

Sustainability Performance Plan

FY 2023

*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 FY23.

Agency Details

Agency: Connecticut Innovations, Inc.

Senior Sustainability Officers: Cynthia Petruzzello, Elizabeth Skrabl, Kimberly Wolfe

Date Submitted:

GreenerGov CT Participation Overview

1. How has your agency worked towards the sustainability goals of EO 1 in FY23?

Connecticut Innovations participated in the EO1 and GreenerGovCT initiative as a nonmandated partner to continue its ongoing efforts to reduce energy, water and waste consumption.

2. List key agency staff involved in EO 1 in FY23.

“The CI Green Team”
Cynthia Petruzzello
Elizabeth Skrabl
Kimberly Wolfe

Sustainability Projects

3. **How many projects has your agency implemented that had a positive impact on sustainability in FY23? Include projects relating to infrastructure improvements as well as behavioral changes that took place in owned, leased, or occupied space and were either in progress or completed in FY23.**

CI has implemented and/or continued three projects in FY23.

4. **Provide a summary of the sustainability projects completed in FY23 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. **General office practices/recycling:**

- a. CI encourages staff to use reusable plates, mugs and silverware and use a dishwasher to save water. When possible, biodegradable/recycled plates, cups and containers are used for events. Locally based caterers are used for events. Two e-bikes were purchased this year, which staff can sign out to use to reduce vehicle use during the day. Some of our staff who live locally walk to work or use public transportation. Paper and can/plastics recycling is encouraged with separate bins in the kitchen and at each workstation. Battery recycling bins are used to collect used batteries, which are sent to a recycling plant. The coffee maker uses coffee beans, not pods, and the resulting grounds are collected and deposited back into the earth. A water filtration unit is used rather than bottled water to reduce plastics and greenhouse gases (GHG). Local snacks are often purchased to reduce GHG and to boost Connecticut's economy. The information technology department e-wastes all unusable equipment and donates old working equipment to local charities.

CI has also taken some measures to reduce our electricity use. All lights above workstations are set to automatically turn off after time without motion. Digital signage displays turn off automatically during non-office hours. Laptops are set to sleep after a short time.

- b. CI's offices located in New Haven and Hartford.
- c. Ongoing.
- d. Reduced waste, electricity and environmental impact.
- e. Unknown.

2. **CI Green Team expansion:**

- a. In 2023, CI instituted the practice of making coffee grounds available for staff to take home (i.e., for their gardens). CI provides reusable receptacles, and many employees take advantage of this benefit. CI's Earth Day Celebration was a full month of activities/planned events. The Earth Day celebration has become a favorite holiday for our staff. The Green Team hosted a fun day of events with a quiz and complimentary herb seedlings for attendees to replant at their homes. CI's Green Team launched a quarterly newsletter for staff. The newsletter contained helpful information and tips on how to reduce waste and included

information on green events within the community. We continue our battery recycling program, and we recently implemented cell phone recycling. The cell phones are donated to a local charity.

- b. CI's offices in New Haven and Hartford.
- c. Ongoing.
- d. Increased employee engagement in recycling and reducing waste both in the office and at home.
- e. Unknown.

3. CI's investments in climate tech companies:

- a. In 2022, CI launched the ClimateTech Fund, a \$100 million fund dedicated to investing in climate and sustainability-based solutions and companies. Since the creation of the fund, CI has deployed approximately \$5 million into seven companies focused on the areas of EV charging, food waste recycling and carbon emissions reduction.
- b. Multiple locations throughout Connecticut.
- c. Ongoing.
- d. Through these investments, CI has supported the local economy and growth of the companies, and has also identified climate solutions that can have global impact.
- e. Unknown.

Future Plans

5. What planned sustainability initiatives beyond FY23 does your agency have relating to GHG reduction, water use reduction, and waste reduction?

Future plans at CI include the possible introduction of EV charging stations at our New Haven headquarters. Since we are in a leased building, CI's landlord, District, has plans to have four EV charging spots installed. There will be two dedicated spaces that CI will lease. There is a marked increase in electric vehicles at District. Use of these charging stations will also free up other available public charging stations and encourage employees to invest in electric vehicles, which will decrease carbon emissions.

CI is reducing the onsite server room equipment by moving to a cloud-based system. This will reduce CI's energy consumption and costs.

In 2024, we plan to host another Earth Day celebration for staff. Additionally, we will be organizing green volunteer opportunities for staff, including a local beach clean-up, and will continue with our other sustainability measures. We will continue to remain open to new ideas as they arise.