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 **Commissioner's Corner** 



Happy Earth Day! As you may know, sustainability is a core priority of the Department of Administrative Services and the Lamont-Bysiewicz administration at large. We support environmental stewardship in several obvious ways, such as a building code that adopts the International Energy Conservation Code, significant investments in solar installations on state

buildings, construction of new, net-zero energy buildings, and the ongoing electrification of the state fleet. We also support sustainability in several less obvious ways, including programs to divert food waste away from landfills.

Food Waste Prevention



In early April, DAS and DEEP recognized Food Waste Prevention Week by sharing information on how we can do our part to reduce food waste, prevent spoilage, and save money in our personal lives.

DAS has implemented an organics and food waste program at its two largest state office buildings, 450 Columbus Boulevard and 165 Capitol Avenue, to divert all organic waste to compost bins, which are located on all floors in each break room.

We have contracted with Blue Earth Compost Inc. to collect compost weekly. Since implementation, DAS has composted enough waste to mitigate CO2 emissions equivalent to more than 7,000 miles driven by the average car.

[Blog: Food Waste Prevention Week 2024 \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/blog/food-waste-prevention-week-2024)

Supporting Sustainable Schools



Sustainable schools are better for the community, the state, and the planet.

On April 15, we were proud to join Governor Lamont, legislators, and local officials in Branford in support of House Bill 5052, which will improve the ability of local school districts to install solar panels on school buildings by removing barriers in existing state law that actually disincentivize municipalities from making the switch to renewable energy.

Thanks to the Mary R. Tisko Elementary School 4th graders for attending the news conference and asking great questions!

[Fact Sheet: HB 5052: An Act Supporting Solar Energy in Schools.\(PDF\)](#)

Discovering Hidden Talent



Discovering hidden talent was the theme of this year's Connecticut Workforce Summit.

It is also a key component of our work as the state's agency dedicated to talent solutions.

The DAS team was on hand for an incredible summit, hearing from people working hard to engage disconnected youth and create opportunities for nontraditional populations to participate in the workforce, and participants in programs aimed at fostering workforce engagement.

We can't wait to incorporate best practices into our daily work. Thanks to our state, non-profit, and business partners for hosting a fantastic event.

Supporting Women-Owned Businesses



DAS is proud to support women-owned businesses.

On April 11, the DAS team joined our partners at the Women's Business Development Council (WBDC) and SBA Connecticut District Office and hundreds of others at the WBDC's Women-Owned Business Day at the Legislative Office Building.

This comes on the heels of the April 6 announcement that the WBDC is receiving a federal grant to open a Women's Business Center in Hartford, providing access to education, training, mentoring and more.

What does DAS have to do with women-owned businesses? A lot! We operate the Small or Minority Business Enterprise (SBE/MBE) Certification program, which, among other things, assists Connecticut small, women, minority and disabled-owned businesses in identifying procurement opportunities in state government.

Do you know of a business that could benefit from SBE/MBE certification? Learn more on the DAS website.

[SBE/MBE Program Certification Program \(ct.gov\)](https://www.ct.gov/das/sbe/mbecertification)

DAS Continues Outreach Efforts



The DAS Talent Solutions and Equal Employment Opportunity teams continued to work tirelessly to reach out to prospective employees through attendance at career fairs at UConn, CT State Tunxis, Post University, and other locations in recent weeks.

DAS Testimony at a Glance



DAS Presentations and Legislative Testimony

DAS has provided testimony on a wide variety of bills, including our two DAS agency proposals: SB 312, *An Act Concerning a Janitorial Work Program for Persons with Disability and Persons with a Disadvantage*; and SB 288, *An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Administrative Services Regarding the School Building Projects Statutes*. You can find all of our testimony on the DAS website.

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