guiding principles:

**Adopt integrated approaches.** The goal of this policy is to ensure that the Postal Service executes its mission and operates securely, effectively and efficiently as the climate continues to change. To implement this objective, we will integrate CCAP and actions into postal programs, policies and operations.

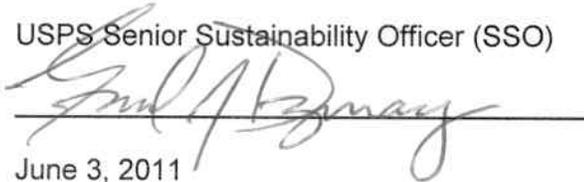
**Use the best available science and information.** USPS will consider potential climate change impacts when undertaking long-term strategic and financial planning, updating the Postal Service's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP), and making relevant decisions affecting policies, planning, resource allocation, and operations.

**Apply risk management methods and tools and continuously evaluate performance.** USPS will develop and publish an organizational climate adaptation plan by June 2012 and update it regularly. The plan will identify how climate change may impact our ability to achieve the USPS mission, programs, policies and operations. USPS will consider how past extreme events have disrupted Postal operations and evaluate the impact of increased frequency of similar events. Focus areas may include the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, and extreme weather on route planning, route optimization and network operations, the impact of extreme temperature changes on facility and vehicle durability, and potential disruptions in transportation routes caused by negative impacts to the Nation's infrastructure. The plan will identify and prioritize actions, and establish a mechanism to evaluate progress to improve the Postal Service's capacity to adapt to future climate changes.

**Maximize mutual benefits and prioritize the most vulnerable.** The Office of Sustainability will establish a Climate Change Adaptation Steering Group to work cross-functionally to review existing policies, roles and responsibilities, authorities, programs, and operational guidelines to identify potential impacts of climate change; to prioritize and implement response actions; and to continuously assess and improve capacity to adapt to current and future changes in the climate.

**Build strong partnerships.** The Postal Service will coordinate with other federal and state agencies and interagency efforts as appropriate (including the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force) on climate change adaptation issues that cut across agency jurisdictions (including areas where national adaptation plans are being or have been developed), and will identify a process for sharing climate change adaptation planning information throughout the Postal Service and the public.

USPS Senior Sustainability Officer (SSO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Dwyer", is written over a horizontal line.

June 3, 2011