

Sustainability Performance Plan

FY 2021

Department of Economic & Community Development

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Approved by David Lehman
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 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

DECD's Mission

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is the state's lead agency for strengthening Connecticut's competitive position in the global economy. The agency's approach to economic development incorporates community development; business recruitment and retention; tourism; arts and historic preservation programs. DECD's Office of Brownfields Remediation and Development (OBRD) provides funding and technical assistance to return brownfield sites to productive re-use. Since 2009, in 250 projects, OBRD has impacted roughly 3,200 acres of contaminated land across 74 municipalities. DECD also provides administrative support services to the Department of Housing (DOH) and the Social Equity Council.

FY21 Participation Overview

Agency representatives participated in meetings and served on the Process Improvement and Public Engagement project teams. Multiple projects are underway to increase sustainability at museums.

The DECD "Green Team" remained active. Information regarding sustainability while teleworking was provided to all staff. As employees transitioned to onsite work, they resumed participation in recycling and composting. The agency continued implementing digital processes. Energy data was reported.

Participating Agency Staff

David Lehman, Commissioner
Morgan Bengel, Museum Curator
Mark Burno, Economic Development Agent
Robert Damroth, Internet Marketing Associate
Lindy Gold, Community Development Specialist
German Rivera, Clerk
Susan Shellard, Chief Administrative Officer
Smita Shrestha, Associate Accountant



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: Light bulbs were replaced with LEDs

Where: Old NewGate Prison & Copper Mine, 115 Newgate Rd. East Granby, CT 06026

Project type: Structural - GHG - Building energy efficiency **Status:** Completed in FY 2021

Benefits: Reduced energy consumption

Savings: Completed in 2021, so full year data is unavailable.

Project 2

What: Foam insulation was added to the art gallery. Draft guards were applied to doors. Water filtration system was upgraded.

Where: Eric Sloane Museum, 31 Kent-Cornwall Road, Kent, CT 06757

Project type: Structural - Combination **Status:** Completed in FY 2021

Benefits: Reduced energy and water consumption.

Savings: Completed in 2021, so full year data is unavailable.

Project 3

What: Extensive restoration of the 1806 Prudence Crandall House Museum will include replacing wood cladding and stabilizing structural beams. Upgrades will include an energy efficient HVAC system, a concrete floor in the basement to reduce fluctuations in temperature and humidity, and drains to move water away from structure. Project components completed in 2021 included: upgrades to HVAC system, plumbing and electrical systems; window rehabilitation; new roof, repairs to clapboard siding, replacing deteriorated moldings; repairing/replacing gutters and downspouts; reinforcement of structurally deficient floor beams and posts; installing/reinforcing basement drainage system; new exterior lighting; new ADA-compliant ramp and restrooms; and repointing chimneys.

Where: Prudence Crandall Museum, 1 Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT

Project type: Structural - Combination **Status:** In progress in FY 2021

Benefits: Energy efficiency and cost savings will result from above structural and HVAC enhancements. New roof and cladding will result in lowered energy consumption and heating costs.

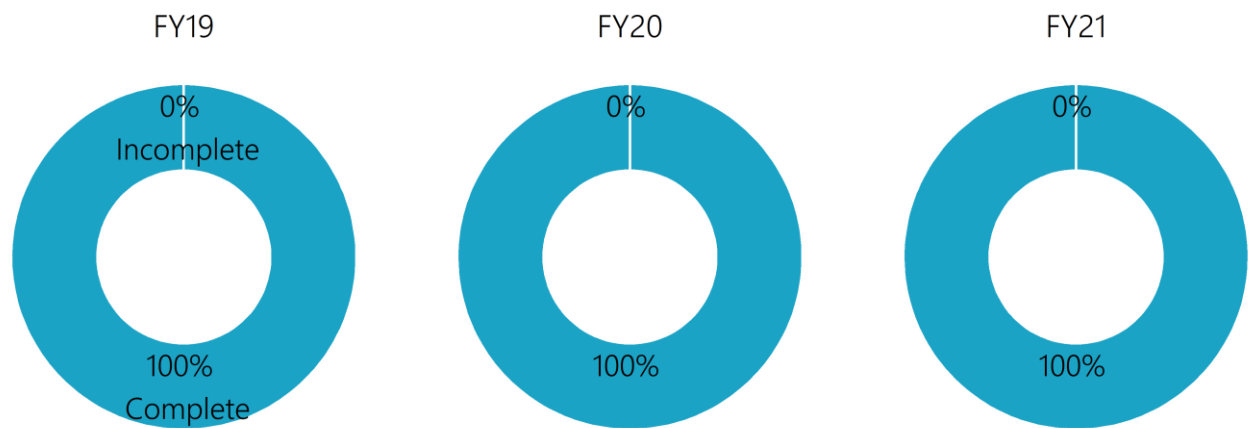
Savings: Data will be available when project is completed and a full year of year of utilization information is available.

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.

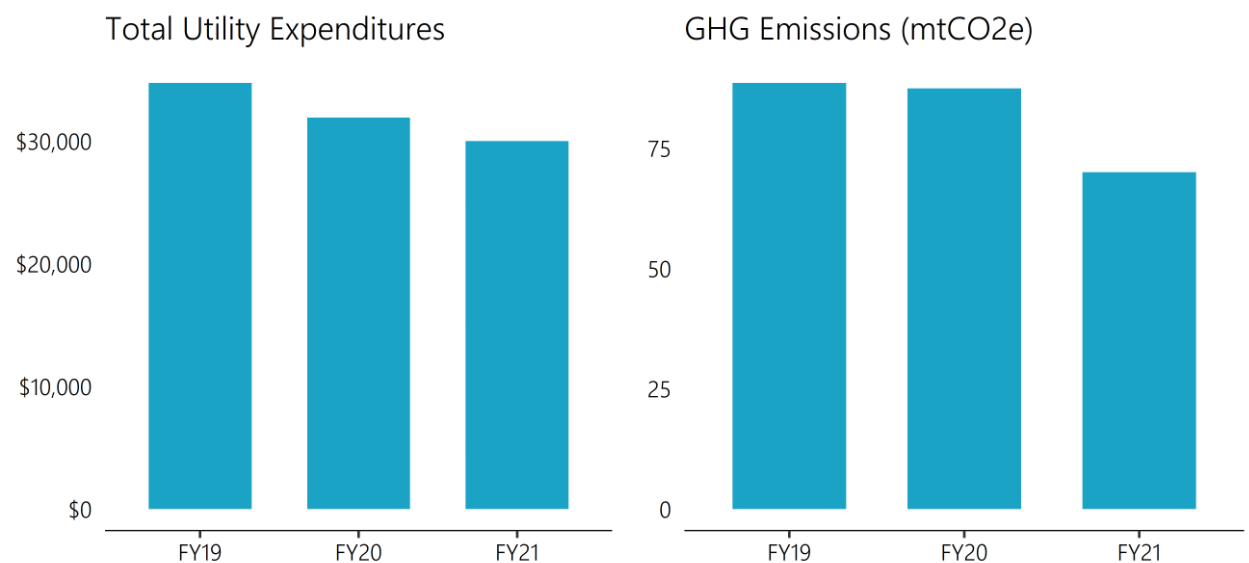
Data Completeness

The charts below display the estimated percent of utility data for DECD 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

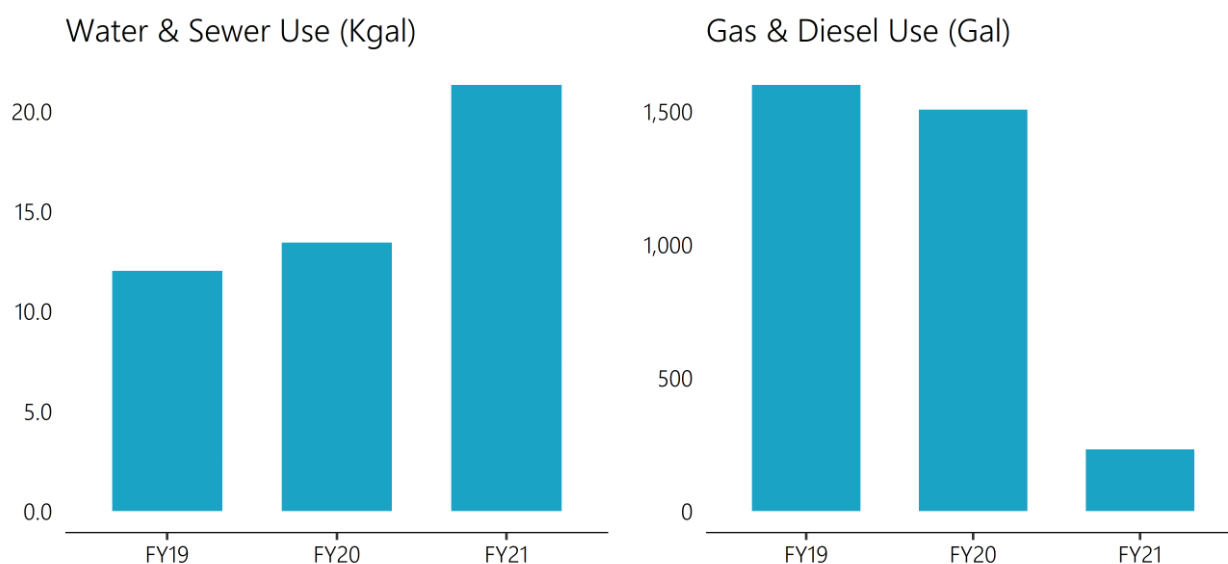
The charts below summarize the total utility expenditures and total GHG emissions for DECD for FY19-FY21. Keep in mind that data that is missing or not yet processed in EnergyCAP may cause these numbers to be artificially low.



Performance Data cont.

Data Trends, FY19-FY21 - Continued

The charts below summarize the water and gas/diesel use for DECD 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.



Detailed Utility Use and Cost Data

The table below summarizes the utility use and cost data for DECD 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				Cost			
		FY19	FY20	FY21	FY19-21 Change	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY19-21 Change
Electric	kWh	77,873	75,749	77,856	+0.0%	\$18,539	\$17,619	\$20,024	+8.0%
Natural Gas	CCF	4,970	4,376	5,067	+1.9%	\$5,934	\$4,812	\$5,648	-4.8%
Oil	Gal	2,712	3,105	1,900	-30.0%	\$5,710	\$5,541	\$3,423	-40.1%
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	1,599	1,507	231	-85.5%	\$4,303	\$3,648	\$585	-86.4%
Total GHG Emissions	mtCO2e	89	87	70	-21.0%	-	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	12	13	21	+77.4%	\$251	\$290	\$328	+30.7%
Total	-	-	-	-	-	\$34,737	\$31,910	\$30,008	-13.6%

*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.

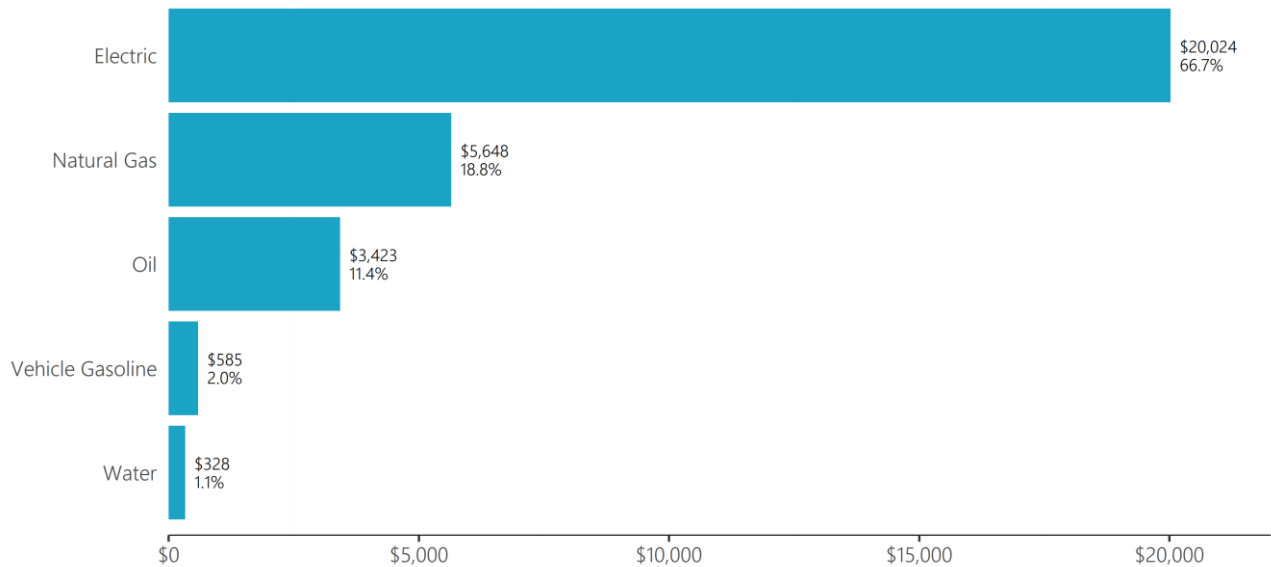
Performance Data cont.

FY21 Data Snapshot

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

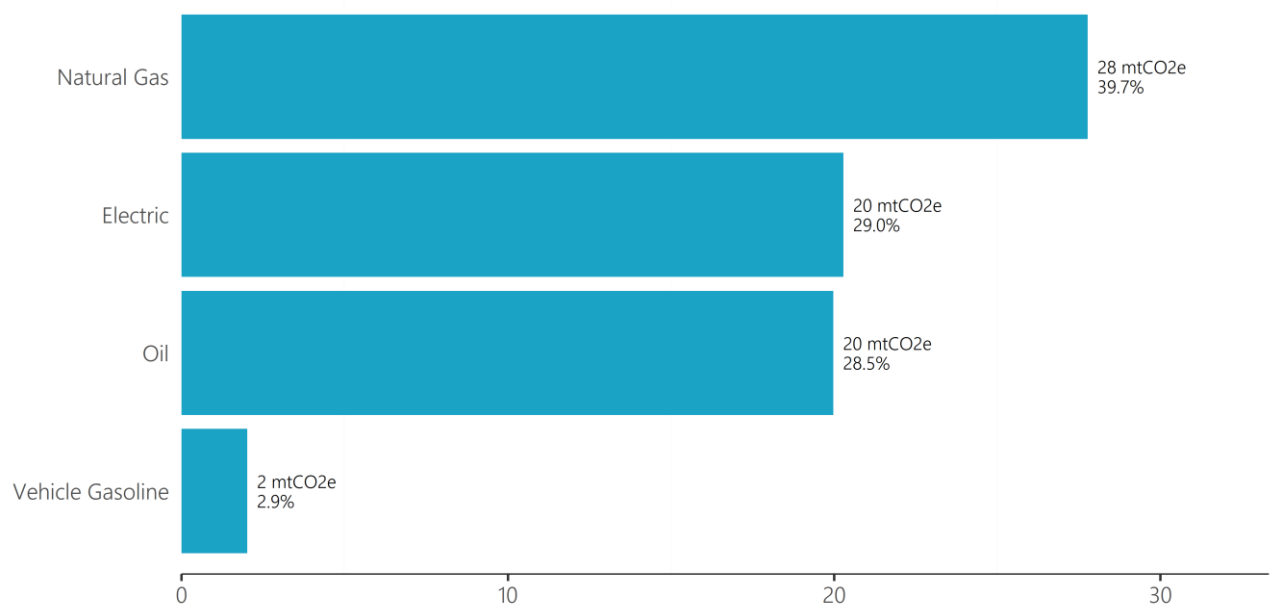
Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY21

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



GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY21

The chart below represents the breakdown of GHG emissions by commodity at DECD 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 DECD 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:

Data collection regarding the utilization of the agency's vehicles is being compiled and analyzed with the goal of reducing the fleet size.

COVID-19 Impact

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

It has provided an opportunity to develop paperless processes to reduce waste and create new ways to reduce commuting.

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

Telework and digital processes will continue as appropriate. The agency is evaluating and expanding the use of shared workspaces.

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	✓				

Sustainability Plans Beyond FY21

GHG Reduction

DECD will review fleet utilization and reduce vehicles utilization as appropriate. Continued telework will reduce gasoline consumption and GHG production.

Initiatives to improve energy efficiency will continue at all museums, with focus on the Henry Whitfield Museum which is planning masonry and structural work to seal the historic house.

Water Use Reduction

Initiatives to conserve water continue at all museums.

Waste Reduction

Staff will continue to receive information about sustainability. The agency will continue transition to "paperless" processes to reduce solid waste.

Resources Needed

Barriers encountered while making EO 1 progress in FY21

Funding	✓
Staffing	✓
Technical expertise	
No barriers encountered	
Other	

Additional details on barriers encountered

Purchasing using state contracts sometimes makes it more difficult to purchase sustainable and environmentally-friendly items. Sustainable items are often more expensive than other options. The inherent nature of museums' historic structures is often less energy efficient than newer buildings. Enhancing energy efficiency while still preserving historic integrity can entail additional resources. Limitations in staffing limit resource availability for sustainability projects.

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

Contracting processes should be used to reduce the cost of "green" products and encourage elimination of wasteful and plastic packaging.