

State of Connecticut  
FY 2020

# Sustainability Performance Plan

## Department of Housing

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Deputy 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.

# DOH and EO 1

## DOH's mission

The Department of Housing's mission is to ensure everyone has access to quality housing opportunities and options throughout the State of Connecticut.

## DOH's FY20 participation overview

Since, the GreenerGov CT, the initiative was launched, the COVID-19 pandemic brought substantial implementations of future planning goals. The impact to our energy consumption, fuel usage, was reduced given safety precautions.

## DOH staff involvement in EO 1

Dominic Carew  
Nathan Karnes  
Miguel A. Rivera  
Shantè Hanks

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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:** Hartford, CT

**Project Type:** Structural - Combination

**Description:** Implementation of full telework capacity for staff. Incorporation of teleconferences and electronic signature.

**Status:** In progress in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** The realized benefits include the continued productivity of DOH project managers; reduction of paper printing and use of technology for training needs.

2

**Location:** Hartford, CT

**Project Type:** Structural - Combination

**Description:** Implementation of grant management system. Incorporation of a paperless application submission allowing us to track, manage and deliver funding programs.

**Status:** In progress in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** The realized benefits include the continued productivity of DOH project managers; reduction of paper printing and use of technology for training needs.

# 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

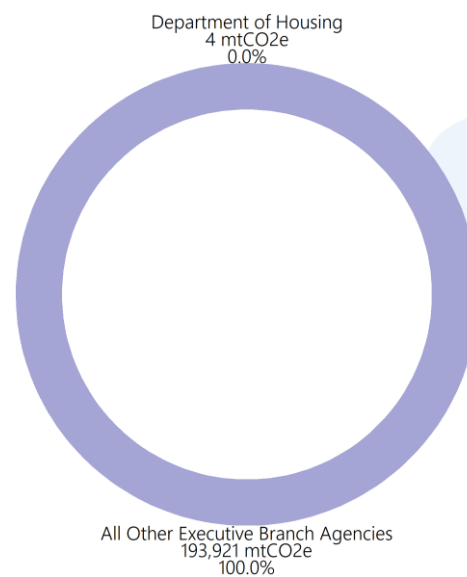
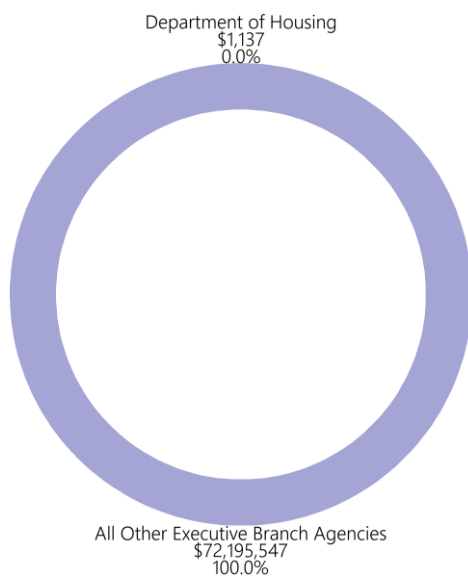
Commodity	Unit	Use			Cost		
		FY19	FY20	Change	FY19	FY20	Change
Electric & Natural Gas	MMBtu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Building Energy	MMBtu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	835	480	-42.6%	\$2,146	\$1,137	-47.0%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total GHG Emissions</b>	<b>mtCO2e</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-42.5%</b>	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>\$2,146</b>	<b>\$1,137</b>	<b>-47.0%</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.

## Share of Utility Costs and GHG Emissions

The two charts below display DOH'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

Continue utilizing technology-based solutions for grant management and building staff capacity with online training.

## 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

The department will continue to work with building management to assure proper maintenance and reporting of any leaks.

## 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

Printers are set for double-sided printing, but most significant is the implementation of electronic signatures on documents due in part by COVID-19.

# COVID-19 Impact

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

COVID-19 made it possible for us to accelerate the timeline for telework capacity and subsequently electronic signatures.

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

The reduction of normal work commuting and physical site visits have impacted our carbon footprint.

## Resources Needed

Barriers encountered while making EO 1 progress in FY20

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

Additional information on barriers encountered

An additional challenge is coordination of software purchases with DAS. Grant Management software is being reviewed on an enterprise-level/statewide implementation.

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

Software-specific training for things like managing pdf documents and signatures.

Additional info on DOH's participation in EO 1 during FY 2020

We had a transition from our previous senior staff assigned.