

# 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 Department of Veterans Affairs (CT DVA)

**Senior Sustainability Officer:** Joseph Danao II

**Date Submitted:** 11/22/2023

## GreenerGov CT Participation Overview

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

Throughout FY23 CT Department of Veterans Affairs (CT DVA) focused on minimizing consumption of all utilities through behaviors and working multiple energy efficiency projects. The facilities staff relamped outside lighting to more efficient LED lamps. Outside lighting timers were also repaired and adjusted to minimize consumption. CT DVA facilities staff conducted essential repairs to all HVAC equipment to ensure all remain energy efficient. The CT DVA received more than \$7.5million in State of Connecticut Lead By Example (LBE) Program funding in 2022. These funds cover 7 projects with status as follows: 1. Steam Trap Replacement – Completed in FY23, 2. Pipe Insulation – Completed FY23, 3. Thermostatic Radiator Valves – Completed in FY 23, 4. Upgrade all interior lighting and controls – In progress, estimated completion in FY 24, 5. Install motorized control valves – In progress, estimated completion in FY24, 6. Installation of solar exterior lighting – Planning Phase for FY 24, estimated completion in FY 24, 7. Boiler Replacement Project – Design Phase, estimated completion in FY 25. In addition, CT DVA is collaborating with CT GreenBank on installation of two solar fields - Planning Phase, estimated completion FY26.

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

Commissioner, Ronald P. Welch  
Joseph D. Danao II, Deputy Commissioner  
Briana Mitchell, Fiscal Administrative Manager  
Shirin Khan, Planning Analyst

## **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.**

CT DVA reduced utility demand in vacant buildings by controlling heat and cooling supply. Continuance of a proactive work order system identifies central steam, heating, hot water and cooling concerns from residents and staff supporting conservation measures. Maintaining situational awareness of all staff, leases, residents, and visitors regarding the current LBE projects is essential to the quick completion of the projects.

**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)**

### **Project 1**

- a. Project summary: Design and Install two high energy efficient 400lb central steam boilers
- b. Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
- c. Project status: Design phase
- d. 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, overall green house gas reduction with new boilers operating at reduced loads.
- e. Projected savings will be determined upon design completion. Designers are actively collaborating with utility companies to incorporate the most energy efficient design features.

### **Project 2**

- a. Project summary: Installation of electrical submetering to measure electrical consumption and determine potential savings and GHG reduction
- b. Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
- c. Project status: Request for Proposal Phase
- d. Project benefits: Proper alignment and accountability for energy efficiency project options to attain the greatest savings

e. 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**

- a. Project summary: Replacement of steam traps (at least 800), installation of thermostatic relief valves on radiators, and insulation of steam piping insulation
- b. Project location: DVA Main Campus, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
- c. Project status: Complete
- d. 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. 4 – Sustainability Performance Plan
- e. Projected 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: In progress

Project benefits: Immediate savings on electrical consumption. Improved comfort and security for staff, residents, and visitors to the campus' at more than 800,00 square feet of facilities and tunnel areas.

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: In progress

Project benefits: Immediate savings on water and gas consumption. Improved comfort and for staff, residents, and visitors to the campus' more than 800,00 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: In progress

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 and select other buildings. The solar panel project forecasts fulfilling up to 80% of the electrical consumption.

Project savings: Project is projected to produce 1.7million kilowatts per year. Funding savings to CT DVA is estimated at \$130,000 to \$140,000 per year over the 20 year contract period.

### **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 FY23 does your agency have relating to GHG reduction, water use reduction, and waste reduction?**

The focus in FY24 and FY25

- 1) Complete all ongoing projects – projects 1 through 8
- 2) Accurately measure and report 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 programming and planning next phases of lead by example energy reduction projects

The CT DVA acknowledges and appreciates the collaboration between Connecticut agency energy efficiency staff at DEEP, OPM, and DAS who made the funding of projects possible. CT DVA also acknowledges and appreciates the collaboration with all our utility companies for endless coordination meetings on funding and project execution.

