

# 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 Department of Veterans Affairs

**Senior Sustainability Officer:** Joseph Danao II

**Date Submitted:** 12/30/2022

## GreenerGov CT Participation Overview

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

Throughout FY22 agency staff performed minor maintenance on pumps, motors, and lighting to energy efficiency replacement parts to reduce energy consumption throughout DVA's facilities. The agency requested and received funding for projects from the State of Connecticut's Lead By Example (LBE) Program totaling more than \$7.5 million. The LBE funding will enable DVA to access almost \$500,000 in utility incentives focused on GHG reductions.

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

Commissioner Thomas J. Said, Esq.  
Joseph Danao II, Director of Projects and Operations  
Briana Mitchell, Fiscal Administrative Manager  
Jane Siegel, Esq. Staff Attorney  
Shirin Khan, Planning Analyst

## 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.

DVA Facilities Staff performed numerous energy efficient replacements of motors and pumps related to HVAC systems throughout FY22. DVA Staff, Residents and visitors received briefings on energy consumption reductions practices throughout FY22.

4. Provide a summary of the sustainability projects completed in FY22 at your agency. For each project include:
- Project summary
  - Project location
  - Project status
  - Project benefits
  - Projected savings (in dollars and the appropriate unit of measurement if known)

### Project 1

Project summary: Design and Install two high energy efficient 400lb central steam boilers

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Design phase

Project benefits: Immediate energy (water and gas) savings from current operating configuration of using a rental boiler, immediate safety issue mitigation from previous boiler conditions that led to condemnation of three of four boilers.

Project savings: Not known at this time. Projected savings will be determined upon design completion.

### Project 2

Project summary: Installation of electrical submetering to measure consumption and determine potential savings and GHG reduction

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Request for Proposal Phase

Project benefits: proper alignment and accountability for energy efficiency project options to attain the greatest savings

Project savings: Possible with ability to measure what building use conditions contribute to higher electrical consumption. Working with DVA staff and residents to determine if moving user activities will decrease electrical demand charges.

### Project 3

Project summary: Replacement of steam traps (at least 800), installation of thermostatic relief valves on radiators, and insulation of steam piping insulation

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Preconstruction Phase

Project benefits: Immediate savings of water and gas consumption. Improved comfort of staff, residents, and visitors to the campus' more than 600,00 square feet of facilities.

Project savings: The repairs and installations resulting from this project are forecasted to pay back in less than 5 years. This rapid payback returns operating dollars to the DVA budget for additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions and maintain these projects.

#### **Project 4**

Project summary: Replace interior and exterior lighting fixtures with motion sensing, two step lighting level, LED bulbs and include online controls where feasible

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Request for Proposal Phase

Project benefits: Immediate savings of electrical consumption. Improved comfort and security for staff, residents, and visitors to the campus' more than 600,00 square feet of facilities.

Project savings: The installations resulting from this project are forecasted to pay back in less than 4 years. This rapid payback returns operating dollars to the DVA budget for additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions and maintain this project's installations.

#### **Project 5**

Project summary: Installation of Motorized Control Valves at all buildings

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Request for Proposal Phase

Project benefits: Immediate savings of water and gas consumption. Improved comfort and for staff, residents, and visitors to the campus' more than 600,00 square feet of facilities.

Project savings: The installations resulting from this project are projected to pay back in less than 5 years. This rapid payback returns operating dollars to the DVA budget for additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions and maintain this project's installations.

#### **Project 6**

Project summary: Repair by replacement of freezer and refrigerator cooling equipment

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Design Phase

Project benefits: Immediate savings of water and electrical consumption.

Project savings: The repairs and installations resulting from this project are projected to pay back in less than 1 year. This rapid payback returns operating dollars to the DVA budget for additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

#### **Project 7**

Project summary: Solar Power Panel Installation

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Request for Proposal Phase

Project benefits: Immediate savings of electrical consumption at the Sgt John L. Levitow Healthcare Facility. The solar panel project forecasts fulfilling up to 90% of the electrical needs of the facility.

Project savings: The installations resulting from this project are projected to pay back in less than 3 years. This rapid payback returns operating dollars to the DVA budget for additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

#### **Project 8**

Project summary: Window Replacements in Veteran Residential Facilities

Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Project status: Planning and Programming Phase

Project benefits: Immediate savings of gas and electricity in residential facilities. Improved DVA staff, resident, and visitor comfort

Project savings: Projected savings will be determined when project reaches design phase in FY 24

## Future Plans

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

#### **The focus in FY23 and FY24**

- 1) Complete all ongoing projects – projects 1 through 7
- 2) Accurately measure GHG emissions reductions
- 3) Ensure operating budgets are adequate to operate and maintain completed energy efficiency measures
- 4) Improve communication with DVA staff, residents, and visitors on measures they can take to continue reduction of GHG emissions at CT DVA
- 5) Complete design phase of project 8