



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

2022 Climate Strategy Report

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

October 15, 2022

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Introduction

About North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) is committed to ensuring that all those who served, and their loved ones, are made aware of and maximize all the benefits and resources available. In particular, NCDMVA manages the State Veterans Homes and State Veterans Cemeteries.

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Vulnerabilities to Climate Change

North Carolina is a geographically and climatically diverse state with a climate already defined by extreme and changeable weather. As natural and climate disasters increase in frequency, magnitude, and duration, the NCDMVA has identified the following vulnerabilities and risks to its services:

- a. Hurricanes and other severe weather events may impact personnel transportation to and from the place of business for the primary workforce. NCDMVA structures are primarily leased, and our workforce, other than cemetery staff, is office-based with little outdoor or off-site requirements.
- b. Extreme heat and extreme cold damages the State Veterans Cemeteries, both facilities and the burial sites. Primarily these conditions generate additional personnel requirements to manage additional watering of lawns and repair and replace grave markers.
- c. Extreme weather may damage existing Department facilities, such as State Veterans Homes, more frequently. Power outages may become more frequent, affecting communications systems and facility operations. Some events may generate major repair and renovation requirements at the Homes. Flooding may be a concern at some locations.

North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Approach to Fulfilling the Strategies in the Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has not generated any change as to how we intend to fulfill the strategies, actions, and recommendations in the Climate Risk Assessment and Resilience Plan.

Reducing Energy Use

The utility manager for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is Clifford Holt. He has worked with the State Construction Office to identify opportunities to incorporate energy reduction features into existing facilities, as well as design energy reduction features into any new construction.

Addressing Environmental Injustices and Inequities

The previous environmental justice lead for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs recently departed their position. The NCDMVA is in the process of identifying a new environmental justice lead. The previous employee who held this position contacted NC DEQ to determine if any environmental injustices or inequities associated with this department have been identified by any outside agency. At this time, we do not have any items to address that we are aware of.

Public Participation Plan

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs does not have a Public Participation Plan.

1.0. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

1.1 Reduce energy consumption per square foot in state-owned buildings by at least 40% from fiscal year 2002-2003 levels

1.1.1 Install new energy efficient Vertical Terminal Air Conditioning (VTAC) systems in the State Veterans Homes in Kinston and Black Mountain.	Underway
Expected Completion Date: June 2024 The geothermal system originally installed did not provide adequate heating and cooling. The new systems will be room-specific controlled. By the end of fiscal year 2023, we expect to have 100% replacement in both facilities. We installed the most energy efficient heating and air conditioning (HVAC) system available in the new construction of Kernersville State Veterans Home. This installation is complete.	
1.1.2 Design for energy efficiency in the new State Veterans Homes in Wake County	Planned
Expected Completion Date: TBD We will incorporate energy efficient HVAC into the design for the new construction Raleigh State Veterans Home once we begin that process.	

1.2 Support the use and expansion of energy efficient and clean energy resources

Not Applicable to North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

1.3 Increase the number of registered Zero Emission Vehicles to at least 1,250,000 by 2030 so that 50% of in-state sales of new vehicles are zero-emission by 2030

Not Applicable to North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

1.4 Prioritize Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in the purchase or lease of new vehicles and for agency business travel

<p>1.4.1 Transition the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs motor fleet to zero emission vehicles</p>	<p>Proposed</p>
<p>Expected Completion Date: June 30, 2030</p> <p>Once the appropriate infrastructure is in place across North Carolina to fully support this transition, the department will accept zero emission vehicles in place of current fleet as required during life cycle replacement operations monitored and directed by Motor Fleet Management.</p>	
<p>1.4.2 Purchase Zero Emission Vehicles for the operation of the State Veterans Homes</p>	<p>Proposed</p>
<p>Expected Completion Date: June 30, 2030</p> <p>Once the appropriate infrastructure is in place across North Carolina to fully support this transition, the department will purchase zero emission vehicles in place of current fleet as required during life cycle replacement operations monitored by Motor Fleet Management. This includes any vehicles donated to the department by outside agencies for use at the State Veterans Homes.</p>	

2.0. Increase statewide resilience to the impacts of climate change

2.1 Evaluate the impacts of climate change on cabinet agencies’ programs and operations

<p>2.1.1 Understand and address the effect of climate change on State Veterans Cemeteries</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Completion Date: Summer 2022</p> <p>The maintenance and landscaping of the State Veterans Cemeteries has become increasingly more complex with the temperature and rainfall changes during the seasons. Maintaining a lush, attractive plot of land requires innovation and skill to coordinate fertilization, installation,</p>	

mowing, and mulching to peak growing seasons. This will minimize the wasted efforts during non-optimal growing seasons.	
2.1.2 Coordinate with facility owners of leased property supporting Veteran Service Centers to ensure the facilities are prepared for natural disasters	Planned
Expected Completion Date: TBD NCDMVA plans to review contracts for all leased facilities to ensure they include owner's responsibility reference care for facility in the case of a natural disaster.	
2.1.3 Protect the State Veterans Homes from Flooding	Proposed
Evaluate any additional protective measures that should be taken if a flooding incident takes place near the facility.	

2.2 Integrate climate change adaptation practices and resiliency planning into cabinet agencies' policies and operations

2.2.1 Adopt adaptation best practices for the State Veterans Cemeteries	Proposed
Expected Completion Date: June 30, 2030 The department will integrate any appropriate climate change adaptation practices and resiliency planning into the policies and operations of the State Veterans Cemeteries as required and as identified by NC DEQ.	
2.2.2 Develop and distribute a contacts list to keep necessary services up and running before, during, and after a disaster	Planned
Expected Completion Date: TBD The DMVA plans to develop and internally distribute a local, state, and federal contacts list to facilitate disaster preparedness and response.	

2.3 Assist the communities served by each cabinet agency to implement climate change adaptation practices and resiliency planning.

Not Applicable to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

3.0. Invest in historically underserved communities

Not Applicable to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Additional Information

In recent years, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has completed the following resilience strategies:

- Install back-up power for State Veterans Homes and State Veterans Cemeteries - All Homes and Cemeteries have back-up generators installed. All back-up generators are tested monthly to ensure continued operation.
- Partner with local power utilities to fortify services to and from NCDMVA facilities - Develop agreements with local power companies to prioritize repair of utility services at NCDMVA facilities in the event of a natural disaster.
- Install backup mechanisms for the NCDMVA communications systems - Appropriate backup mechanisms have been provided by the NC Department of Information Technology.