Sustainability Performance Plan

FY 2021

Office of Early Childhood

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Approved by Beth Bye
Commissioner

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

greenergovCT
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

OEC's Mission

To partner with families of young children to advance equitable early childhood policies, funding and programs; support early learning and development; and strengthen the critical role of all families, providers, educators, and communities throughout a child's life. We will assertively remove barriers and build upon the strengths of historically disenfranchised people and communities to ensure fair access to OEC resources.

FY21 Participation Overview

Due to the COVID-19 emergency response, the Office of Early Childhood's formal engagement with the EO1 has been limited in FY 2021, despite its continued commitment to the work and its ongoing efforts reduce greenhouse gas emissions, curb wasteful water use, and reduce the amount of waste disposed at state facilities.

Participating Agency Staff

Eileen McMurrer
Christopher Lyddy
Susie Gardiner

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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: The agency re-organized the physical structure of the office space to reduce the footprint of staff workstations. This encouraged more staff to telework and reduced the amount of printing done on site.

Where: 450 Columbus Boulevard

Project type: Structural - GHG - Vehicle/fleet **Status:** Completed in FY 2021

Benefits: Staff continue to telework at high rates. The agency expects to maintain telework on an ongoing basis at or around 80% of staff work time.

Project 2

What: The agency continues to telework and has rearranged the agency's organizational footprint and as a result has reduced the amount of printing.

Where: 450 Columbus Boulevard

Project type: Behavioral - Waste **Status:** In progress in FY 2021

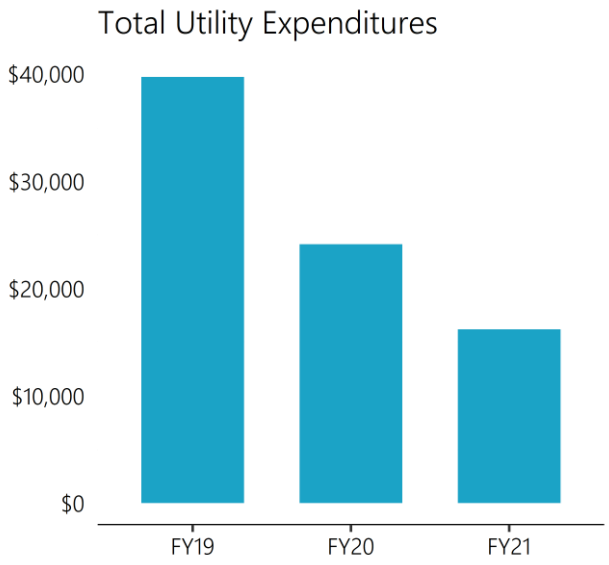
Benefits: The agency's printing continues to be lower than 2019 levels. With the increase of teleworking and the reorganization of staff workstations, the agency is connecting staff computers to printers, as needed.

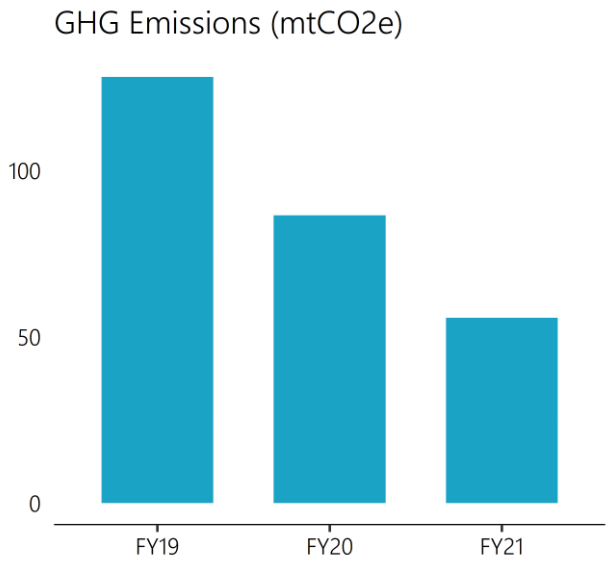
Performance Data

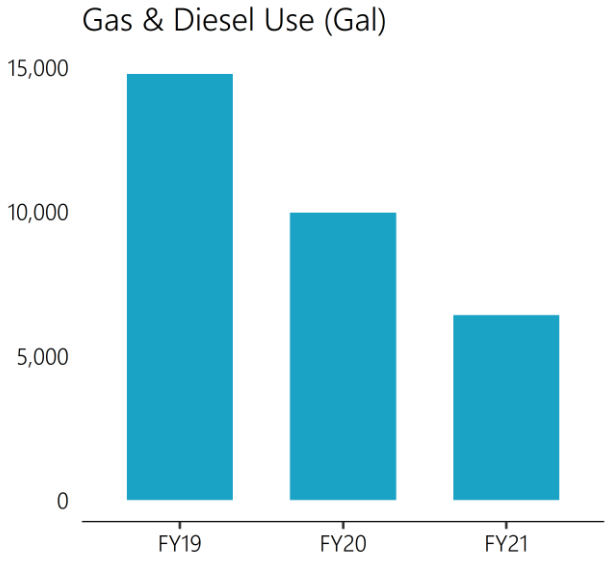
The following data was pulled from EnergyCAP, the state's utility tracking software, on December 9, 2021. Note that utility data on agencies occupying space owned by another state agency may not be linked to their EnergyCAP accounts.

Data Trends, FY19-FY21

The charts below summarize the total utility expenditures, total GHG emissions, and gas/diesel use for OEC 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.

Detailed Utility Use and Cost Data

The table below summarizes the utility use and cost data for OEC 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.

		Use				Cost			
Commodity	**Unit**	**FY19**	**FY20**	**FY21**	**FY19-21 Change**	**FY19**	**FY20**	**FY21**	**FY19-21 Change**
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	14,767	9,968	6,410	-56.6%	$39,724	$24,123	$16,218	-59.2%
Total GHG Emissions	**mtCO2e**	**128**	**86**	**56**	**-56.5%**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$39,724**	**$24,123**	**$16,218**	**-59.2%**

*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.

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 OEC 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.	Promoted 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: The agency restructured it's office space to ensure optimal use of work stations. As part of this reorganization, the agency reduced the amount of printing and are only reconnecting staff to printers who request and need access. This one-by-one approach is curbing the amount of printing. In addition, the agency ordered new, more efficient printers/copy machines for use. These are to be delivered in 2022.	✓

Additional details on the return to the office

The agency embraces the state's telework program and is being intentional about the amount of time staff need to spend at their official, state workstation. This continues to reduce printing, electrical and water consumption, and commuting time for staff.

COVID-19 Impact

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

The agency has been almost fully remote throughout the pandemic, limiting the amount of time staff spend in the office. This has helped to reduce waste and staff time/miles traveled. Despite COVID, the agency is a supporter and early adopter of the state's telework program. The agency will continue to streamline operations with the expanded telework program.

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	✓				

Sustainability Plans Beyond FY21

GHG Reduction

The agency will continue to look at how the agency vehicles are deployed. During the COVID emergency, licensing inspections were suspended at times, reducing the time and miles staff were driving to field locations. As we ramp back up, the agency will look at the fleet operations.

Water Use Reduction

The time spent in the office has been significantly reduced as a result of the agency's commitment to expanding its telework program.

Waste Reduction

The time spent in the office has been significantly reduced as a result of the agency's commitment to expanding its telework program. In addition, printers are being connected to staff computers only as needed. The reorganization of staff workstations has provided the agency an opportunity to order new printers/copiers and are reconnecting staff on a one-by-one basis.

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

Adequate staffing to perform all duties required of the agency so that important work like this can also be prioritized and embedded across the agency.