

State of Connecticut
FY 2020

Sustainability Performance Plan

Department of Social Services

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Approved by Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
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.

DSS and EO 1

DSS's mission

We, along with our partners, provide person-centered programs and services to enhance the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

DSS's FY20 participation overview

As a result of the pandemic, the Department has moved to approximately 85-90% of its workforce operating on a telework basis. Significant savings in supplies and vehicle usage have resulted from this shift. The Department has continue to pursue efforts to establish a pilot EV program.

DSS staff involvement in EO 1

Michael Gilbert
William Lovejoy
Joseph Joseph
Diana Speranza
Brandon Somers

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Sustainability Project

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

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Location: Central Office, Hartford, CT

Project Type: Structural - GHG - Vehicle/fleet

Description: Installation of EV charging stations and pilot EV vehicle usage

Status: In progress in FY 2020

Benefits Summary: Expected to reduce GHG emissions and serve as a catalyst for additional action while building interest in the broader EO 1 effort

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

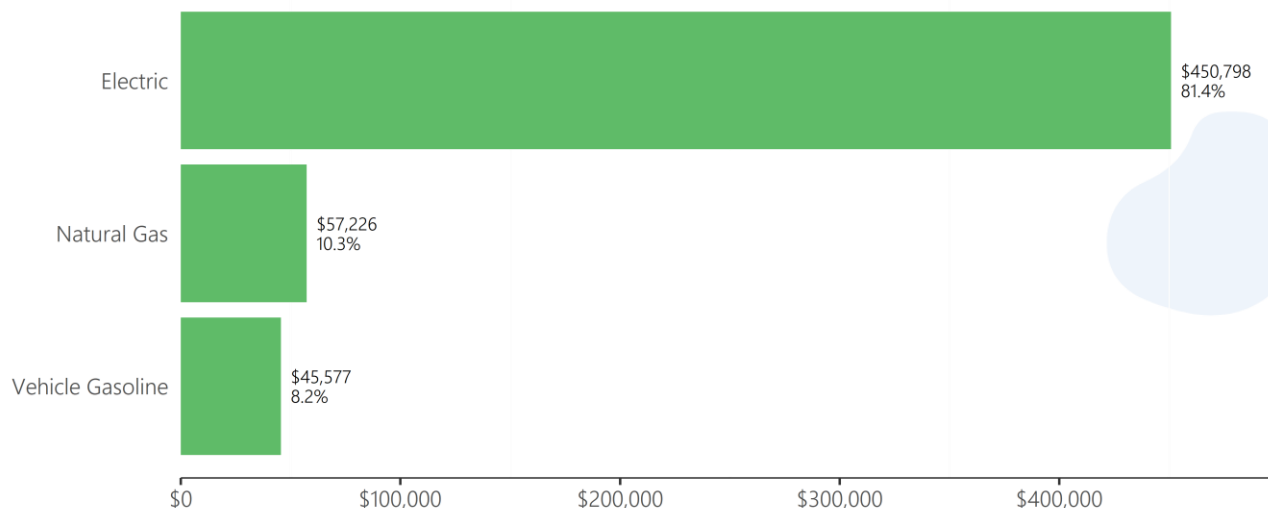
Commodity	Unit	Use			Cost		
		FY19	FY20	Change	FY19	FY20	Change
Electric & Natural Gas	MMBtu	13,396	13,441	+0.3%	\$496,678	\$508,024	+2.3%
Other Building Energy	MMBtu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	27,664	19,231	-30.5%	\$71,097	\$45,577	-35.9%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total GHG Emissions	mtCO2e	1,149	1,080	-6.0%	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	\$567,775	\$553,601	-2.5%

*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.

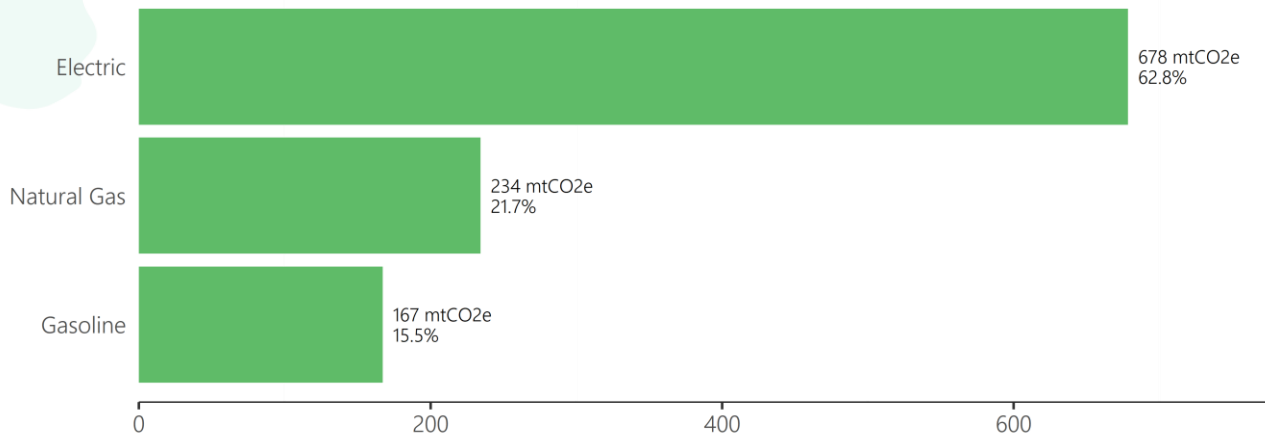
Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY20

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



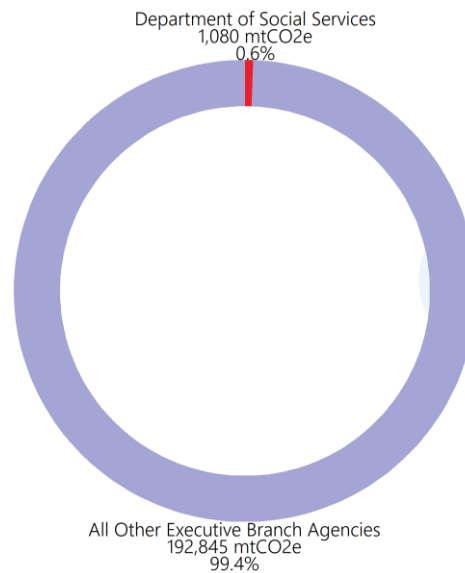
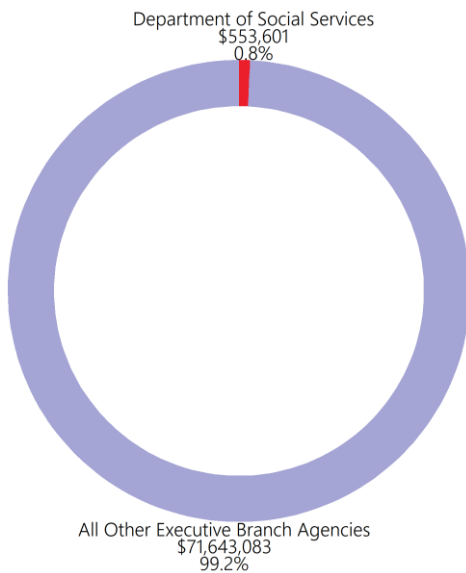
GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY20

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



Share of Utility Costs and GHG Emissions

The two charts below display DSS'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

Complete installation of EV charging stations at central office and obtain two EVs for pilot effort

Water Use Reduction

Status of FY19 Plans

- Progress has been made.
Progress has stalled.
Plans have been completed.
Stated plans no longer a priority.
✓ **Not applicable**

Planned FY21 Projects

Not applicable

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

Continue efforts to reduce utilization of supplies

COVID-19 Impacts

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

Significantly delayed actions due to focus on pandemic response

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

Resources Needed

Barriers encountered while making EO 1 progress in FY20

- Funding
- ✓ **Staffing**
 - Technical expertise
 - No barriers encountered
- ✓ **Other: Challenges in focusing resources with limited workforce and competing demands**

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

Resources to support the effort are generally available but internal resources are often challenged by existing workload