

State of Connecticut
FY 2020

Sustainability Performance Plan

Department of Economic & Community Development

Prepared by Susan Shellard
Senior Sustainability Officer

Approved by David Lehman
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.

DECD and EO 1

DECD's mission

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is the state's lead agency in strengthening Connecticut's competitive position in the global economy. The agency's approach to economic development incorporates community development; business recruitment and retention; promotion of tourism; arts programs and historic preservation initiatives. The Office of Workforce Strategy coordinates the state's workforce development initiatives. DECD also provides administrative support services to the Department of Housing (DOH).

DECD's Office of Brownfields Remediation and Development (OBRD) provides funding and technical assistance to return brownfield sites to productive re-use. Since 2009, in 250 projects, OBRD has impacted roughly 3,200 acres of contaminated land across 74 municipalities.

DECD's FY20 participation overview

Agency representatives participated in GreenerGov CT activities including serving on the Process Improvement and Public Engagement project teams. Energy consumption data was reported. An internal steering group was formed, and sustainability initiatives continued despite a shift in focus to COVID response and remote work. Modifications to conserve energy and increase sustainability were completed at 3 museums and renovations begun at Prudence Crandall House Museum. Educational information about sustainability in the home was shared with employees. While working at 450 Columbus Boulevard, agency employees actively participated in DAS initiatives for recycling and composting.

DECD staff involvement in EO 1

David Lehman, Commissioner
Glendowlyn Thames, Deputy Commissioner
Mark Burno, CCT
Morgan Bengel, Museum Curator 1
Robert Damroth, Processing Technician
Lindy Gold, Community Development Specialist
German Rivera, Clerk
Susan Shellard, Chief Administrative Officer

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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: Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine, 115 Newgate Rd. East Granby, CT 06026

Project Type: Structural - GHG - Building energy efficiency

Description: Light bulbs were replaced by LEDs and motion sensors were installed in restrooms. A new window was installed in the museum visitor center. Faucets and urinals were either replaced or upgraded to prevent leaks.

Status: Completed in FY 2020

Benefits Energy and water consumption were reduced.

Summary:

2

Location: Eric Sloane Museum, 31 Kent-Cornwall Road, Kent, CT 06757

Project Type: Structural - GHG - Building energy efficiency

Description: Upgraded to energy-efficient electrical fixtures including LED bulbs. Roofing materials were replaced to improve ventilation and high efficiency heating systems were added to restroom facilities. AC system/condensers were replaced with energy efficient units.

Status: Completed in FY 2020

Benefits In addition to conserving energy with the associated savings, facilities can now accommodate the public for an expanded period during the year.

Summary:

3

Location: Prudence Crandall Museum, 1 Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT

Project Type: Structural - GHG - Building energy efficiency

Description: Extensive restoration of the 1806 Prudence Crandall House Museum includes replacing wood cladding and stabilizing structural beams. Upgrades will include an energy efficient HVAC system, concrete floor in the basement to reduce fluctuations in temperature and humidity, and drains to move water away from structure.

Status: In progress in FY 2020

Benefits Energy efficiency and cost savings will result from above structural and HVAC enhancements. New roof and cladding will result in lowered energy consumption and heating costs.

Summary:

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

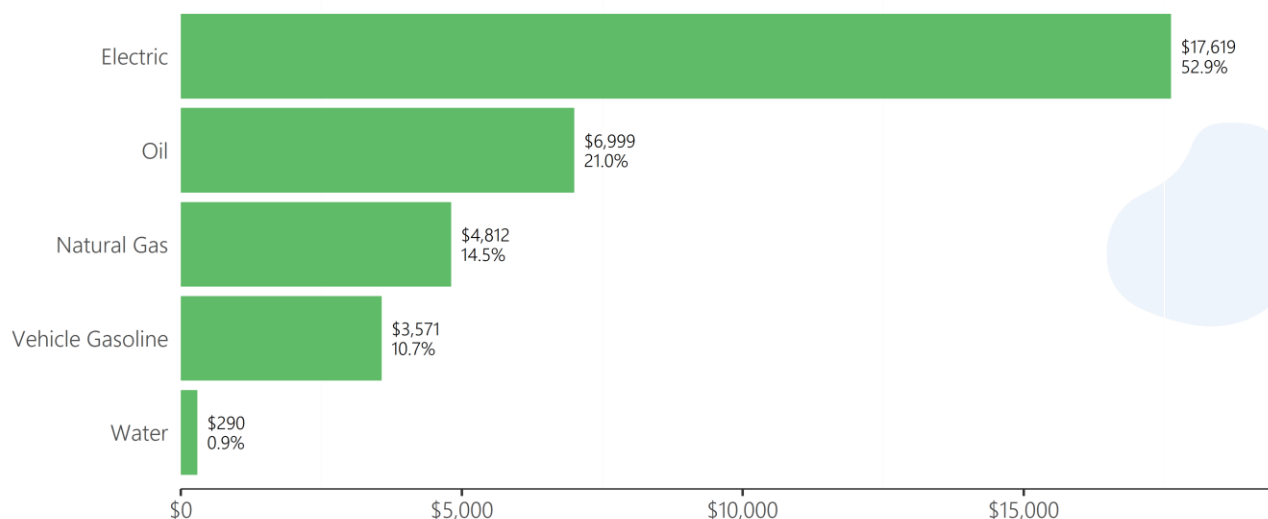
Commodity	Unit	Use			Cost		
		FY19	FY20	Change	FY19	FY20	Change
Electric & Natural Gas	MMBtu	778	709	-8.8%	\$24,473	\$22,431	-8.3%
Other Building Energy	MMBtu	434	540	+24.3%	\$6,532	\$6,999	+7.1%
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	1,599	1,507	-5.8%	\$4,111	\$3,571	-13.1%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total GHG Emissions	mtCO2e	93	95	+2.8%	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	12	13	+11.8%	\$251	\$290	+15.9%
Total	-	-	-	-	\$35,366	\$33,291	-5.9%

*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.

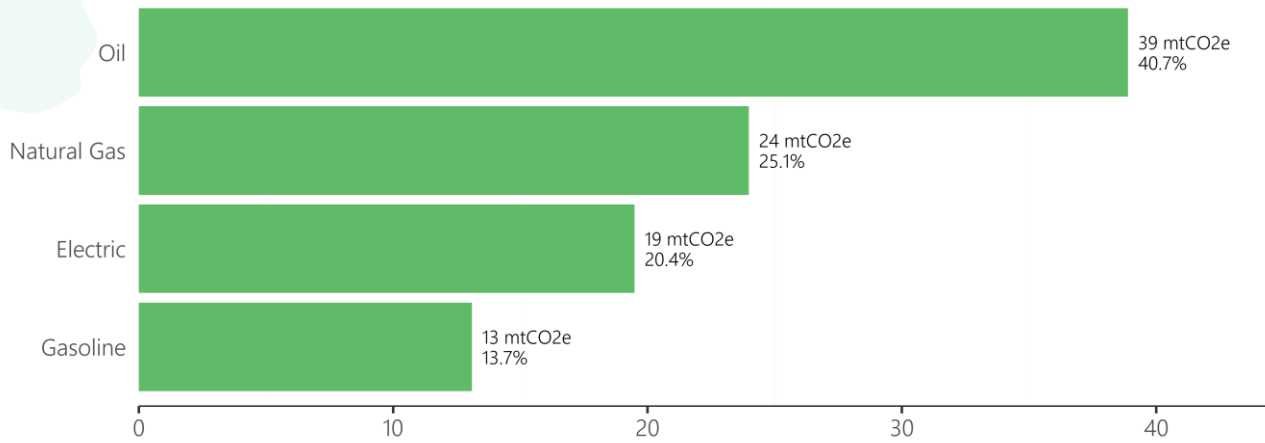
Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY20

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



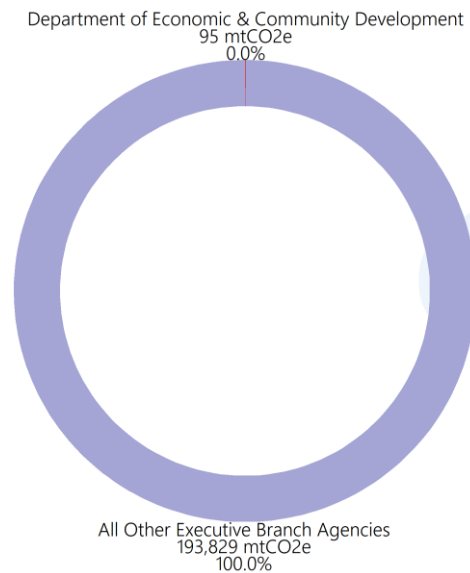
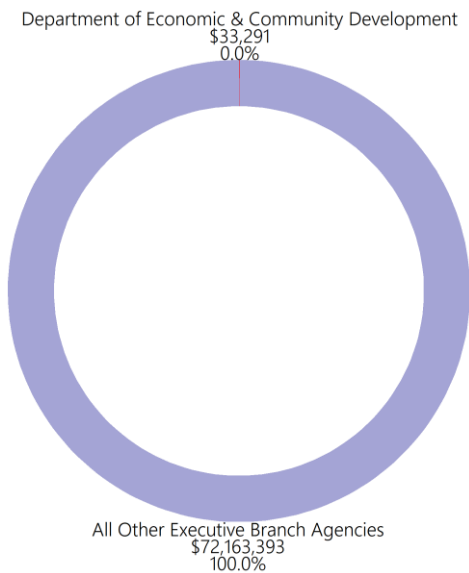
GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY20

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



Share of Utility Costs and GHG Emissions

The two charts below display DECD'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

Agency will review fleet utilization considering the impact of increased telework and reduce the number of vehicles as appropriate. Initiatives to improve energy efficiency and sustainability will continue at all museums. Transitions to electronic processes wherever possible, with a decrease in paper waste, will continue.

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

Staff will receive educational materials regarding methods to conserve water both in the office and their homes. Prudence Crandall House Museum will replace toilet with newer, water-conserving model.

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

Staff will continue to receive information about sustainability while teleworking. Continued telework will reduce gasoline consumption and GHG production. Continue transition to "paperless" processes to reduce solid waste.

COVID-19 Impacts

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

The change to remote work has been an opportunity to develop paperless processes that will reduce waste and create new ways to work remotely, thus eliminating the resource consumption and GHG production related to commuting.

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**
- ✓ **Other: Increased use of technology to reduce paper processes**
- No changes to report

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

Telework will continue as will the use of electronic processes and remote meetings using technology.

Resources Needed

Barriers encountered while making EO 1 progress in FY20

- ✓ **Funding**
- Staffing
- Technical expertise
- No barriers encountered
- Other

Additional details on barriers

Purchasing using state contract sometimes makes it more difficult to purchase sustainable and environmentally friendly items. Sustainable items are often more expensive than other options. The inherent nature of museums' historic structures is often less energy efficient than newer buildings. Enhancing energy efficiency while still preserving historic integrity can entail additional resources.

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

When the agency returns to a more normal operations, we anticipate adequate resources to continue sustainability initiatives. Contracting processes should be used to reduce the cost of "green" products and encourage elimination of wasteful and plastic packaging.