

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: Department of Social Services

Senior Sustainability Officer: Astread Ferron-Poole

Date Submitted: 1/22/2024

GreenerGov CT Participation Overview

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

The agency has focused on efforts to continue expanding:

- trash centralization
- LED upgrades
- eliminating excess fleet capacity
- appliance efficiencies
- space reduction
- recycling and waste reduction
- establishing a statewide and individual office “Green Team”.

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

Astread Ferron-Poole
Darlene Klase
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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 change that took place in owned, leased, or occupied space and were either in progress or completed in FY23.**

The agency implemented two new projects in FY 2023 but has worked to expand on projects from FY2022.

- 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)**

Trash and Recycling Centralization

Project summary: In a new custodial contract, centralized trash and recycling were included. Instead of trash and/or recycling at each of the 250 desks, larger trash and recycling receptacles were strategically placed throughout the office.

Project location: DSS Greater Hartford/Windsor, 20 Meadow Rd Windsor, CT

Project status: Complete

Project benefits: Lower contract cost and an increase of goods being recycled.

Projected savings: Estimated \$8,000 annually based on similar sized offices with custodial contracts that do NOT have centralized trash

LED lighting upgrade

Project summary: Replace ballasted light fixtures with LED

Project location: DSS Bridgeport 925 Housatonic Ave Bridgeport, CT

Project status: Complete

Project benefits: Reduced electricity consumption and GHG emissions

Projected savings: Unknown real cost as we advocated for this change at the landlord's expense and they complied

Vehicle Fleet Capacity Reduction

Project summary: Review of the agency's vehicle fleet size due to telework changes

Project location: DSS Central and Resource Center Office locations

Project status: Complete at this time but recurring

Project benefits: Reduced gasoline utilization and GHG emissions

Projected savings: FY22: 20% reduction in vehicle costs, reduction of \$90,000 annually expected. FY23 and forward, continued evaluation with moderate savings depending on use.

Appliance Replacement/Reduction

Project summary: Evaluation of appliance use in all offices, elimination of excess appliances and replacement of older, inefficient models

Project location: DSS Central and Resource Center locations

Project status: Complete at this time but recurring

Project benefits: Reduced electricity consumption and GHG emissions

Projected savings: For FY22, \$2,500 annually; 157,000 lbs. of GHG emissions averted over 5 years. For FY23 and forward, minimal savings

Future Plans

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

Further LED lighting upgrades in DSS offices located in Manchester, Torrington, and more!

The agency has two leases, Manchester and Waterbury, that are in the signature process. These leases involve downsizing by approximately 20%. We are doing this by reducing the size of individual's cubicles and in select situations, implementing shared space. With this, there will be a reduction in lease and utility expenses.

The agency will also continue to implement centralized trash and recycling contracts for its in-office waste management in the Resource Centers to achieve savings but also to encourage recycling efforts through consolidated and coordinated efforts to promote standard recycling practices.

Additional efforts will be undertaken to re-engage staff in the EO 1 mission and vision, establishing staff Green Teams to encourage support of our agency efforts in this area, with reduce materials use and recycling being the potential focus areas for the teams for next year.