

United States Postal Service

# 2015 STRATEGIC SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE PLAN

June 30, 2015



This package is made from post-consumer waste.  
**Please recycle - again.**



- ▲ Domestic only.
- \* Tracking outside the U.S. available to many major International destinations.
- ‡ Limited International Indemnity.

**PRIORITY**  
★ **MAIL** ★

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June 30, 2015

## U.S. POSTAL SERVICE SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

The U.S. Postal Service is unique among the Federal agencies because we visit every household in the United States six days a week. Our statutory mandate to provide secure, efficient and reliable mail service to every person in the United States means that our employees drive more than 1 billion miles every year. Our goal is to deliver mail at the lowest cost with minimal impact to the environment - and to better serve our customers, our bottom line and our planet while complying with all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local environmental/energy laws and regulations.

The Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation - more than 150 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. Although the twin challenges of an aging delivery fleet and the need to service more delivery points due to a growing population continue to push our vehicle fuel demand upward, we strive to manage fuel as efficiently as possible.

We instituted and utilize the USPS BlueEarth® Federal Recycling Program to supplement our recycling process for small electronics and ink cartridges. This innovative mailing solution makes it easy for federal agencies to recycle ink cartridges and unwanted electronic devices free of charge using the postal network. Federal agencies and their employees can send eligible items through the mail so that all data are wiped from the devices to ensure privacy and information protection. All items are reused and/or sent to a certified downstream recycler. This program allows federal agencies to manage these wastes in a secure and environmentally safe manner.

This Fiscal Year 2015 Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan describes our strategies, progress and challenges. We will continue to drive improvement efforts to better serve our customers, engage our employees, collaborate with our supply chain, conserve natural resources, reduce waste, and improve energy and water efficiency, while reducing our associated greenhouse gas emissions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T G Day".

## Executive Summary

The U.S. Postal Service is committed to being a Sustainability leader and promoting a culture of conservation within the organization. Since 2008 we have achieved a 16.9 percent reduction in our Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions and a 23.9 percent reduction in our Scope 3 emissions. Since 2007 we have reduced our water use per square foot by 29.7 percent. During the same period we reduced facility energy use by more than 31 percent.

The U.S. Postal Service has reported on the following goals:

**Reducing Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2020**

**Reducing Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by 2020**

**Reducing facility energy intensity 30 percent by 2015**

**Reducing total postal vehicle petroleum fuel use 20 percent by 2015**

**Increasing fleet alternative fuel by 10 percent annually by 2015**

**Reducing potable water intensity 26 percent by 2020**

**Agency Progress toward EPEAT, Power Management, and end of life disposition**

**Increasing Renewable energy to 20 percent by 2020**

Reducing overall petroleum consumption continues to be a challenge because the total number of delivery points we must travel to serve our customers continues to grow each year. Further, we are challenged with an aging fleet of delivery vehicles. We are working to optimize our delivery route efficiency and continue to test alternative vehicle technologies.

The Postal Service will continue our sustainability efforts and is currently building an outline for our voluntary participation in *Executive Order 13693: Planning for Sustainability in the Next Decade*.

We are a self-supporting, independent establishment of the Executive Branch and as a result, sustainability requirements in *Executive Order 13693* are not applicable to the Postal Service. Yet, whenever possible, we voluntarily set specific goals and adopt internally-binding policies that seek to meet requirements applicable to federal agencies.

Beyond measuring and reporting, we are committed to change by implementing specific programs that will make a difference.

**Table 1: Agency Size & Scope**

<b>Agency Size and Scope</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
Total Number of Employees as Reported in the President's Budget	490,493	488,300
Total Acres of Land Managed	NA	NA
Total Number of Buildings Owned	8,610	8,602
Total Number of Buildings Leased (GSA and Non-GSA Lease)	24,337	24,191
Total Building Gross Square Feet (GSF)	271,917,679	280,478,104
Operates in Number of Locations Throughout U.S.	32,709	31,662
Operates in Number of Locations Outside of U.S.	NA	NA
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Owned	171,051	165,841
Total Number of Fleet Vehicles Leased	1,040	762
Total Number of Exempted-Fleet Vehicles (Tactical, Law Enforcement, Emergency, Etc.)	2,529	2,684
Total Amount Contracts Awarded as Reported in FPDS (\$Millions)		

## **Goal 1: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction**

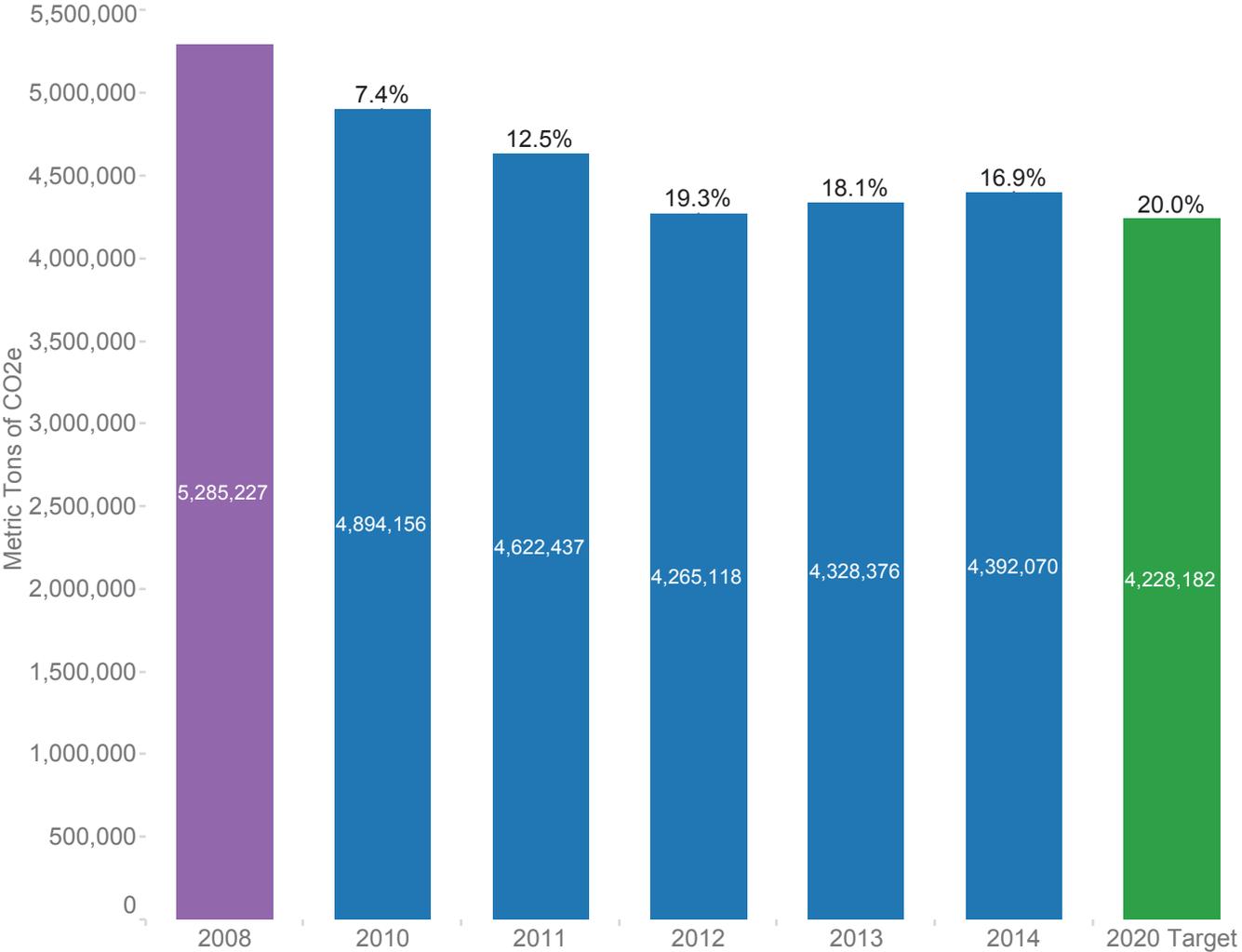
### **Agency Progress Toward Scope 1 & 2 GHG Goal**

USPS generates Scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions from facility energy and transportation fuel use, waste generation, employee commuting, contracted transportation services and other sources. Our target is to reduce Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 20 percent by 2020.

-USPS Scope 1 GHG emissions include postal-owned sources, such as fossil fuels used in our facilities and vehicle fleet.

-USPS Scope 2 GHG emissions include supplied electricity or steam produced outside our organization.

# USPS Progress toward Scope 1 & 2 Greenhouse Gas Goals



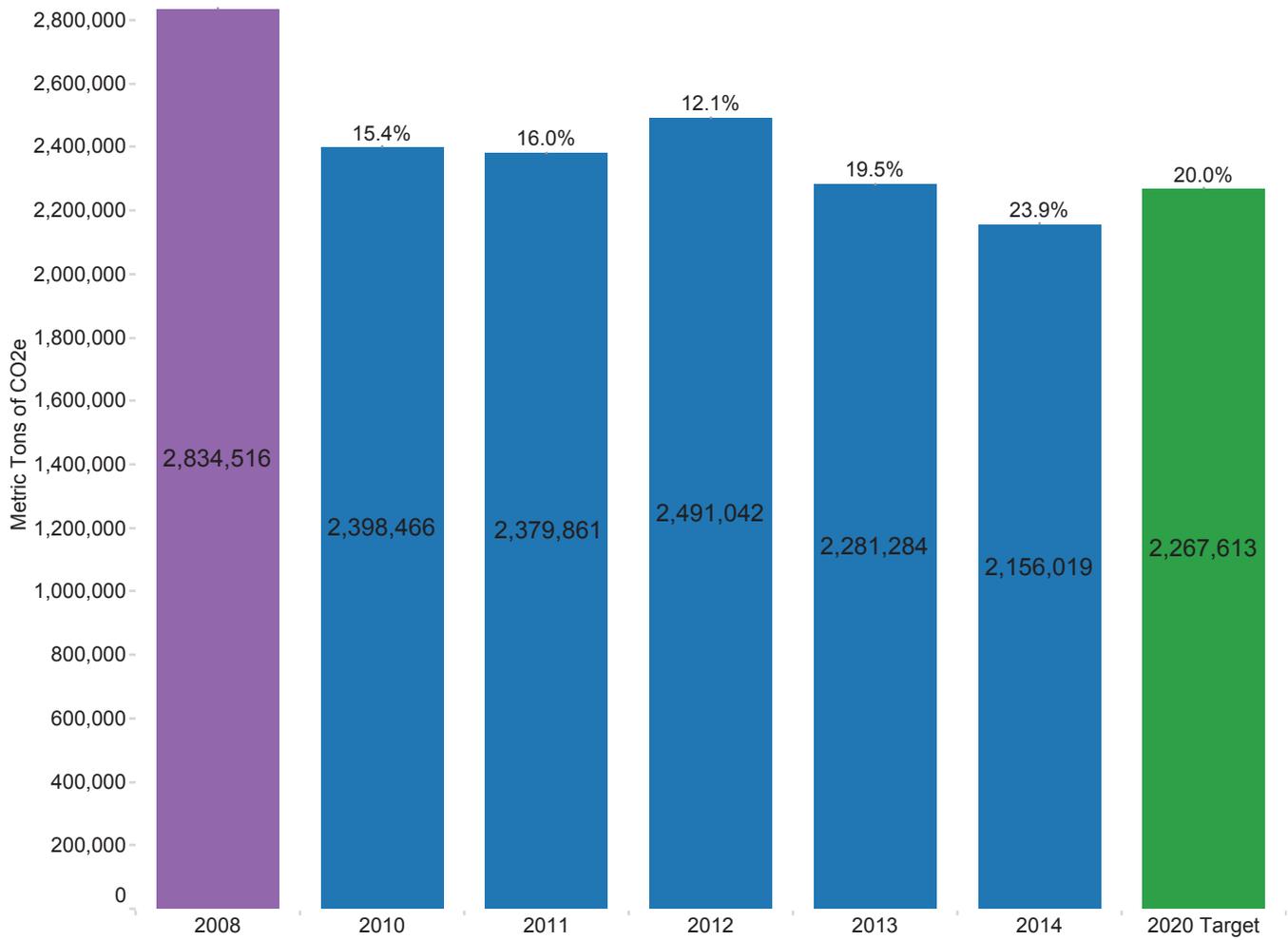
## **Agency Progress towards Scope 3 GHG Goal**

USPS Scope 3 emissions included in the figure are:

- Transmission and Distribution losses
- Business travel via air and road
- Employee commuting
- Contracted waste disposal
- Contracted wastewater

Contract transportation, such as air and ground transportation, and fully serviced leased facilities are not included in the Scope 3 figure. The Postal Service includes both categories in our own reporting. To learn more, read our Annual Sustainability Report at [usps.com/green](https://usps.com/green).

## USPS Progress toward Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Goals



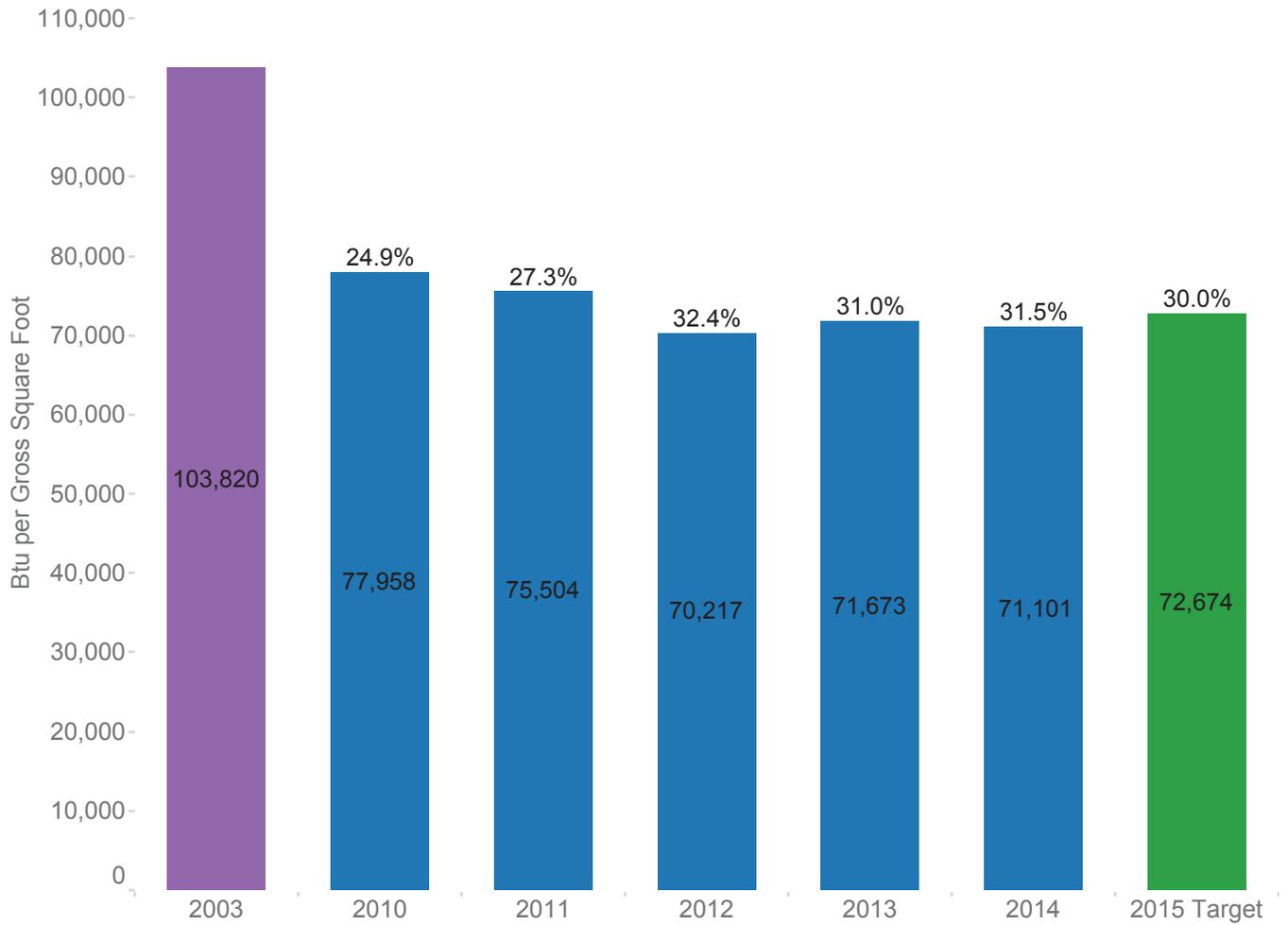
## **Goal 2: Sustainable Buildings**

### **Agency Progress toward Facility Energy Intensity Reduction Goal**

The Postal Service has more than 31,000 buildings nationwide. Our network of facilities provides mail processing, retail services, vehicle maintenance, data management and administrative support for the organization.

We have two goals — to reduce total facility energy use and energy intensity (use per square foot) 30 percent by 2015, starting from a 2003 baseline. We're on track to meet both goals, notwithstanding a slight increase in 2014 energy consumption compared to the prior year. This was largely driven by increased demand for heating fuel from the severe winter of 2014.

## USPS Progress toward Facility Energy Intensity Reduction Goals (FY 2014 Goal: 27%)



## **Agency Progress toward Total Buildings Meeting the Guiding Principles**

USPS is a self-supporting independent establishment of the Executive Branch that funds its operations from revenue generated by sales of products and services – not taxpayer subsidies received as congressional appropriations. As a result, the organization is not required to meet the federal sustainability requirements in EO 13423 and 13514, including the adoption of the Guiding Principles. However, where possible with an active network of more than 31,000 facilities, we endeavor to manage our facilities in accordance with the Guiding Principles. For example, we have voluntarily adopted the goals of reducing total facility energy use and energy intensity (use per square foot) 30 percent by 2015, compared to a FY2003 baseline and reducing potable water intensity by 2 percent annually through FY2020 compared to an FY2007 baseline.

## **Goal 3: Fleet Management**

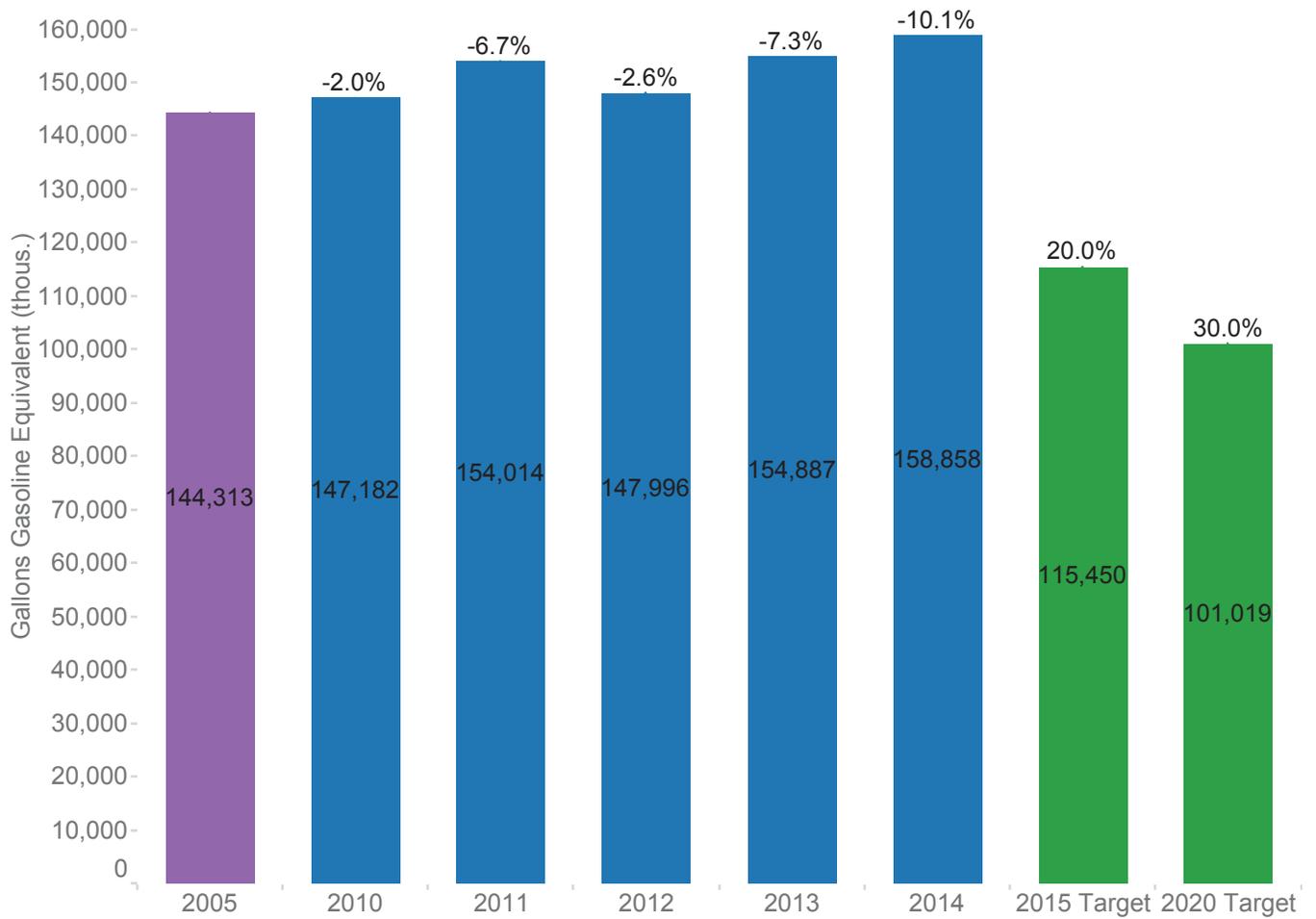
### **Agency Progress toward Fleet Petroleum Use Reduction Goal**

To fulfill our universal service obligation, which entails delivering approximately 512.8 million pieces of mail a day, the Postal Service operates a wide range of transportation modes. We use vehicles owned by the Postal Service, including those that run on conventional fuels as well as alternative fuels. We also use contracted transportation to move mail by air, highway and water. Postal Service employees deliver mail using their own vehicles, and by foot, boat, bicycle — and, in the Grand Canyon, even by mule.

Our long-term goal has been to reduce petroleum fuel usage by 20 percent by 2015 from a 2003 baseline. Our efforts to do this have been challenged by an aging delivery fleet and an increasing number of delivery points each year.

USPS released a request for information in January 2015 to replace more than 100,000 delivery vehicles.

## USPS Progress toward Fleet Petroleum Reduction Goals (FY 2014 Goal: 18%)

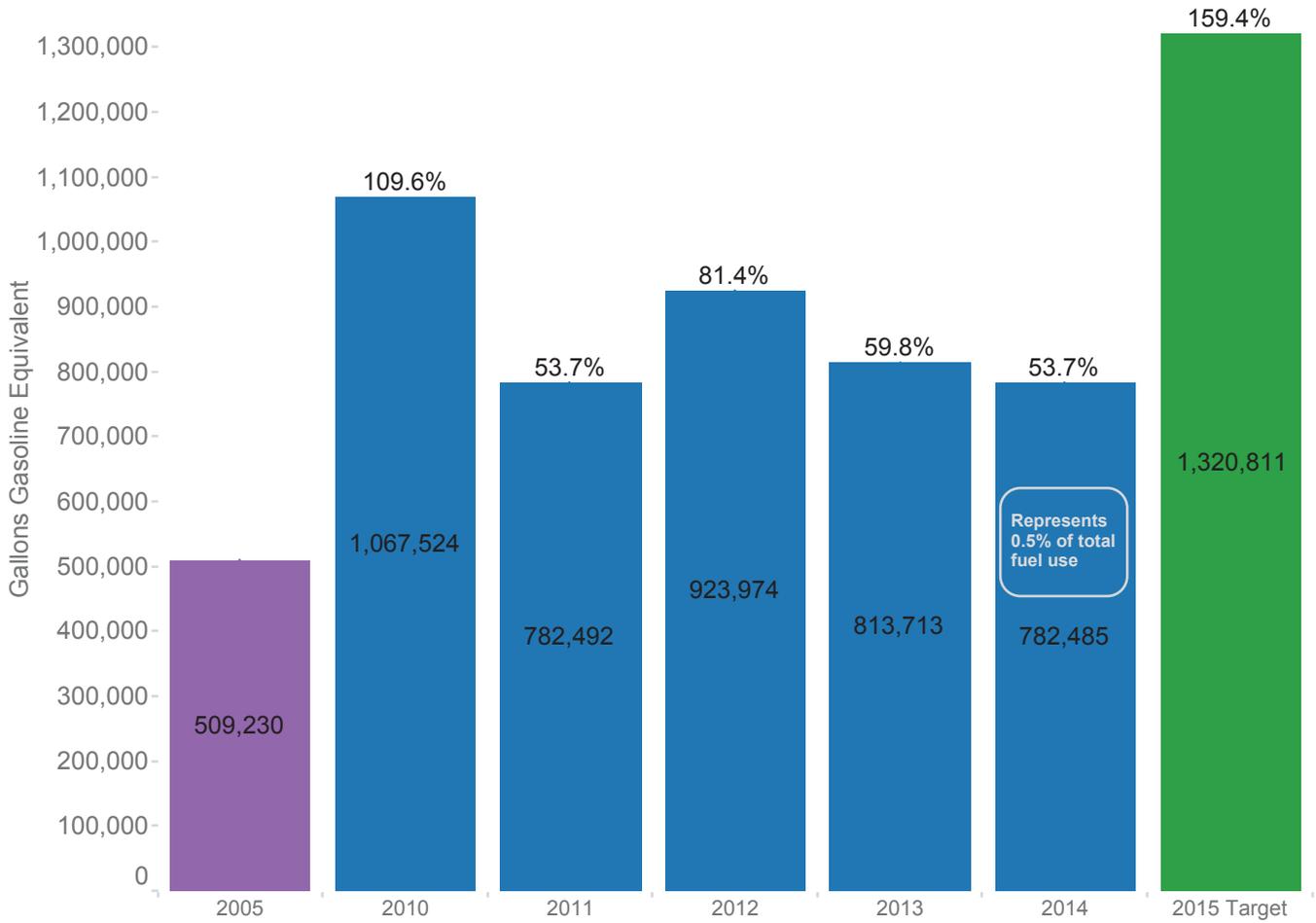


## **Agency Progress toward Fleet Alternative Fuel Consumption Goal**

USPS operates a diverse fleet of alternative fuel vehicles. This past year, we added 234 new alternative fuel vehicles to the fleet. This includes six compressed natural gas (CNG), 218 E-85 and 10 hybrid vehicles — an increase of 31 percent from the previous year.

The majority of our alternative fleet is comprised of E-85 flex-fuel vehicles that can operate on gasoline, E-85 or any mixture of the two fuels. However, most of these vehicles run on standard petroleum-based fuels because alternative fuel locations are not conveniently located or competitively priced — making it difficult to fuel this fleet with E-85. The other alternative fuel vehicles can run on CNG, electricity, propane and biodiesel.

## USPS Progress toward Fleet Alternative Fuel Consumption Goals (FY 2014 Goal: +135.8%)



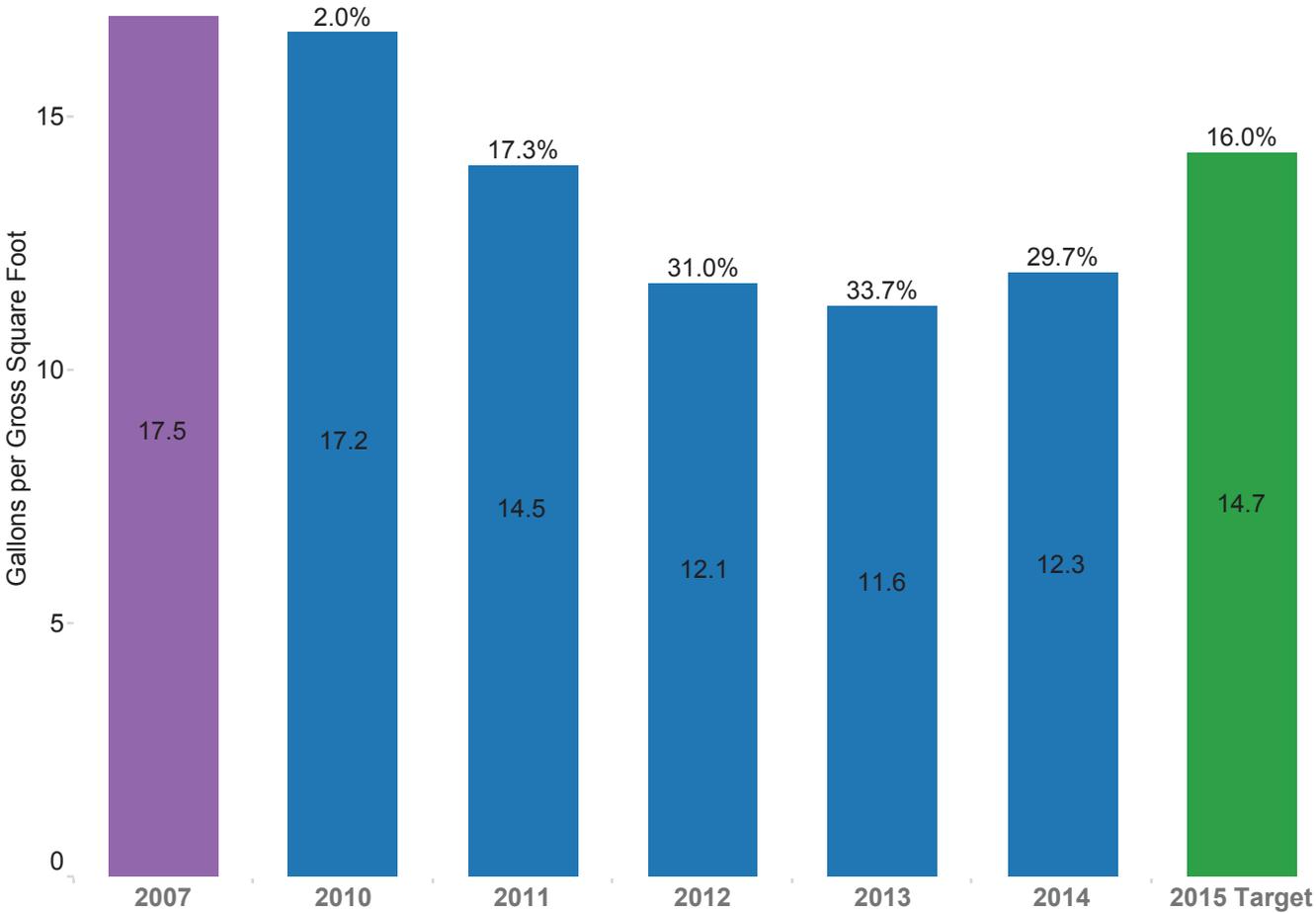
## **Goal 4: Water Use Efficiency & Management**

### **Agency Progress toward Potable Water Intensity Reduction Goal**

USPS continues to enhance our performance in reducing water use. In 2014, we spent \$30 million for potable water and used an estimated 3.5 billion gallons of water.

In response to critical water shortages in California, the Postal Service advised its facilities in the state to protect water as a precious resource. California experienced its most intense drought in modern history. Gov. Jerry Brown announced a drought state of emergency in January 2015. The Postal Service will continue to do its part to reduce water use, not only in California but across

USPS Progress toward Potable Water Intensity Reduction Goals  
(FY 2014 Goal: 14%)



## **Goal 5: Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction**

### **Agency Progress toward Pollution Prevention & Waste Reduction**

The Postal Service has set goals to reduce waste and recycle. In 2014, we recycled more than 223,000 tons of material and diverted about 37 percent of our solid waste to recycling. Our target is to divert 50 percent of our solid waste from landfill to recycling by 2015.

USPS has launched a national recycling operation, which will standardize mixed paper backhaul recycling in postal facilities over five years.

Recycling can no longer be considered an optional part of postal business operations. In many places, it may be required by law. This initiative is the right thing to do and it will help mitigate our financial challenges.

## **Goal 6: Sustainable Acquisition**

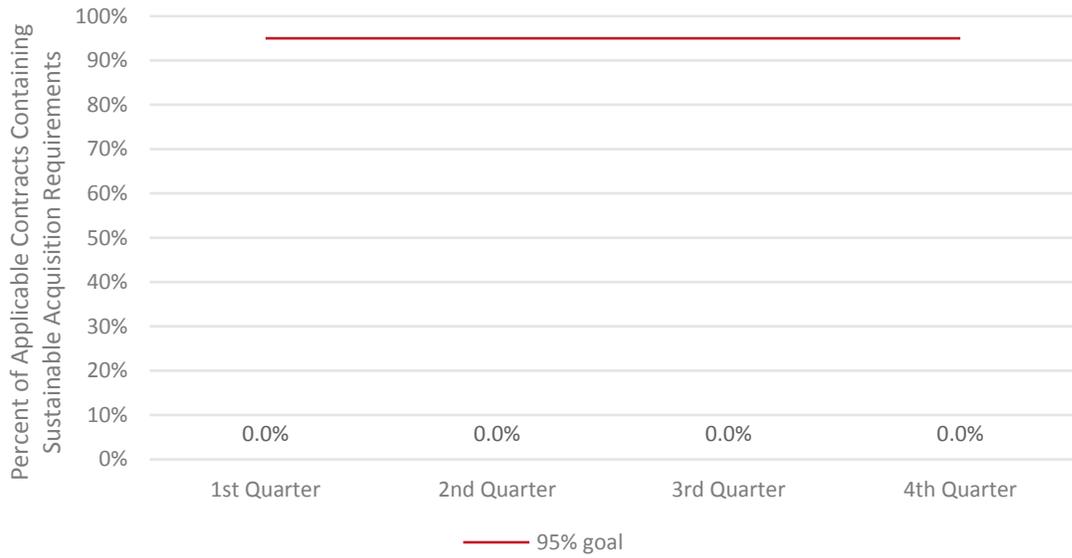
### **Agency Progress toward Sustainable Acquisition Goal**

This year the Postal Service offices of Sustainability and Supply Management worked to develop several new sustainability principles, practices and contract clauses that have been incorporated into our agency supplying principles and practices. These internal guidelines provide advice and guidance to Postal Service professionals involved in supply chain management.

In 2014, USPS purchased more than \$236 million of environmentally preferable products weighing over 285,903 tons.

USPS is not currently examining contracts for sustainability attributes but may consider doing so in the future.

## USPS Progress toward Sustainable Acquisition Goal



## **Goal 7: Electronic Stewardship & Data Centers**

### **Agency Progress toward EPEAT, Power Management & End of Life Goals**

The Postal Service is committed to promoting electronic stewardship. We work to procure EPEAT and Energy Star certified printers, maximize duplex (or double sided) printing, minimize color printing and black toner consumption. We also are working toward increasing our power management to 100 percent. All new printers include aggressive power management that reduces power use while printing 30-50 percent and "at rest" usage by 80 percent (compared to the 2005 printer fleet).

USPS continues to utilize our National Asset Recovery Program to process eWaste and other materials. Field locations gather excess or obsolete items in containers and use the transportation backhauling network to move containers to Topeka, KS. Some of the electronics included computers, phones, scanners, and CRTs.

In FY14, USPS shipped 4.1 million pounds of materials to the Asset Recovery Center.

USPS assists other federal agencies with recycling through the mail for small electronics and ink cartridges. The USPS BlueEarth Federal Recycling Program is a web-based program that allows federal agencies and their employees to properly dispose of items such as empty ink cartridges and unwanted small electronics that are 20 pounds or less.

An employee from a participating agency simply populates required information on the website and packages the device, prints a prepaid shipping label and arranges for the package to be picked up by a USPS carrier. The USPS BlueEarth Federal Recycling Program currently assists federal agencies in meeting Executive Order 13693: Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, with reporting and analysis for the items recycled.

Employees can recycle both work-related and personal devices through the program and all devices are shipped to a certified third-party recycling facility, which ensures they are either securely recycled or remanufactured for resale.

EPEAT	POWER MANAGEMENT	END-OF-LIFE	COMMENTS
			Power management: 91%

EPEAT:

	95% or more Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2013 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide
	85-94% or more Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2013 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide
	84% or less Monitors and PCs/Laptops purchased in FY2013 was EPEAT Compliant Agency-wide

Power Management:

	100% Power Management Enabled Computers, Laptops and Monitors Agency-wide
	90-99% Power Management Enabled Computers, Laptops and Monitors Agency-wide
	89% or less Power Management Enabled Computers, Laptops and Monitors Agency-wide

End-Of-Life:

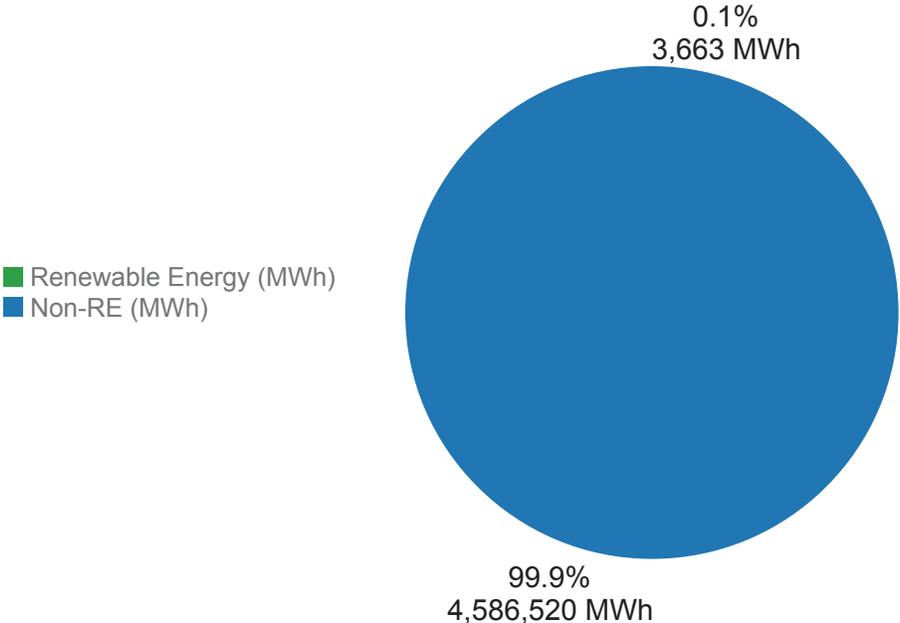
	100% of electronics tracked at end-of life, demonstrating 100% disposal through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicorn, USPS Recycling Program or Certified Recycler (R2, E-Stewards). <i>Submitted annual report to GSA for Federal Electronics Assets furnished to non-Federal recipients.</i>
	100% of electronics tracked at end-of life, demonstrating 100% disposal through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicorn, USPS Recycling Program and/or non-Certified Recycler. Submitted annual report to GSA for Federal Electronics Assets furnished to non-Federal recipients.
	100% of electronics not tracked at end-of-life or less than 100% disposal through GSA Xcess, CFL, Unicorn, USPS Recycling Program or non-Certified Recycler. <i>No annual report submitted to GSA for Federal Electronics Assets furnished to non-Federal recipients.</i>

## **Goal 8: Renewable Energy**

### **Agency Renewable Energy Percentage of Total Electricity Usage**

USPS is a self-supporting independent establishment of the Executive Branch that funds its operations from revenue generated by sales of products and services – not taxpayer subsidies received as congressional appropriations. USPS is not required to meet all of the federal sustainability requirements in EO 13423 and 13514, including renewable energy. Where possible, we voluntarily comply by considering renewable energy projects when financially beneficial.

USPS Use of Renewable Energy as a Percentage of Electricity Use  
(FY 2014 Goal: 7.5%)



## **Goal 9: Climate Change Resilience**

### **Agency Climate Change Resilience**

USPS will continue to do our part to reduce GHG emissions, which contribute to the warming of our planet, and in turn cause changes in our climate.

We believe that it's important to approach the issue of climate resiliency with a two-pronged approach:

Climate change adaptation is adjusting to a changing climate to minimize negative effects and take advantage of new opportunities. This is important to the Postal Service because climate change directly affects our services, operations, programs, assets and national security. Proper planning can identify how climate change is likely to affect the ability to achieve our mission and/or meet policy and program objectives.

We have established a climate change adaptation working group. The team is responsible for the USPS Climate Change Adaptation Plan. To read this plan please visit:

<http://about.usps.com/what-we-are-doing/green/climatechange.htm>

## **Goal 10: Energy Performance Contracts**

### **Agency Progress In Meeting President's Performance Contracting Challenge (PPCC) Goal**

Our mission is to deliver mail to every community in America. Our operations are funded by revenue from sales of products and services. The Postal Service has the authority to enter into ESPCs to provide an alternative means to help finance certain energy conservation projects. However, it has been determined that EPSCs, which require the use of Capital Funds from a 3rd party who in turn recoups their investment through shared savings over an extended period of time, would not be advisable because the cancellation clauses in such contracts would have to be accounted for as a potential liability and counted towards the Postal Service's statutory debt limit.

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