

Sustainability Performance Plan

FY 2021

State Department of Education

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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

SDE's Mission

The Connecticut State Department of Education is the administrative arm of the Connecticut State Board of Education. Through leadership, curriculum, research, planning, evaluation, assessment, data analysis and other assistance, the Department helps to ensure equal opportunity and excellence in education for all Connecticut students. The Department is responsible for distributing funds to all Connecticut public school districts. The Department also operates the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System.

FY21 Sustainability Projects

One sustainability project reported for FY21:

What: Campaign to get employees to recycle and compost

Where: 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford

Project type: Behavioral - Waste

Status: Completed in FY 2021

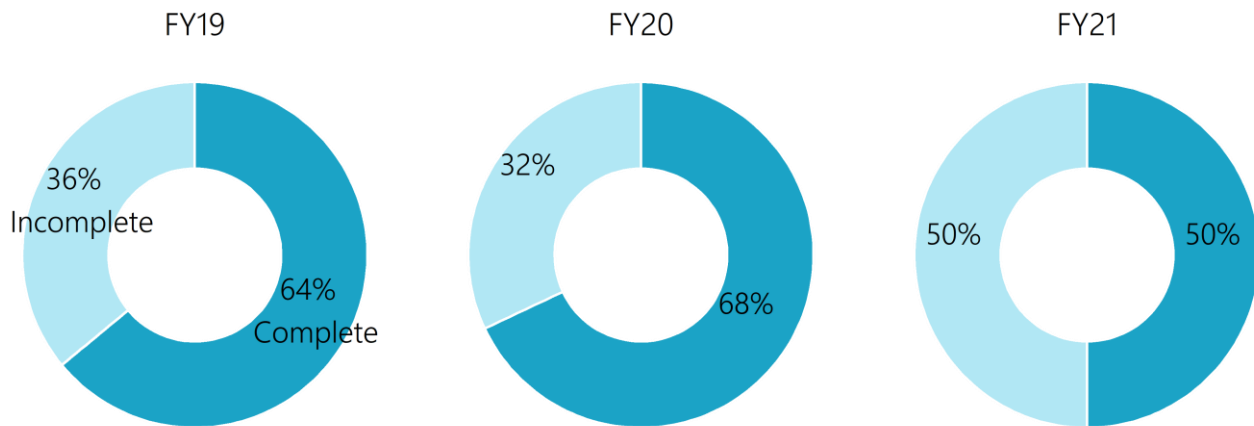
Benefits: Employees are aware and conscientious of the importance of recycling and composting

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.

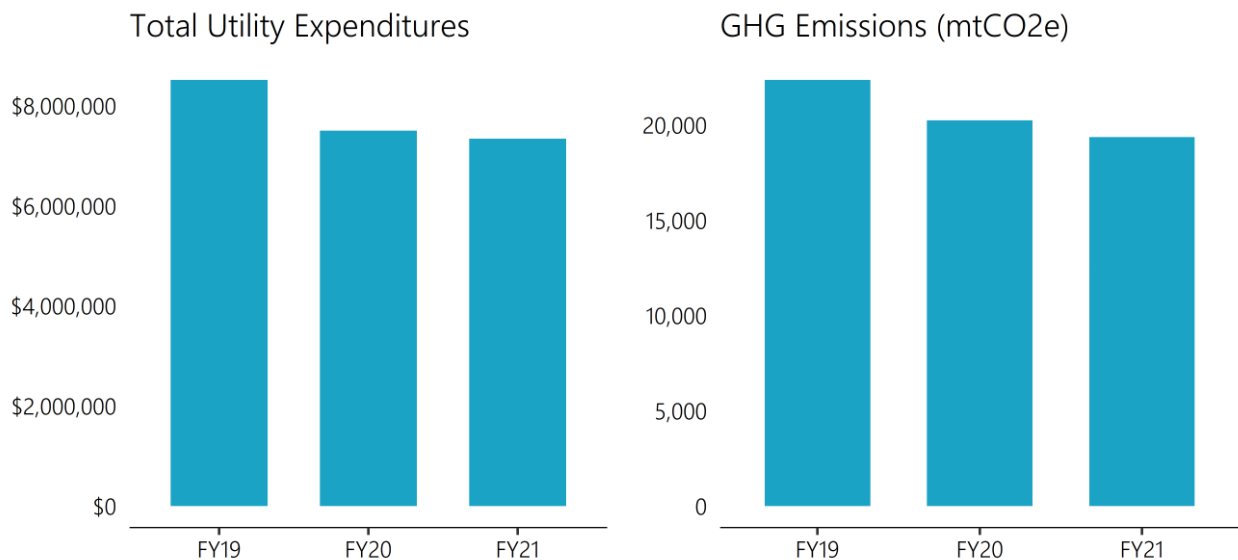
Data Completeness

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

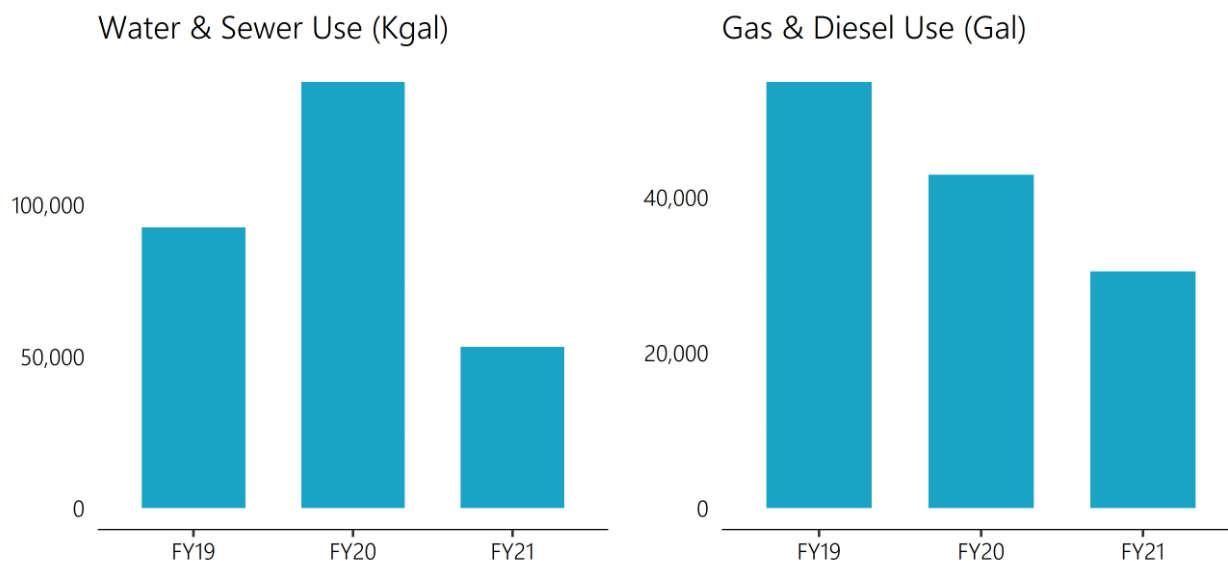
The charts below summarize the total utility expenditures and total GHG emissions for SDE for FY19-FY21. Keep in mind that data that is missing or not yet processed in EnergyCAP may cause these numbers to be artificially low.



Performance Data cont.

Data Trends, FY19-FY21 - Continued

The charts below summarize the water and gas/diesel use for SDE 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 SDE 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	35,426,183	34,278,870	33,513,261	-5.4%	\$5,825,321	\$5,312,361	\$5,306,656	-8.9%
Natural Gas	CCF	2,029,649	1,726,308	1,760,991	-13.2%	\$1,888,216	\$1,543,685	\$1,648,796	-12.7%
Oil	Gal	164,730	150,892	76,391	-53.6%	\$329,421	\$268,558	\$138,189	-58.1%
Propane	Gal	4,807	634	-	-	\$6,787	\$698	-	-
Vehicle Gasoline	Gal	14,841	13,667	12,248	-17.5%	\$39,924	\$33,073	\$30,988	-22.4%
Vehicle Diesel	Gal	39,989	29,215	18,198	-54.5%	\$129,964	\$86,475	\$51,137	-60.7%
Total GHG Emissions	mtCO2e	22,362	20,246	19,365	-13.4%	-	-	-	-
Water	Kgal	46,419	73,087	29,099	-37.3%	\$166,873	\$157,091	\$108,579	-34.9%
Sewer	Kgal	46,126	67,438	24,103	-47.7%	\$128,600	\$101,549	\$59,653	-53.6%
Total	-	-	-	-	-	\$8,515,105	\$7,503,491	\$7,343,999	-13.8%

*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.

6 - SDE Sustainability Performance Plan

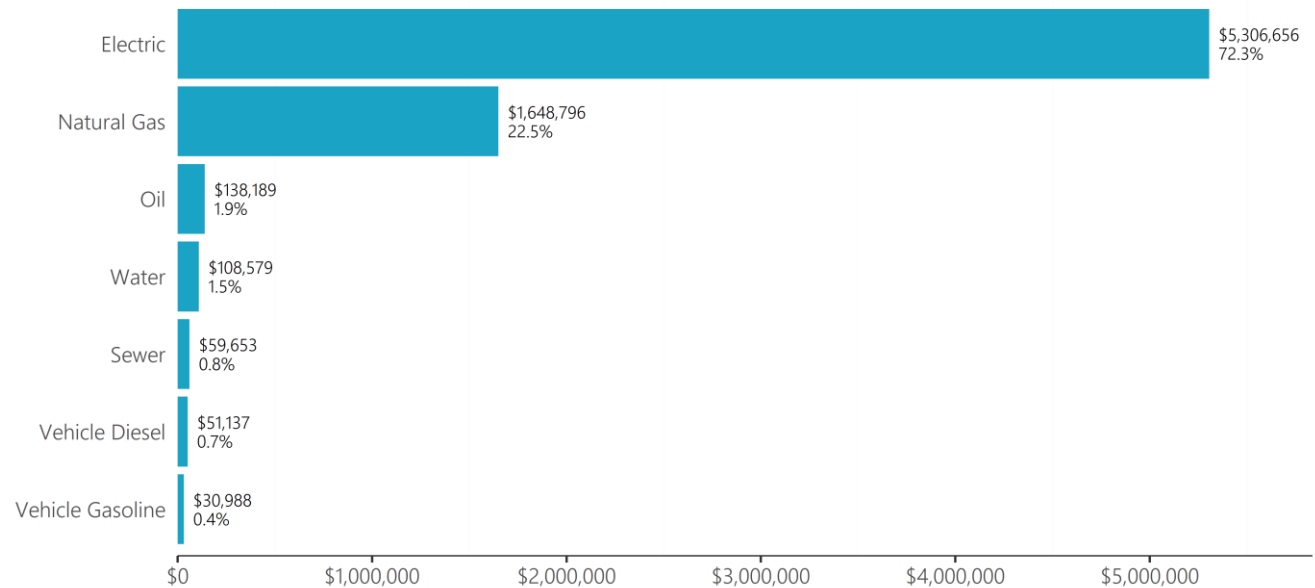
Performance Data cont.

FY21 Data Snapshot

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

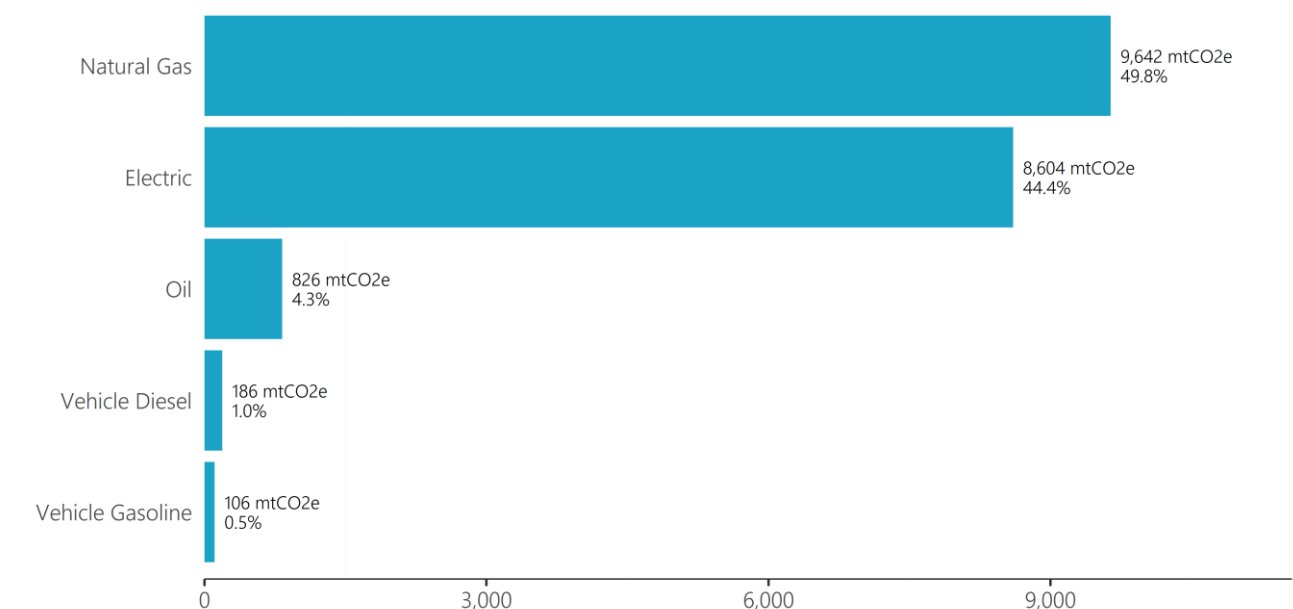
Commodity Cost Breakdown, FY21

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



GHG Emissions Breakdown, FY21

The chart below represents the breakdown of GHG emissions by commodity at SDE 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 SDE 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: CTECS may have additional projects | ✓ |

COVID-19 Impact

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

No real impact

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					As a tenant we follow DAS' lead
Waste Reduction					As a tenant we follow DAS' lead

Sustainability Plans Beyond FY21

GHG Reduction

No plans reported for FY21.

Water Use Reduction

No plans reported for FY21.

Waste Reduction

No plans reported for FY21.

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

Possibly funding to address aging infrastructure at CTECS