

# Unit 13

## Integrating Climate Change into Environmental Assessments



# Draft CEQ Guidance

- ⦿ Focus on actions that **involve emissions**, or have **long lifespans** where changing climate may alter project consequences.
- ⦿ Agencies have discretion to determine scale, models, and qualitative vs. quantitative analysis, but **must provide rationale**.
- ⦿ **Use Scoping** to determine whether climate change impacts warrant emphasis or de-emphasis in the NEPA document.
- ⦿ Recommends **25,000 metric tons CO2** as trigger for considering a quantitative analysis.
- ⦿ **Agencies** should consider developing their own thresholds and identify types of projects that are exempt from GHG analysis.
- ⦿ Use of reliable scientific models and calculators is encouraged **if warranted**.
- ⦿ Discourage simply stating project emissions **represent only a small fraction of global emissions**.

# Forest Service Guidance

- ⦿ Consider effects of the project on climate, and effects of climate on the project.
- ⦿ Consider climate early in the process.
- ⦿ Use scoping to determine climate issues.
- ⦿ May consider alternatives to address climate change, but they should be relevant to the project Purpose and Need.
- ⦿ Decisions should consider tradeoffs.

# Executive Order 13677: Climate-Resilient International Development

- “requires the integration of climate-resilience considerations into all United States international development work”
  - **Assess and evaluate** climate risks and vulnerabilities
  - **Adjust** strategies and investments
  - **Support** vulnerable countries



[http://www.globalchange.gov/browse/federal-adaptation-resources/executive-orders-and-policies &gl=us](http://www.globalchange.gov/browse/federal-adaptation-resources/executive-orders-and-policies&gl=us)

**VIDEO: What is Climate Risk Management?**  
The link: <https://vimeo.com/144896291>  
Password: gcc

**This does not require direct climate change funds**

# Implementation of Executive Order 13677

## ⦿ **As of October, 2015:**

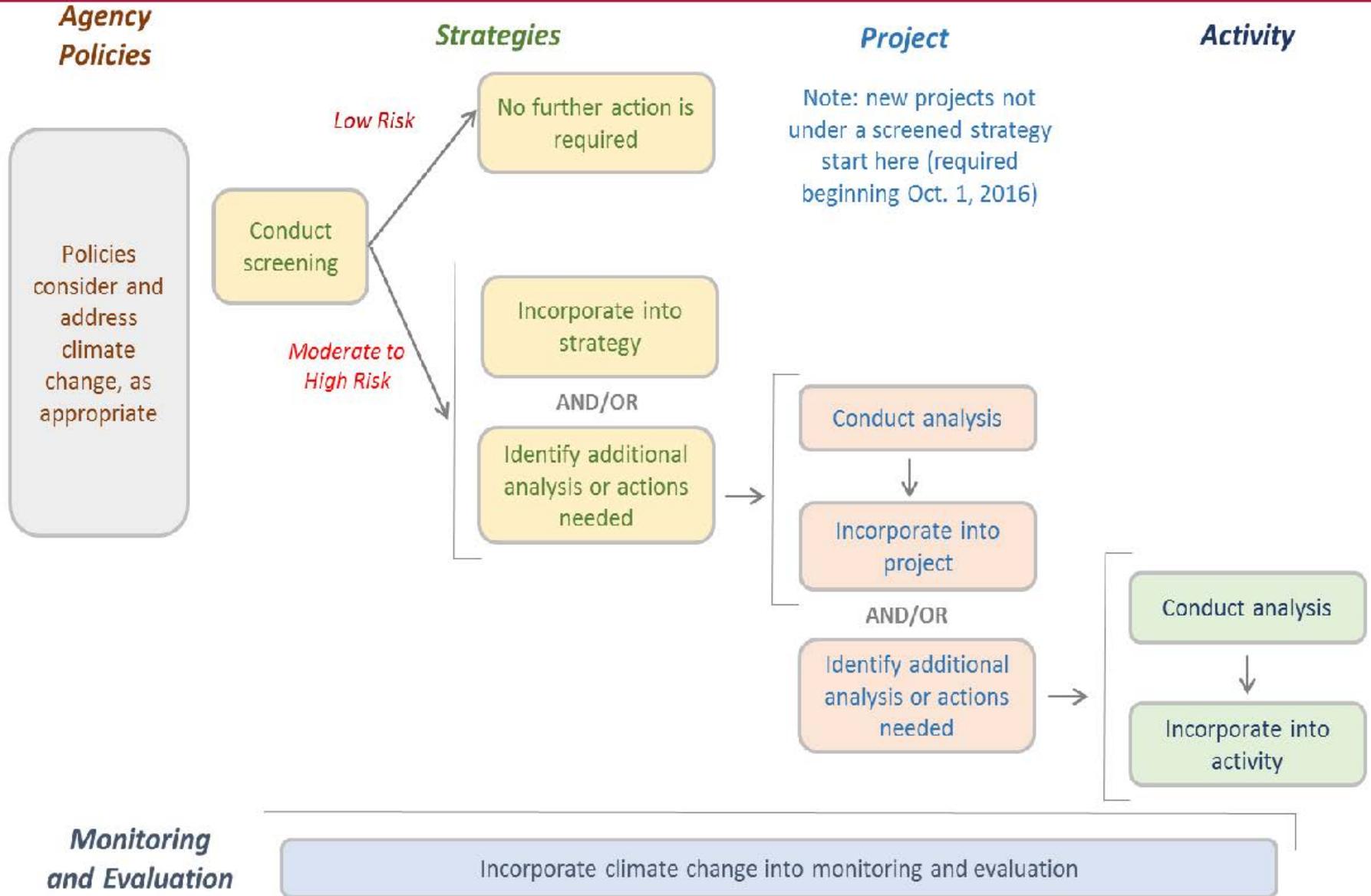
- ⦿ All new CDCSs must be screened for climate change risks and appropriately adjusted.
- ⦿ PAD/project designs will be selected on a volunteer basis to be screened for climate change risks and appropriately adjusted.

## ⦿ **As of October, 2016:**

- ⦿ All new R/CDCSs and other strategies must be screened for climate change risks and appropriately adjusted.
- ⦿ All new project designs and activities must be screened for climate change risks and appropriately adjusted.

\*\* The impacts of this order will result in changes at the implementation level.

# Climate risk management in the program cycle



# Small Group Exercise, Integrating Climate Change into Scoping

- **Review USAID Sector Environmental Guidelines:**  
<http://www.usaidgems.org/sectorGuidelines.htm>
  - **Climate change section, page 9, from the Chapter on Small Scale Construction**
- **Apply the CC issues raised to the school construction case study**
  - **What significant environmental issues related to CC might be included in the scoping exercise?**
    - **Adapting to climate change by minimizing vulnerability through project design?**
    - **Minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and maximizing sequestration?**
    - **Potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts?**