

# Sustainability Performance Plan

## FY 2021

**Department of Children & Families**

Prepared by David R. Barry & John McCarthy  
Senior Sustainability Officers

Approved by Vanessa Dorantes  
Commissioner

*This report was written in compliance with  
section 5 of Executive Order 1.*



*A Lead by Example Initiative*

# 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

## DCF's Mission

- To be a comprehensive, consolidated agency serving children and families. The department's mandates include child protective and family services, children's behavioral health, prevention and educational services.
- To promote children's safety, health and learning by: Utilizing family-centered policy, practice and programs, with an emphasis on strengths rather than deficits; Applying the science of brain development in early childhood and adolescence; Advancing trauma-informed practice to assist clients who have experienced significant adversity in their lives; Partnering with the community and strengthening interagency collaborations at the state level; Expanding agency leadership and management capacity, and public accountability for results; and, Addressing racial inequities in all areas of practice.

## FY21 Participation Overview

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DCF focused its attention to securing its two facilities and sixteen offices. Because of that commitment, DCF did not make any changes or enhancements to its cooling, electrical, heating or water systems in FY2021.

## Participating Agency Staff

Jason Szczeniak

## FY21 Sustainability Projects

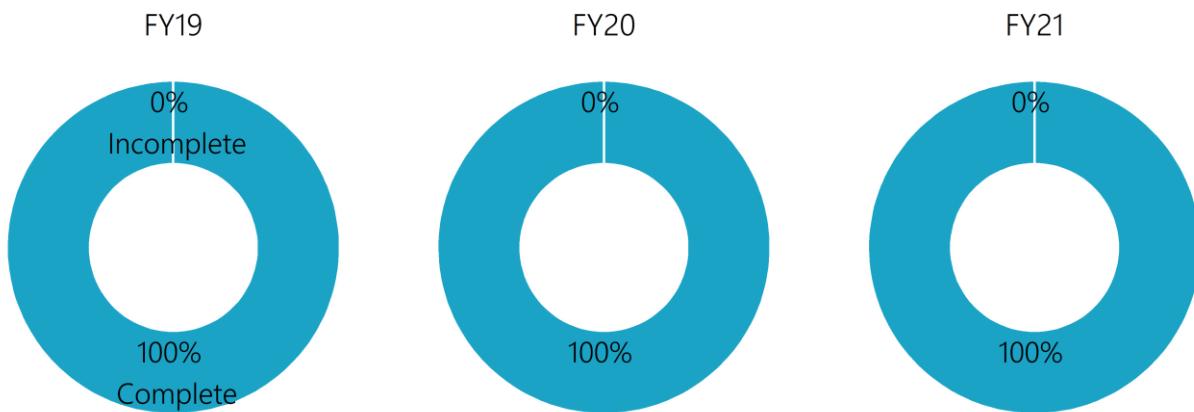
No sustainability projects reported for FY21.

# Performance Data

The following data was pulled from EnergyCAP, the state's utility tracking software, on December 9, 2021. Note that utility data on agencies occupying space owned by another state agency may not be linked to their EnergyCAP accounts.

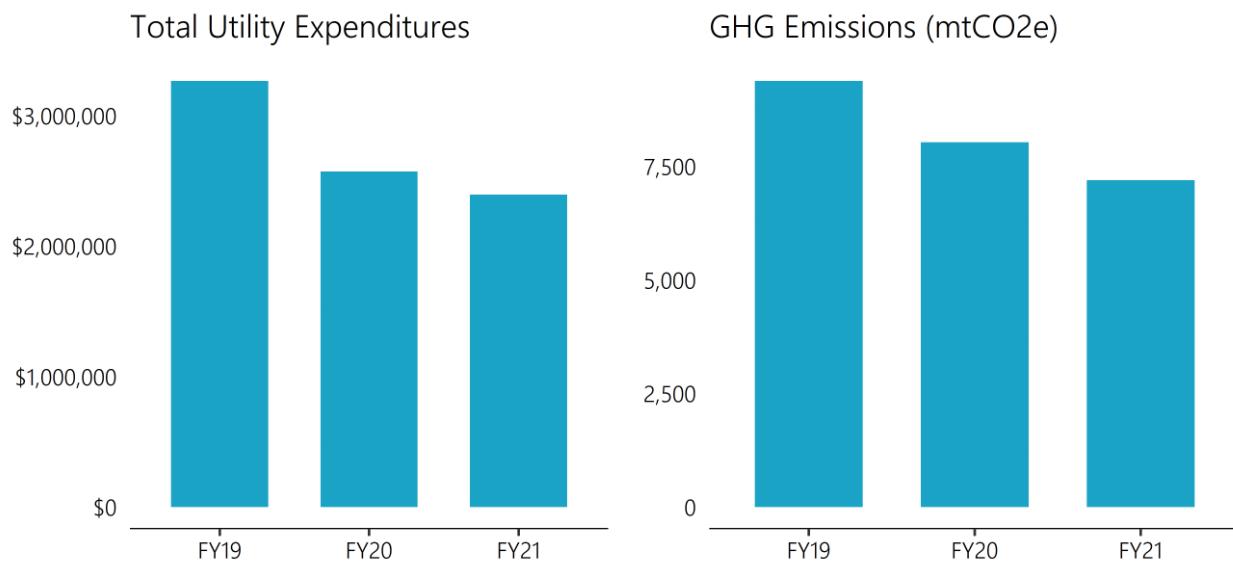
## Data Completeness

The charts below display the estimated percent of utility data for DCF entered into EnergyCAP. More recently uploaded data may still be 'in queue' awaiting processing by EnergyCAP and will not be reflected in this report.



## Data Trends, FY19-FY21

The charts below summarize the total utility expenditures and total GHG emissions for DCF for FY19-FY21. Keep in mind that data that is missing or not yet processed in EnergyCAP may cause these numbers to be artificially low.

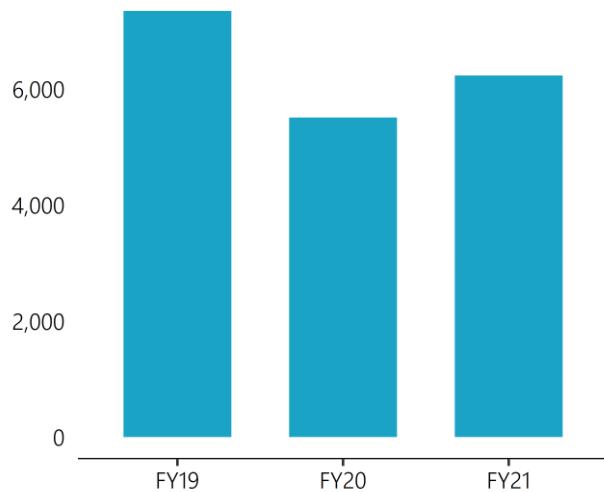


# Performance Data cont.

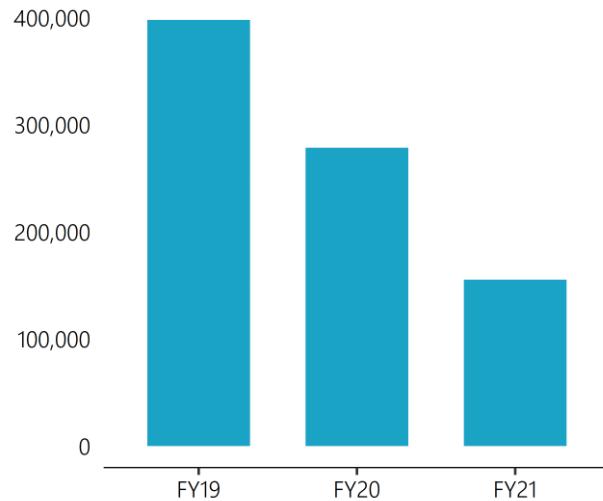
## Data Trends, FY19-FY21 - Continued

The charts below summarize the water and gas/diesel use for DCF for FY19-FY21. Keep in mind that data that is missing or not yet processed in EnergyCAP may cause these numbers to be artificially low.

Water & Sewer Use (Kgal)



Gas & Diesel Use (Gal)



## Detailed Utility Use and Cost Data

The table below summarizes the utility use and cost data for DCF for FY19-FY21 according to data pulled from EnergyCAP on December 9, 2021. As mentioned previously, keep in mind that this data may be incomplete.

Commodity	Unit	Use			FY19-21 Change	Cost			FY19-21 Change
		FY19	FY20	FY21		FY19	FY20	FY21	
Electric	kWh	8,700,697	7,843,239	7,892,527	-9.3%	\$1,445,892	\$1,294,176	\$1,315,803	-9.0%
Natural Gas	CCF	425,723	449,425	477,780	+12.2%	\$400,952	\$355,774	\$401,736	+0.2%
Oil	Gal	128,507	107,843	113,194	-11.9%	\$259,255	\$174,990	\$198,252	-23.5%
Propane	Gal	10,517	9,297	8,178	-22.2%	\$15,433	\$10,833	\$12,831	-16.9%
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	395,735	278,119	154,820	-60.9%	\$1,064,528	\$673,047	\$391,695	-63.2%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	2,147	603	654	-69.5%	\$6,979	\$1,784	\$1,839	-73.6%
<b>Total GHG Emissions</b>	<b>mtCO2e</b>	<b>9,383</b>	<b>8,031</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>-23.2%</b>	-	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	2,887	2,291	2,144	-25.8%	\$25,760	\$21,477	\$24,671	-4.2%
Sewer	Kgal	4,459	3,220	4,091	-8.2%	\$47,460	\$41,348	\$48,668	+2.5%
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>\$3,266,259</b>	<b>\$2,573,429</b>	<b>\$2,395,496</b>	<b>-26.7%</b>

\*Gasoline and diesel costs estimated based on average monthly cost from EIA.gov, \$2.53 for gasoline and \$2.81 for diesel in FY21; \$2.42 for gasoline and \$2.96 for diesel in FY20; \$2.69 for gasoline and \$3.25 for diesel in FY19.

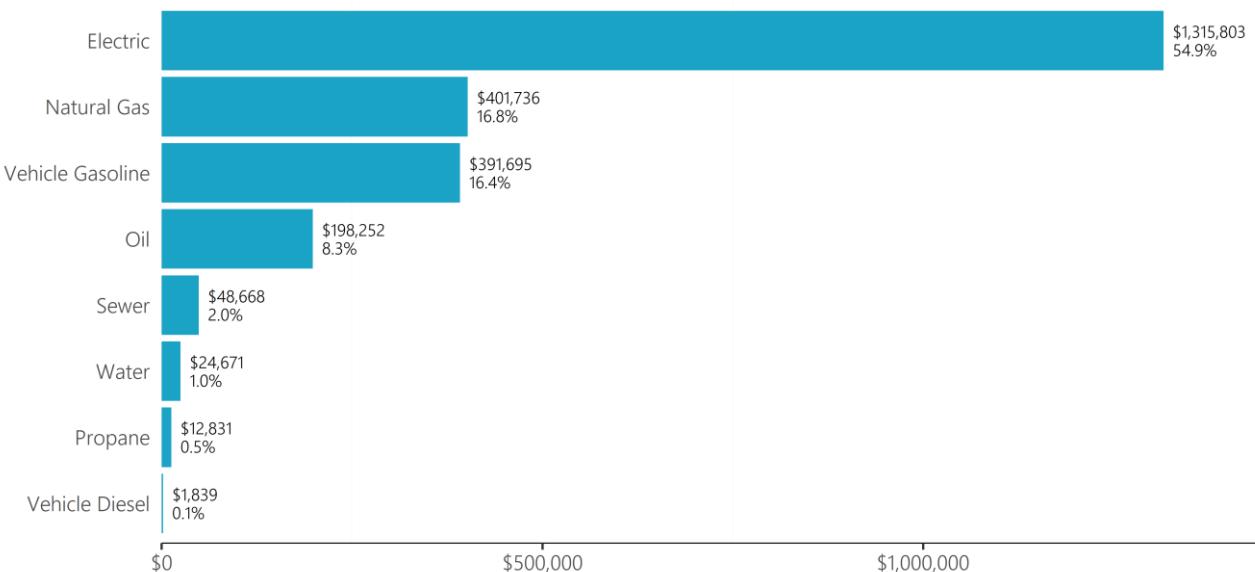
# Performance Data cont.

## FY21 Data Snapshot

The charts below highlight the breakdown of utility expenditures and GHG emissions by commodity for FY21.

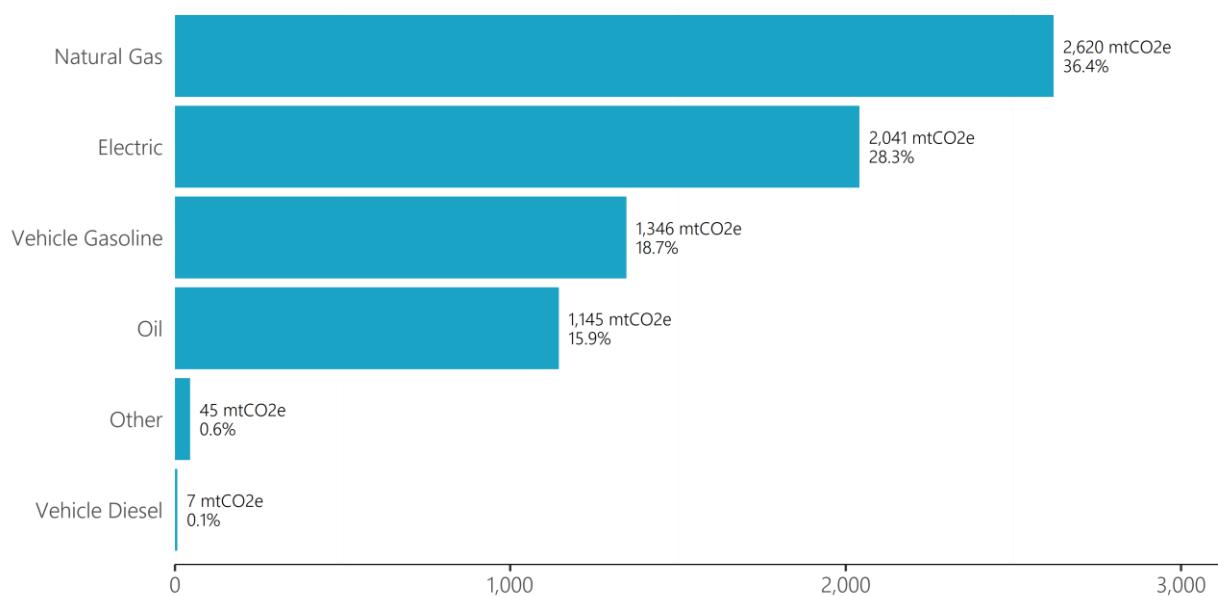
### Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY21

The chart below represents the breakdown of commodity costs at DCF in FY21.



### GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY21

The chart below represents the breakdown of GHG emissions by commodity at DCF in FY21.



# 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 DCF 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

# COVID-19 Impact

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

The COVID-19 pandemic has really impacted how DCF performs its duties, especially at the office level. The two facilities (Solnit North and South) have continued their normal operations. As a way to mitigate exposure to staff, DCF continues to perform touchpoint cleaning at all of its offices and facilities, regardless of staffing complement. At one point, DCF focused its attention to securing its two facilities and sixteen offices. Consequently, DCF focused all of its attention and resources on ensuring that its staff, clients and the public remained safe.

## 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	

# 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		✓			
Water Use Reduction	✓				
Waste Reduction					Affected by COVID-19.

## Sustainability Plans Beyond FY21

### GHG Reduction

DCF will continue to assess its vehicle allocation, reviewing whether to reduce its fleet size and whether electric vehicles are a viable option.

### Water Use Reduction

Depending on fiscal resources, DCF will continue to replace inefficient water heaters and similar units at state-owned properties. DCF will work with landlords to identify ways to reduce water consumption.

### Waste Reduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DCF staff worked and continues to work either full telework or hybrid schedule. Therefore, DCF will have to reassess how it wants to address project.

# 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

Because of limited staffing, it restricts DCF to implementing and enforcing cultural changes. Another barrier is whether a landlord will allow certain projects (e.g. composting) on their property.