



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

U.S. Department of Energy

FY26 Geospatial Communications Plan

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Purpose

This communications plan outlines an approach to ensure the successful implementation of the DOE Geospatial Data Management Strategy and compliance with Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) requirements. By focusing on clear objectives such as fostering awareness, securing engagement, facilitating knowledge transfer, building a collaborative community, and highlighting successes that transparently demonstrate value and outcomes, this plan targets key audiences from DOE leadership and external partners to the American taxpayer. Through a combination of executive endorsement, collaborative engagements, centralized information hubs, and targeted knowledge and skill development, DOE will increase enterprise-wide adherence to geospatial federal regulations, enhance its geospatial capabilities, promote data-driven decision-making, and ensure information is easily accessible to the public.

Objectives

The communications plan is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- **Awareness & Understanding:** Ensure all relevant stakeholders are aware of the DOE Geospatial Data Strategy and their roles and responsibilities concerning geospatial data management.
- **Engagement & Buy-in:** Secure active participation, support, and resource commitment from leadership, program managers, and data stewards.
- **Knowledge & Skill Transfer:** Promote education and training to build geospatial literacy and technical proficiency across the workforce.
- **Collaboration & Community:** Facilitate internal and external partnerships and foster a vibrant geospatial community.
- **Transparency & Recognition:** Highlight successes and demonstrate the value and impact of geospatial data to the American taxpayer.

Key Audiences

Activities in the communications plan will target the following key audiences:

- **DOE Leadership:** Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Lab/Site Directors, Power Marketing Administration Administrators (PMAs).
- **DOE Geospatial Community:** Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI), Geospatial Information Officer (GIO), Geospatial Science Steering Committee (GSSC), Geospatial User Group (GUG), IT/Data Teams, Program Managers/Users.
- **External Partners & Stakeholders:** Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), Other Federal Agencies, Key Collaborators, American Taxpayers.

Communications Pillars & Activities

To effectively achieve objectives and engage key audiences, the communications plan is structured around three core pillars. Each pillar encompasses a set of strategic activities and utilizes specific channels and tools to ensure comprehensive outreach, foster understanding, build capabilities, promote collaboration across DOE and with external partners, and demonstrate value to the public.

Pillar 1: Executive Leadership & Collaborative Engagement

This pillar focuses on securing high-level strategic alignment, resource commitment, and accountability for GDA compliance through direct engagement with DOE leadership via established governance forums. Concurrently, it aims to build a connected community of DOE geospatial professionals and strengthen engagement with external bodies to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Channels and Tools:

DOE will utilize its existing governance boards, committees, and councils to provide regular updates to senior leaders and ensure alignment on geospatial data management initiatives. In parallel, internal working groups and external partnerships will be leveraged to facilitate collaboration and enable the effective exchange of information and best practices across the geospatial community.

Forum	Purpose	Membership	Cadence
DOE Cyber and Information Technology/ Operational Technology (IT/OT) Executive Council	Serves as the principal forum for collaboration and coordination of cyber and IT/OT strategies and policies across DOE.	Deputy Secretary (Chair), Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Lab/Site Directors, and PMA Administrators.	As required by the Chair
DOE Information Management Governance Board (IMGB)	Reports to the Cyber and IT/OT Executive Council and provides a forum for collaboration, development, and execution of enterprise-wide strategies, policies, requirements, and standards.	CIO (Chair); senior CIO/IT representatives from DOE Headquarters Offices, Labs, Sites, and PMAs.	Quarterly

Forum	Purpose	Membership	Cadence
DOE Data Governance Board (DGB)	Reports to the Cyber and IT/OT Executive Council and is responsible for managing data as a strategic asset, ensuring its quality, security, and appropriate use to support DOE's mission.	Office of the Chief Information Officer (Chair); senior representatives and data subject matter experts from DOE Headquarters Offices, Labs, Sites, and PMAs.	As required by the Chair
DOE Enterprise Architecture Governance Board (EAGB)	Serves as a forum for decision-making, collaboration, coordination, and execution of efforts relating to DOE enterprise business services, IT services, architectural solutions, and related initiatives.	Office of the Chief Information Officer (Chair); senior CIO/IT representatives from DOE Headquarters Offices, Labs, Sites, and PMAs.	As required by the Chair
DOE Geospatial Science Steering Committee (GSSC)	Functions in an advisory role to promote the effective utilization of geospatial data and Geographic Information System (GIS) science and technology.	National Energy Technology Laboratory and Legacy Management (Co-chairs); leaders or senior technical representatives from DOE Headquarters Offices, Labs, Sites, and PMAs with responsibilities aligned to geospatial science.	Monthly
DOE Geospatial User Group (GUG)	Provides a forum for DOE geospatial professionals to exchange knowledge, develop skills, solve problems collaboratively, and promote awareness across the enterprise.	GSSC (Lead); membership is open to all geospatial practitioners and federal and contractor employees with an interest in geospatial science.	As required by the Lead

Forum	Purpose	Membership	Cadence
FGDC Steering Committee	Participate in strategic discussions and coordinate with other federal agencies on national geospatial policies.	Secretary of the Department of the Interior (Chair), Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (Vice-Chair), SAOGIs from federal agencies with geospatial data investments ¹	As needed as actions arise
FGDC Executive Committee	Collaborate with other federal agencies to advise the FGDC Chair and Vice Chair on major geospatial priorities and initiatives.	Executive Director of the FGDC and an annually approved Executive Committee member (Co-Chairs), OMB, SAOGIs from federal agencies with major programmatic geospatial responsibilities ²	Monthly
Bilateral Meetings	Engage with federal agencies, state/local governments, and academic/industry partners to share knowledge and best practices and identify opportunities for joint data exchange.	N/A	Ongoing

¹ Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, United State Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Department of the Treasury, Department of Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Communications Commission, General Services Administration, Library of Congress, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, National Capital Planning Commission, National Science Foundation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Personnel Management, Office of Management and Budget, Small Business Administration, Smithsonian Institution, Social Security Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Agency for International Development.

² Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Office of Management and Budget.

Pillar 2: Centralized Information Hubs

This pillar focuses on establishing and maintaining online platforms that provide easy access to DOE's geospatial data and supporting guidance and resources, thereby enhancing transparency and demonstrating the benefit of the Department's initiatives for American taxpayers, while also streamlining data access and fostering collaboration among internal stakeholders and external partners.

Channels and Tools:

DOE will leverage its internal Energy Hub portal and external energy.gov website to serve as the central portals for providing stakeholders, partners, and the public access to geospatial data and information.

Online Platform	Purpose	Geospatial Presence	Activities and Cadence
Energy Hub Portal (internal)	Serves as DOE's primary internal employee portal, providing federal employees and contractors across the enterprise with centralized access to essential information, tools, and resources.	DOE leverages the Energy Hub to foster understanding and awareness among internal stakeholders regarding DOE's geospatial initiatives and federal regulations. By providing easy access to essential resources such as FAQs, guidance, news, and tools, it supports compliance with the GDA and promotes consistent, effective geospatial data management across the Department.	DOE will ensure that geospatial information on Energy Hub remains current and relevant. DOE will update content continuously for critical information like urgent announcements or regulation changes; monthly for news, events, and training opportunities; quarterly for existing tools and guidance; and annually for comprehensive content audits and strategic alignment.
Energy.gov Website (external)	Serves as DOE's primary public-facing portal, providing external partners and American taxpayers with centralized access to essential information, key programs, and public data.	DOE established the Open Energy Data subsite on energy.gov to serve as the centralized front door for external stakeholders and the public to learn about DOE's data initiatives and access the Department's diverse data assets and resources.	DOE will update the Open Energy Data subsite to ensure key geospatial data, information, resources, and points of contact are easily accessible to external partners and the public. DOE will review content on a quarterly basis to ensure accuracy, relevance, and currency.

Pillar 3: Knowledge & Skill Development

This pillar focuses on delivering tailored communications and providing training resources to raise awareness, build geospatial literacy, promote compliance, and develop technical skills across the DOE enterprise.

Channels and Tools:

DOE will use a mix of mass and targeted communications to disseminate information about geospatial developments, resources, and opportunities to foster awareness and facilitate greater understanding, proficiency, and compliance.

Communication Tool	Purpose	Communication Vehicles	Cadence
News Articles	Broadly disseminate information about geospatial developments and initiatives, resources, training and education opportunities, events, and successes.	Energy Hub	Quarterly and as needed for important updates
Targeted Emails	Provide direct information to DOE geospatial professionals to disseminate critical updates, promote engagement and collaboration, highlight successes and case studies, reinforce compliance and best practices, and solicit feedback.	Geospatial User Group (GUG) distribution list and geospatial@hq.doe.gov shared mailbox	As needed
Training and Education Opportunities	Promote internal and external opportunities that enhance DOE geospatial professionals' technical skills and strengthen understanding of policies and standards to increase compliance.	<i>Internal:</i> Informational webinars and technical workshops publicized via Energy Hub, news articles, and email <i>External:</i> Training courses and resources offered by partners and providers such as FGDC and Esri, publicized via Energy Hub, news articles, and email	As needed



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