

State of Connecticut  
FY 2020

# Sustainability Performance Plan

## CT Innovations

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*This report was written in compliance with section 5 of Executive Order 1.*

# EO 1 Background

On April 24, 2019, Governor Lamont launched the GreenerGov CT initiative by signing Executive Order 1 (EO 1) which directs Executive Branch agencies to advance environmental leadership and cost savings for taxpayers by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other sustainability objectives in energy use in buildings and vehicles, water use, and waste disposal.

EO 1 calls on agencies to recommit to and expand the state's Lead by Example (LBE) program to reduce the operating costs and environmental impacts of state government facilities and operations. EO 1 builds on the foundation of the state's LBE program by setting new sustainability goals, listed below, for Executive Branch agencies and invoking deeper levels of commitment and participation.

## **GHG**

45% reduction in  
GHG emissions  
below 2001 levels

## **WATER**

10% reduction in  
water consumption  
from a FY20 baseline

## **WASTE**

25% reduction in  
waste disposal from a  
FY20 baseline

Since the GreenerGov CT initiative was launched, significant progress has been made towards laying the groundwork for expanded LBE initiatives in the future: governance structures were established, baseline data was collected, and financing and project strategies were developed. Additionally, agencies reported completing or making progress on 120+ sustainability projects in FY19 in the first annual agency Sustainability Performance Plans. Sustainability Performance Plans are plans drafted each year by Senior Sustainability Officers to detail agency progress and necessary goals, actions, and responsible parties to achieve the targets set in EO 1.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought significant changes to the operations of state agencies as agencies responded to the crisis. The impact of the pandemic on the sustainability goals of EO 1 is not yet known, but some effects will be documented in the FY20 Sustainability Performance Plans and the GreenerGov CT Progress Report.

# CT Innovations and EO 1

## CT Innovations' mission

Connecticut Innovations (CI) is the leading source of financing and ongoing support for Connecticut's innovative, growing companies. To maximize growth potential, CI provides venture capital and strategic support for early-stage technology companies, financial support for innovation and collaboration, and connections to its well-established network of partners and professionals. For more information, visit [www.ctinnovations.com](http://www.ctinnovations.com).

## CT Innovations' FY20 participation overview

Connecticut Innovations (CI) is a quasi-agency/entity voluntarily participating in the Greener Gov efforts initiated by Executive Order 1. Early in 2020, CI split its core operations into two innovation hubs in Hartford and New Haven. Cynthia Petruzzello is participating in the monthly Greener Gov Committee Steering Meetings at DEEP and has been joined by Sara Donofrio to further strengthen CI's presence. Cynthia and Sara are also participating in the Sustainability in Leased Space Project Team.

## CT Innovations staff involvement in EO 1

Cynthia Petruzzello  
Senior Sustainability Officer

Sara Donofrio  
Green Team Officer

# 3

## Sustainability Projects

including projects relating to infrastructure improvements or behavioral change that took place in owned, leased, or occupied space and were either in progress or completed in FY20

# Sustainability Projects

1

**Location:** 470 James Street, Suite 8, New Haven

**Project Type:** Structural - Combination

**Description:** Connecticut Innovations has moved its headquarters to New Haven to be closer to more of the startups it supports. As of late spring 2020, CI occupied nearly 10,000 square feet of office space at 470 James Street in New Haven, also known as the "District." A former bus depot, the District was revitalized in 2017. The office space has an open floor plan, natural light and exposed brick walls. This renovated space in a 1950s-era bus station will transport our venture capital company that backs innovative technology startups into the future. Exposed structure, brickwork and concrete floor staining lends to the reuse of the original building. There are skylights in their original positions, and a long south glazed wall, bathing the interior in light for a reduction on indoor lighting. This open, light-filled environment gives employees additional collaborative and huddle spaces that allow for distancing and easy cleaning.

**Status:** In progress in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** The many sustainable highlights in our New Haven Office include: motion lighting, motion-activated waterspouts for increased water reduction measures, low-flow toilets and recycling of the coffee grounds from our coffee maker. There is a centralized water filter located in the refrigerator, and possible future plans may add an additional filter to the main kitchen faucet. In addition to our consistent goal of reducing paper, our use of office supplies has been dramatically reduced: we have continued recycling of file folders, eliminated the need for paper calendars and eliminated all paper supplies. The dishwasher is now being used daily to help cut down on water consumption for cleaning purposes. In addition, new technologies have been added to our locations that eliminate the need for printed news/updates. Both locations have digital displays (TVs) that provide updates to staff and visitors upon entering the space.

2

**Location:** Hartford – The Colt Armory, 120 Huyslope Avenue, Suite 403, Hartford, CT 06106

**Project Type:** Structural - Combination

**Description:** Connecticut Innovations has opened a second innovation office located within the historic Colt Armory in Hartford. Our leased area encompasses almost 5,000 square feet of space. As in New Haven, it has an industrialized look with exposed brick. In addition, a large amount of natural light reduces the high need for lighting within the space.

**Status:** In progress in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** The Hartford office will be receiving new, energy-efficient windows within the next six months. This will save on the heating and cooling of the offices. The lighting is motion sensed with timers in the offices as well as throughout the building. This setup allows a shutoff when someone has left a room or is no longer in a certain position within the space.

# Sustainability Projects cont.

3

**Location:** 470 James Street - Suite 8, New Haven

**Project Type:** Behavioral - Combination

**Description:** CI is in the process of investigating the benefits of having plants in the office. We will be looking to local universities/horticulture programs to involve Connecticut students in the process. CI is also interested in developing a composting plan at the District. We would like to incorporate a plan with other members at the District. The on-site restaurant has expressed interest as well. We have had discussions with staff at DEEP and would like to begin to institute a plan once we are back in the office on a regular basis.

**Status:** In progress in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** Plants have been proven to reduce stress levels and blood pressure. Researchers have found that plants increase productivity by up to 15 percent. Plants can also improve the quality of indoor air. Composting would give everyone the chance to be a part of the process. The ultimate goal would be to implement a building-wide composting system. To achieve this, we will begin collecting and reusing our coffee grounds and educating the staff on which items can indeed be composted. Within CI's offices, we will be adding a small composting machine/system that will fit nicely in our spaces without intrusion. Small amounts of food can be composted daily. We will reach out to companies in the area to see if they collect compost and/or offer it to staff to use within their personal home gardens.

# Future Planning

## GHG Reduction (energy/fleet related)

### Status of FY19 Plans

- ✓ **Progress has been made.**

Progress has stalled.

Plans have been completed.

Stated plans no longer a priority.

### Planned FY21 Projects

CI will continue to encourage telecommuting for its employees. As a whole, the organization will encourage carpooling and public transportation (train, bus) as both the New Haven and Hartford offices are now located in urban settings.

## Water Use Reduction

### Status of FY19 Plans

Progress has been made.

Progress has stalled.

- ✓ **Plans have been completed.**

Stated plans no longer a priority.

### Planned FY21 Projects

Currently in place are low-volume handwashing stations, low-flow toilets, water filtering as opposed to water coolers, use of dishwater (as touted in the energy efficiency guide distributed by DEEP – it takes less energy to use dishwasher than washing by hand).

## Waste Reduction

### Status of FY19 Plans

Progress has been made.

Progress has stalled.

- ✓ **Plans have been completed.**

Stated plans no longer a priority.

### Planned FY21 Projects

Our plans are to continue to move to a paperless environment and move to using a central garbage location (as opposed to keeping a wastebasket at each desk). These measures will also save on cleaning costs. We will continue to decrease use of paper products. We are planning to educate the CI staff on greener initiatives and ways to cut back on waste in the office and at home.

# COVID-19 Impacts

## Impact of COVID-19 on agency's ability to make progress on the goals of EO 1 in FY20

CI's EO1 goals have been enhanced as opposed to stunted. The carbon footprint at our facility has been greatly reduced due to the majority of employees working at home. This also cuts down on auto emissions from driving into work. All meetings are now done virtually (board meetings, etc.).

COVID-19 changes that have led to a positive sustainability outcome that will continue after the pandemic

Strategically evaluating building footprint needed for agency work

Reassessing agency fleet

- ✓ **Holding virtual meetings as a more regular practice**
- ✓ **Increased telework as a regular practice**

No changes to report

## Additional details on positive sustainability outcomes and how they will be continued after the pandemic

Telework will continue after the pandemic with a reduction of lost time during the commute and a less stressful commute as well. Both spaces have been extremely energy efficient from the start, and we look forward to seeing the ways that we can further cut down on energy costs.

# Resources Needed

Barriers encountered while making EO 1 progress in FY20

Funding

Staffing

Technical expertise

- ✓ **No barriers encountered**

Other

## Specific type of support or resources needed to make progress on future sustainability projects

CI plans to institute a composting area outside of its new offices at some point to help reduce waste. There is a restaurant on the campus that has expressed interest as well. We have been in contact with DEEP regarding these matters and will continue to need their assistance to further the mission of the Greener Gov Initiative!

## Additional info on CT Innovations' participation in EO 1 during FY 2020

CI feels strongly about supporting EO-1, being a quasi-state agency that funds and supports innovative growth within Connecticut. Our next step is to involve CI staff in the process. We will educate staff on the advantages of being "green" and make it a fun initiative for staff. The company has made many updates to save on waste and energy usage, but educating and updating the staff is important.