

# Sustainability Performance Plan FY 2021

## CT State Colleges & Universities

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Approved by Terrence Cheng  
President

*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 90+ sustainability projects in FY20 in the 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 and 2021, agencies continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. As many agencies returned to the office in 2021, the GreenerGov CT leadership encouraged agencies to use the return to the office from teleworking as an opportunity to refresh staff practices and to take on new sustainability initiatives. The FY21 Sustainability Performance Plan includes a summary of sustainability actions initiated as part of the "Returning to the Office Greener" call to action.

# EO 1 Participation Overview

## CSCU's Mission

The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) contribute to the creation of knowledge and the economic growth of the state of Connecticut by providing affordable, innovative, and rigorous programs. Our learning environments transform students and facilitate an ever increasing number of individuals to achieve their personal and career goals.

## FY21 Participation Overview

Participation was limited due to staffing levels.

## Participating Agency Staff

Keith Epstein  
Rosalie Butler



## 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 FY21

# Sustainability Projects

## Project 1

**What:** PV cell installations over parking lots and on-ground; Completed under purchase power agreement

**Where:** Gateway CC, Housatonic CC, SCSU School of Business

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

**Status:** In progress in FY 2021

**Benefits:** On-site, green electricity generation

**Savings:** Annual cost savings of \$60,000

## Project 2

**What:** Installation of 5 fuel cells at 3 campuses

**Where:** Eastern, Southern and Western CT State Universities

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

**Status:** Completed in FY 2021

**Benefits:** Clean, on-site electricity generation

**Savings:** \$1.3M in Year One

# Return to the Office Greener

In FY21, the GreenerGov CT leadership encouraged agencies to use the return to the office from teleworking due to the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to refresh staff practices and habits and to take on new sustainability initiatives. Eleven actions were presented as possible strategies for a more sustainable return to the office, and agencies were asked to pick three actions not already in process. The actions for CSCU are highlighted below.

## Returning to the Office Greener Suggested Actions

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Identify agency vehicles which could be transitioned to electric models.   | ✓ |
| 2. Have a No-Cost retro commissioning scoping study to identify HVAC improvement and controls opportunities.          | ✓ |
| 3. Sign up a building to participate in Eversource's Strategic Energy Management program.                             |   |
| 4. Have a free building energy audit performed to identify basic opportunities to upgrade lighting or weatherization. | ✓ |
| 5. Perform a water audit to identify opportunities for fixture replacement or conservation actions.                   | ✓ |
| 6. Check for water leaks using the Fix-A-Leak Checklist.  |   |
| 7. Assess the feasibility of hosting solar on your buildings or property.   | ✓ |
| 8. Optimize your dumpster size and pickup schedule.   |   |
| 9. Start an organics diversion/collection program.  |   |
| 10. Tune up recycling practices.  | ✓ |
| 11. Make a Green Team of staff invested in making space and operations more sustainable.                              | ✓ |
| 12. Other actions   |   |

## Additional details on the return to the office:

Most employees were permitted to telework, reducing commutes and GHG emissions.

# COVID-19 Impact

## Impact of COVID-19 on CSCU's ability to make progress on the goals of EO 1 in FY21

Lack of bond fund allocations through FY21 has made it difficult to provide significant facility modifications.

## 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	
Other	

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

Remote work allows for a reduction in building utilities.

# Future Planning

## Status of FY20 Plans

	Progress has been made	Progress has stalled	Plans have been completed.	Stated plans no longer a priority	Other
GHG Reduction					Evaluation in progress
Water Use Reduction					Evaluations to occur in FY2022
Waste Reduction		✓			

## Sustainability Plans Beyond FY21

### GHG Reduction

No new vehicles planned for FY2022

### Water Use Reduction

None projected

### Waste Reduction

None projected

# Resources Needed

## Barriers encountered while making EO 1 progress in FY21

Funding	✓
Staffing	✓
Technical expertise	
No barriers encountered	
Other	

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

Available bond funds