

State of Connecticut  
FY 2020

# Sustainability Performance Plan

## Department of Children & Families

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Approved by Vanessa Dorantes  
Commissioner



*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.

# DCF and EO 1

## DCF's mission

- To be a comprehensive, consolidated agency serving children and families. The department's mandates include child protective and family services, children's behavioral health, prevention and educational services.
- To promote children's safety, health and learning by: Utilizing family-centered policy, practice and programs, with an emphasis on strengths rather than deficits; Applying the science of brain development in early childhood and adolescence; Advancing trauma-informed practice to assist clients who have experienced significant adversity in their lives; Partnering with the community and strengthening interagency collaborations at the state level; Expanding agency leadership and management capacity, and public accountability for results; and, Addressing racial inequities in all areas of practice.

## DCF's FY20 participation overview

DCF replaced two inefficient units in FY2020: a hot water heater at its Solnit North and a permanent stand-by generator at its Tress Road location.

## DCF staff involvement in EO 1

Jason Szczesniak

## 2

## 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:** Albert J. Solnit - North Campus, 36 Gardner Street, East Windsor

**Project Type:** Structural - GHG - Building energy efficiency

**Description:** DCF-Engineering Unit decided to replace an old and inefficient hot water heater in the Maple Housing Unit. Purchased this unit via DAS contract #19PSX0002AJ.

**Status:** Completed in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** The new unit is a double wall instantaneous hot water heater, Patterson Kelley Compact Model PK06D/1.5S. It is designed to heat water from 40F to 140F when supplied with 363 lbs./hr of 5 PSIG steam.

2

**Location:** 58 Tress Road, Cheshire

**Project Type:** Structural - GHG - Building energy efficiency

**Description:** DCF-Engineering Unit determined that the existing generator was inefficient and unreliable. Consequently, it decided to upgrade to a more efficient and reliable unit.

**Status:** Completed in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** Winco Model PSS8B2W air cooled standby generator for LP fuel, 8,000 Watt 120/240 Volt Phase 1. Purchased from DAS Contract #18PSX0307AB. Vendor: Northeast Generator

# Performance Data

The following data was pulled from EnergyCAP, the state's utility tracking software, on March 15, 2021. Note that utility data on agencies occupying space owned by another state agency may or may not be linked to their EnergyCAP accounts.

## Total Utility Costs

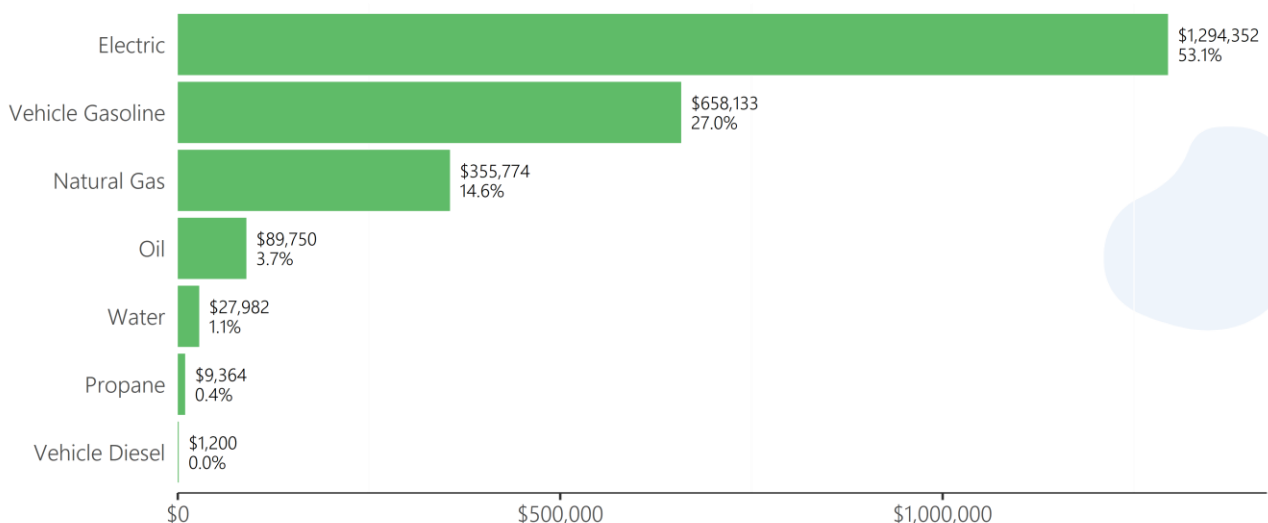
Commodity	Unit	Use			Cost		
		FY19	FY20	Change	FY19	FY20	Change
Electric & Natural Gas	MMBtu	73,536	73,056	-0.7%	\$1,846,844	\$1,650,125	-10.7%
Other Building Energy	MMBtu	20,170	6,841	-66.1%	\$296,173	\$99,113	-66.5%
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	395,735	277,693	-29.8%	\$1,017,040	\$658,133	-35.3%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	395	405	+2.7%	\$1,255	\$1,200	-4.4%
<b>Total GHG Emissions</b>	<b>mtCO2e</b>	<b>9,481</b>	<b>7,373</b>	<b>-22.2%</b>	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	3,733	2,127	-43.0%	\$35,633	\$27,982	-21.5%
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>\$3,196,946</b>	<b>\$2,436,553</b>	<b>-23.8%</b>

\*Gasoline and diesel costs estimated based on average weekly cost from EIA.gov, \$2.37 for gasoline and \$2.96 for diesel in FY20 and \$2.57 for gasoline and \$3.18 for diesel in FY19.

\*\*Other Building Energy sources include oil, propane, steam, and chilled water.

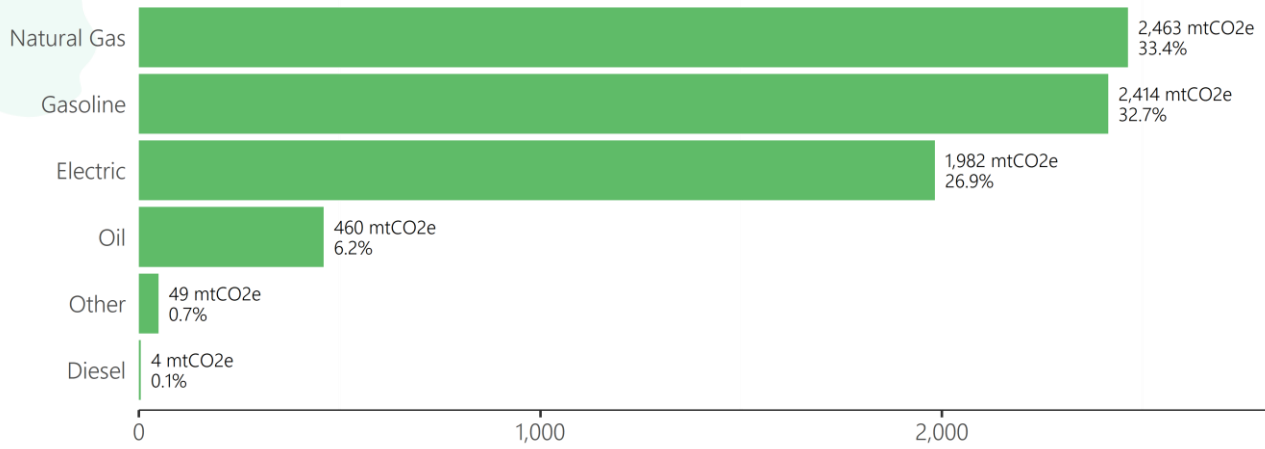
## Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY20

The chart below represents the breakdown of commodity costs at DCF in FY20.



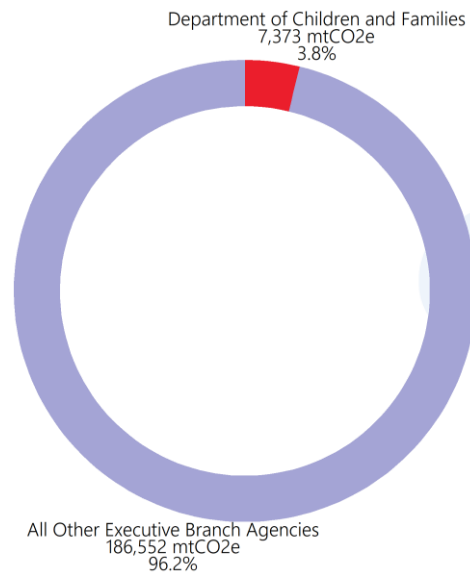
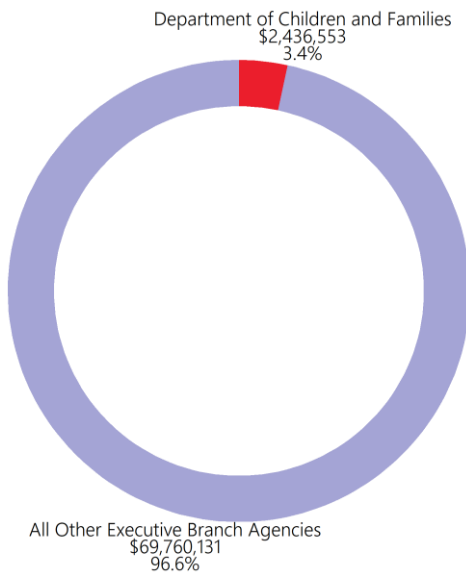
## GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY20

The chart below represents the breakdown of GHG emissions by commodity at DCF in FY20.



## Share of Utility Costs and GHG Emissions

The two charts below display DCF's proportion of the FY20 total utility cost and the total GHG emissions of all agencies participating in EO 1.



# 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

Although DCF is still looking for ways to reduce its footprint, it is currently focused on safeguarding its area offices and facilities, as well as providing PPE to its staff and clients to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus.

## 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

Although DCF is still looking for ways to reduce its footprint, it is currently focused on safeguarding its area offices and facilities, as well as providing PPE to its staff and clients to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus.

## 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

Although DCF is still looking for ways to reduce its footprint, it is currently focused on safeguarding its area offices and facilities, as well as providing PPE to its staff and clients to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus.

# COVID-19 Impacts

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

COVID-19 has significantly impacted how DCF meets its mission. A majority of its staff had to be assigned tablets and cell phones in order to do their work remotely, reducing on-site staffing on a daily basis by 75%. It has also reduced vehicle usage proportionately.

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

DCF will continue to review its operations to find ways to improve efficiency throughout its operations. If this equates to just replacing old and inefficient equipment, then that will be its strategy, dependent on fiscal resources.

## 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

Fiscal resources.