

State of Connecticut  
FY 2020

# Sustainability Performance Plan

## Department of Veterans Affairs

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Approved by Thomas J. Saadi  
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.

# DVA and EO 1

## DVA's mission

Enhance the lives of Connecticut's Veterans by compassionately and professionally providing:

- Residential and rehabilitation services for individual Veterans and Families
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- Advocacy and Assistance to Veterans, their spouses or eligible dependents in obtaining benefits to which they may be entitled under Federal, State, and local laws.
- Cemetery and Memorial services for Veterans and eligible dependents
- Collaborate with Federal, State and local agencies. Veteran Service Organizations, community based partners, volunteers and Veteran supporters.

## DVA's FY20 participation overview

DVA has a representative at each meeting, is planning projects, and providing a lead for the EO1 Energy Efficiency Project Team Leader

## DVA staff involvement in EO 1

Thomas J. Saadi  
Commissioner

Joe Danao  
Director of Projects and Operations

Briana Mitchell  
Fiscal Director

Shirin Khan  
Planning Analyst

# 1

## 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

1

**Location:** DVA Main Campus

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

**Description:** Repair steam lines

**Status:** Completed in FY 2020

**Benefits Summary:** Save water and gas consumption incurred thru steam pipes that were actively leaking steam.

# 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

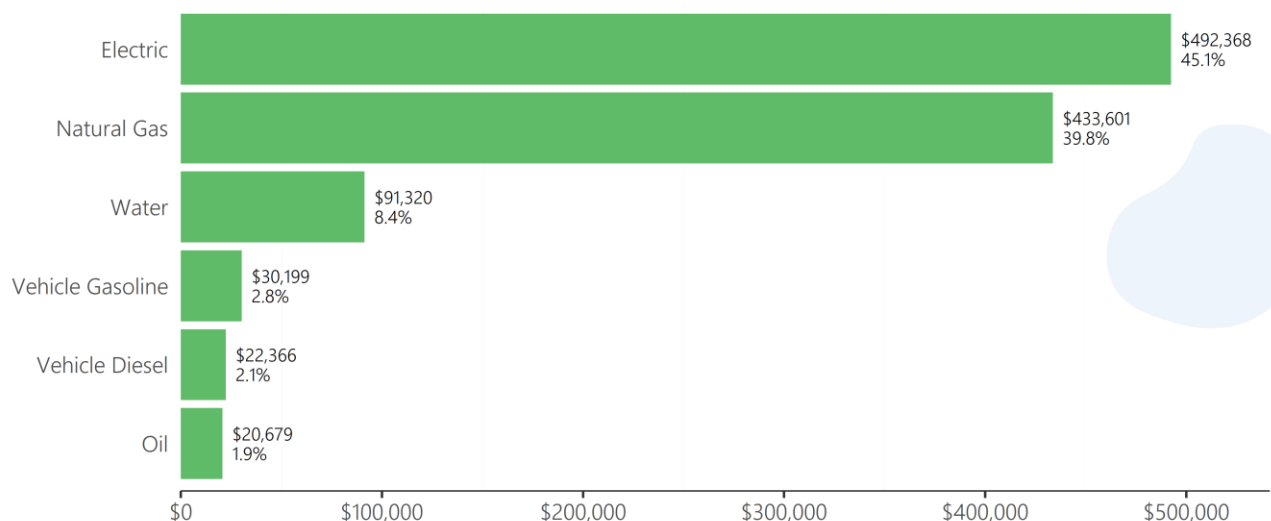
Commodity	Unit	Use			Cost		
		FY19	FY20	Change	FY19	FY20	Change
Electric & Natural Gas	MMBtu	99,973	93,706	-6.3%	\$1,082,194	\$925,969	-14.4%
Other Building Energy	MMBtu	3,219	1,474	-54.2%	\$48,802	\$20,679	-57.6%
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	11,366	12,742	+12.1%	\$29,211	\$30,199	+3.4%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	9,205	7,556	-17.9%	\$29,271	\$22,366	-23.6%
<b>Total GHG Emissions</b>	<b>mtCO2e</b>	<b>5,979</b>	<b>5,503</b>	<b>-8.0%</b>	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	9,289	8,087	-12.9%	\$100,461	\$91,320	-9.1%
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>\$1,289,939</b>	<b>\$1,090,533</b>	<b>-15.5%</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.

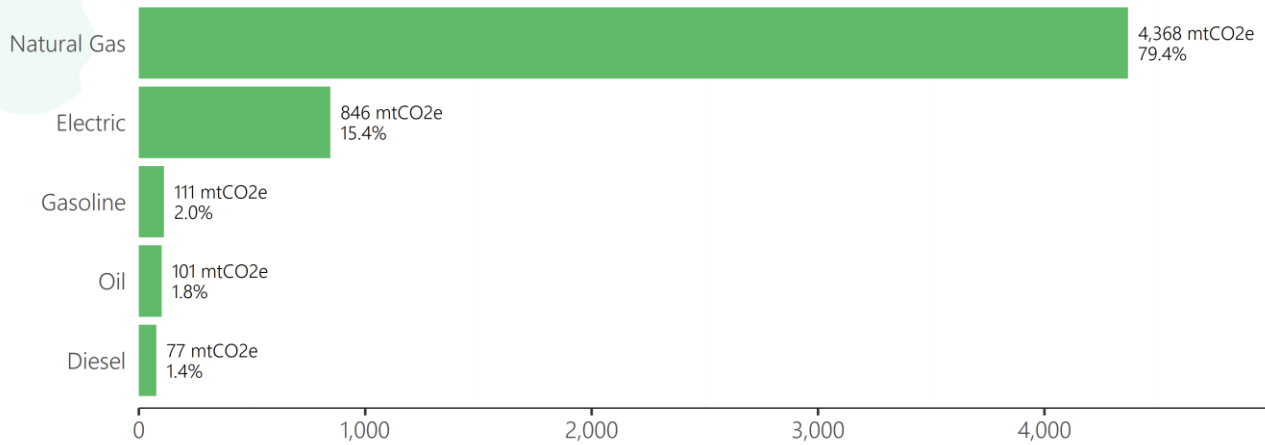
## Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY20

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



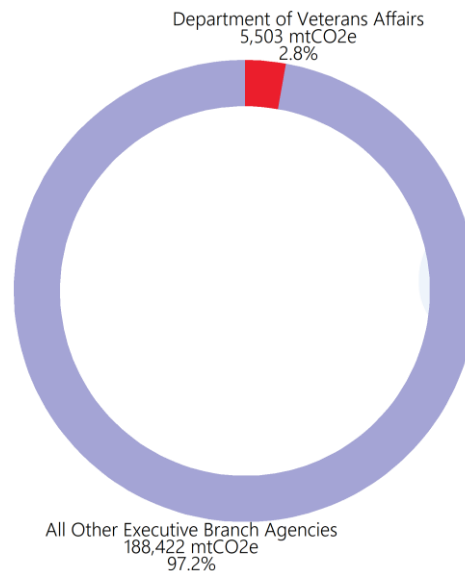
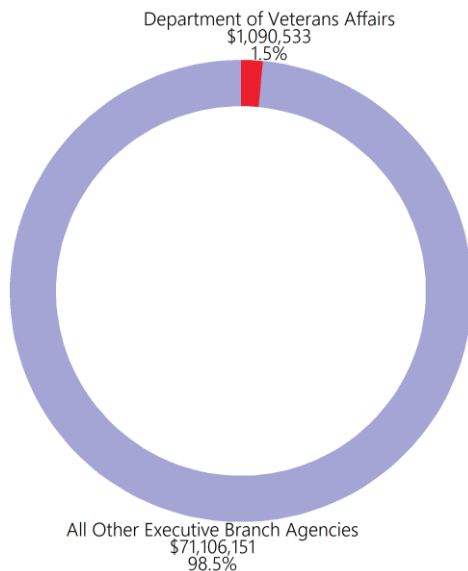
## GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY20

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



## Share of Utility Costs and GHG Emissions

The two charts below display DVA'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

Lighting upgrades Boiler Replacement Project

## 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

Replacement of 80 year old water main and supply lines

## 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

DVA will update the recycling plan utilized across the agency to identify waste reduction opportunities.

# COVID-19 Impacts

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

The impact has been significant from a fiscal and operational perspective with the slowing of workflow on those goals as the primary focus of operations since March 2020 has been and remains on COVID19 mitigation measures while maintaining core function operations.

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

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

Funding