

# Sustainability Performance Plan

FY 2022

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



# Sustainability Performance Plan

Executive Order 1 (EO 1) calls on 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.

The goals of EO 1 include:

- 45% reduction in GHG emissions below 2001 levels,
- 10% reduction in water consumption from a FY20 baseline, and
- 25% reduction in waste disposal from a FY20 baseline.

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.

This report includes details on sustainability initiatives and participation in the GreenerGovCT initiative in FY22.

## Agency Details

**Agency:** Connecticut Innovations

**Senior Sustainability Officers:** Cynthia Petruzzello & Sara Donofrio

**Date Submitted:** 12/19/2022

## GreenerGov CT Participation Overview

### 1. How has your agency worked towards the sustainability goals of EO 1 in FY22?

Connecticut Innovations (CI) is the state's venture capital arm, voluntarily participating in the GreenerGovCT efforts initiated by Executive Order 1. CI maintains two main offices in the state—Hartford and New Haven. Cynthia Petruzzello and Sara Donofrio continue to participate in the Greener Gov Committee Steering Meetings at DEEP. Cynthia and Sara continue to educate staff and visitors about the importance of going green and reducing waste. Recently CI hosted an event, VentureClash Climate Edition, that showcased companies from around the globe that are helping to grow a healthier ecosystem.

### 2. List key agency staff involved in EO 1 in FY22.

**"The CI Green Team"**

Cynthia Petruzzello  
Sara Donofrio

## Sustainability Projects

**3. How many projects has your agency implemented that had a positive impact on sustainability in FY22? Include projects relating to infrastructure improvements as well as behavioral change that took place in owned, leased, or occupied space and were either in progress or completed in FY22.**

- General recycling (included but not limited to coffee grounds, bottles, paper goods and batteries), green purchasing practices and staff involvement in these activities.
- Earth Day: Promoted with staff, sharing ways to go green at home and in the office.
- EV charging stations: Began implementation of bringing EV charging stations to our New Haven office location.
- CI's ClimateTech Fund (launched in 2022): A \$100 million fund dedicated to investing in climate and sustainability-based solutions and companies.

**4. Provide a summary of the sustainability projects completed in FY22 at your agency.**

**For each project include:**

- a. Project summary**
- b. Project location**
- c. Project status**
- d. Project benefits**
- e. Projected savings (in dollars and the appropriate unit of measurement if known)**

1.

a. CI's recycling efforts in both the New Haven (District) and Hartford offices (Colt Building) have been fully embraced by CI staff. There has been a positive response to all proposed initiatives, and the Green Team avail themselves to lend a hand with any questions. We have designated bins for bottles, dry goods, etc. It has been our experience that the best way to educate is to have proper labeling. The kitchen area is where most of the recycling happens. The battery recycling, embraced and encouraged through the IT department, has been a success. There is a designated bucket for batteries, and staff can also bring batteries from home for recycling (saving our landfills).

b. As stated, we have instituted the same recycling practices in both of our offices (New Haven and Hartford).

c. CI has made these efforts an integrated part of its overall philosophy. As CI continues to maintain a hybrid working environment, staff recycling practices continue to be fluid both at home and in the offices. We strongly believe this maintains the integrity of our recycling program.

d & e. The projected benefits and savings go hand in hand. Not only are the benefits monetary, but the benefits to the environment are innumerable. It is extremely refreshing to see that the office supply closet has been dwindling over the past two years since we have

split our operations into two offices. We are all learning to pare down on copying items and mailings as well. Invoices are emailed, and it is our goal to go as paperless as possible. We encourage the use of reusable cups, plates and utensils. It is important to remember that the dishwasher uses less water than washing them by hand.

2.

a. Newsletter created and shared with CI staff including history of Earth Day and fun ways to go green; we requested participation by asking staff to share their favorite green tips and tricks.

b. Implemented in our New Haven headquarters and Hartford office.

c. Newsletter was sent, and we included green tips received from numerous staff members.

d. We plan further education of staff members, getting everyone involved and excited to participate.

e. Exact savings are difficult to calculate; however, knowledge is power. The more people consider doing things more sustainably, the more it will benefit our state and planet.

3.

a. EV charging stations at District (New Haven)

b. At District New Haven, the charging stations will be in a mutually amenable area for use by the employees at District. The landlord will have an electronic signup system. Availability of these stations will encourage ease of charging, and with the signup system, drivers can plan their charging schedules.

c. The project has received approval. District notified staff and tenants of a 2023 timeline for completion.

d & e. Once again, the benefits and the cost savings go hand in hand. This program will make it easier for those who would like to buy electric vehicles to have a safe and reliable way to charge their vehicles during the day. District is stepping up to meet this need. EVs provide economic benefits to the state by the way they reduce fuel costs and shift consumption away from imported oil to locally produced electricity sources. The reduction in air pollution levels and the improvement of air quality are major environmental savings.

4.

a. CI has launched a ClimateTech Fund (CT Fund). Through the CT Fund, CI's team will invest in innovative early-stage companies focused on energy, transportation/mobility, food/agriculture, water and climate-related software, waste/circular economy, advanced materials/manufacturing, carbon removal/sequestration and more. The fund will also invest in venture funds that are headquartered in Connecticut.

b. To be considered for the fund, companies must create and maintain a presence in Connecticut and have a plan to grow in the state. International companies and venture capital funds must establish their US headquarters in Connecticut.

c. CI expects to invest in 10-15 companies over the next year.

d & e. Through this fund, CI plans to support the local economy and growth of companies but also identify solutions with a global impact.

## Future Plans

### **1. What planned sustainability initiatives beyond FY22 does your agency have relating to GHG reduction, water use reduction, and waste reduction?**

Future plans at CI include the possible introduction of a composting bin. We plan to start slowly to acclimate our staff and visitors (as best we can) to the actual composting process. We will start in our kitchen by focusing on the reduction of food waste, which will ultimately be reabsorbed back into the soil.

Single use bottle reduction: We will continue to encourage the use of refillable, ecofriendly travel mugs for water. We have nearly eliminated the use of single-use bottles and when bottles are necessary, we have opted to use boxed water.

In 2023, we may potentially add a flower/herb garden to the site. Employees are currently taking turns taking home coffee grinds that encourage a “rich” soil. We can add those grounds to the community in which we work.

We will also continue to introduce new ideas, which will encourage staff participation. Possible ideas could include guest speakers, pop quizzes, and employee profiles that can be shared on a variety of platforms. We also love the idea of community-based program development, including but not limited to District-wide neighborhood clean-up days.