2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
ENTERPRISE SUSTAINABILITY

sustainability.mn.gov



Introduction

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan have set a bold vision to reduce Minnesota's carbon footprint and lead the nation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In April 2019, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 19-27 affirming the State of Minnesota's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, waste, energy and fuel consumption, water usage, and the sustainable procurement of goods and services in government operations. This report tracks the enterprise's progress towards meeting those aggressive goals.

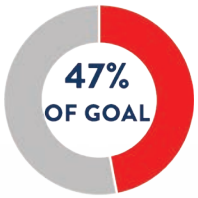
The 2020 Annual Report demonstrates that the COVID-19 pandemic has had mixed impacts on sustainability outcomes. These impacts make the 2020 data an anomaly relative to other years we have reported. In some cases, the anomalies also highlight significant opportunities for long-term improvement. As government operations normalize, the Office of Enterprise Sustainability will work with state agencies to maintain the positive impacts wherever possible. Future reports will discuss year over year changes and future trends based on normalized operations and long-term improvements in how we deliver services to Minnesotans.



Section of a solar panel installation, Department of Administration Building.

2020 Enterprise Score Card





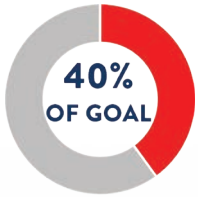
Fleet Goal:

30% reduction of fossil fuel use by vehicles and equipment by 2027.



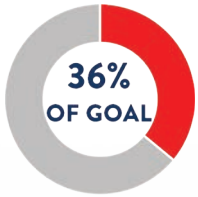
Energy Goal:

30% reduction in consumption of energy per square foot by 2027.



Water Goal:

15% reduction in water use by 2025.



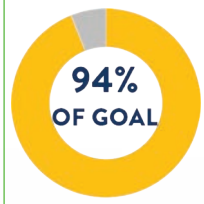
Solid Waste Goal:

75% of solid waste is recycled or composted by 2030.



Procurement Goal:

25% of total spending on priority contracts is sustainably purchased by 2025.



Greenhouse Gas Goal:

30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.

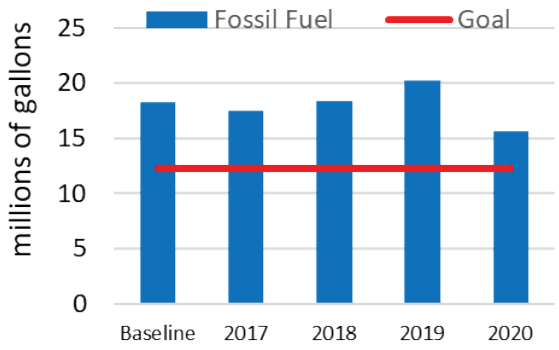
$57,001,780 in avoided costs (2005-2020)

186,815 metric tons CO_2e avoided annually



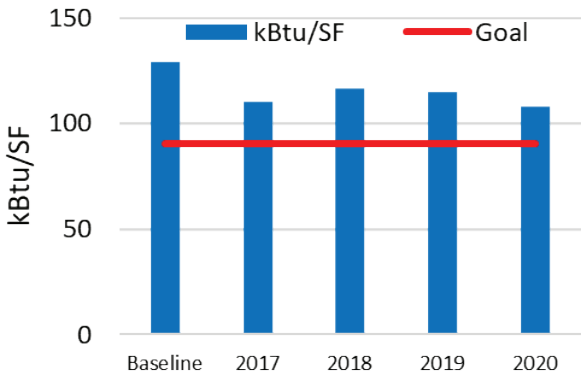
Prairie restoration in Minneopa State Park between Lake Crystal and Mankato.

Executive Summary



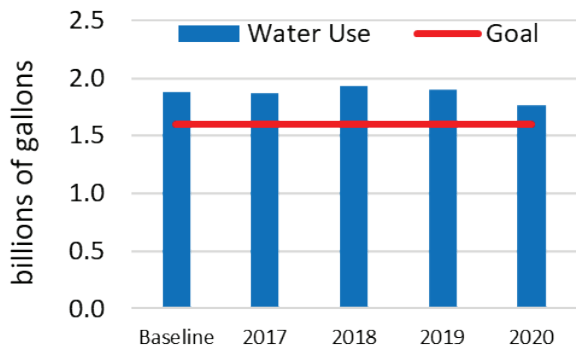
Fleet Fossil Fuel Use

In 2020, state government operations reduced fossil fuel gallon use by 11% from the baseline and 23% from 2019. Changes in operations due to COVID-19 reduced fossil fuel used in the light fleet by 17% and changes in Metro Transit's operations reduced fossil fuel use in the heavy fleet by 25%. Almost 25% of the state's light fleet vehicles are hybrid, plug-in hybrid, or electric, up 17% from the previous year. We expect to return to pre-pandemic operation levels in future years.



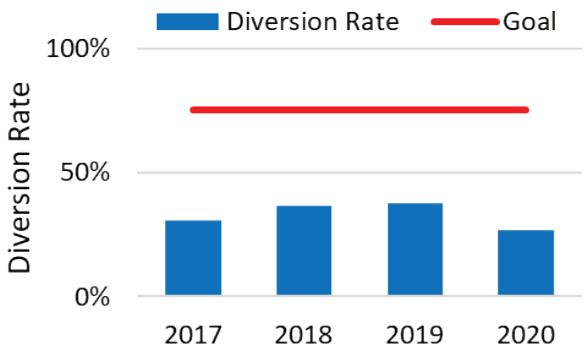
Energy Intensity

Overall in 2020, state government's energy consumption per square foot decreased from 2019 because of less intense winter weather and changes in operations due to COVID-19. However, it is a complicated story. State agencies adjusted building operations to increase airflow and reduce potential transmission of viruses, increasing electricity use. This was offset by decreased plug loads due to fewer people in the buildings. Fewer people in the buildings also meant it took more energy to keep buildings warm, increasing our natural gas use. The absence of office staff allowed some agencies to accelerate energy efficiency retrofits, particularly on the Capitol Complex.



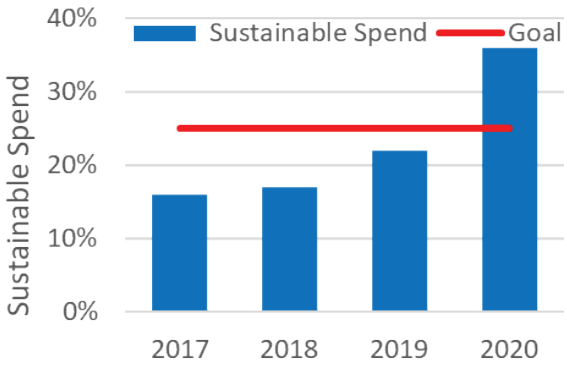
Water Consumption

In 2020, water consumption was down by 6% from the baseline, achieving 40% progress toward goal. Long-term, reductions from the Departments of Human Services and Transportation have reduced water consumption for the enterprise. Most agencies reduced water use in 2020, leading to a 7% reduction from 2019. The reduction in 2020 is at least partially attributable to changes in operations due to COVID-19 and may rebound post-pandemic.



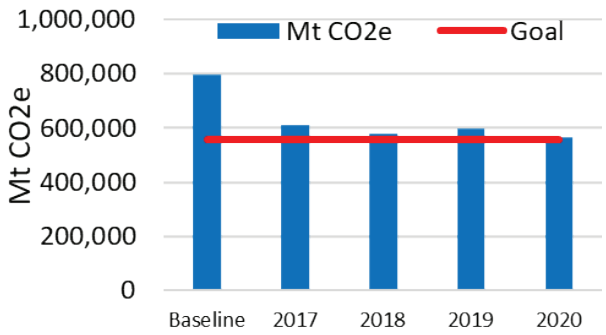
Solid Waste Diversion

In 2020, the enterprise municipal solid waste diversion rate dropped. Recycling remained similar to 2019, however organics recycling decreased by about 10%. This decrease is due to employees working from home and, therefore, not generating food waste at their offices. The decrease is also from COVID-19 precautions at institutions that serve meals like state hospitals and correctional facilities. When employees return to offices and operations at institutional facilities return to normal, we expect organics diversion rates to rebound.



Sustainable Procurement

In 2020, the State of Minnesota purchased $24 million in sustainable products and services measured by third party certifications and other criteria. This was a decrease from 2019 by $5 million, however, the overall spend in these contract categories decreased by 53% as reported by the Pollution Control Agency. With the decreased spend, the percent of sustainable spend rose to 36% in 2020. While sustainable spend as a percent of the overall spend in 2020 increased dramatically, return to pre-pandemic office operations may again reduce the percent of sustainable spend.



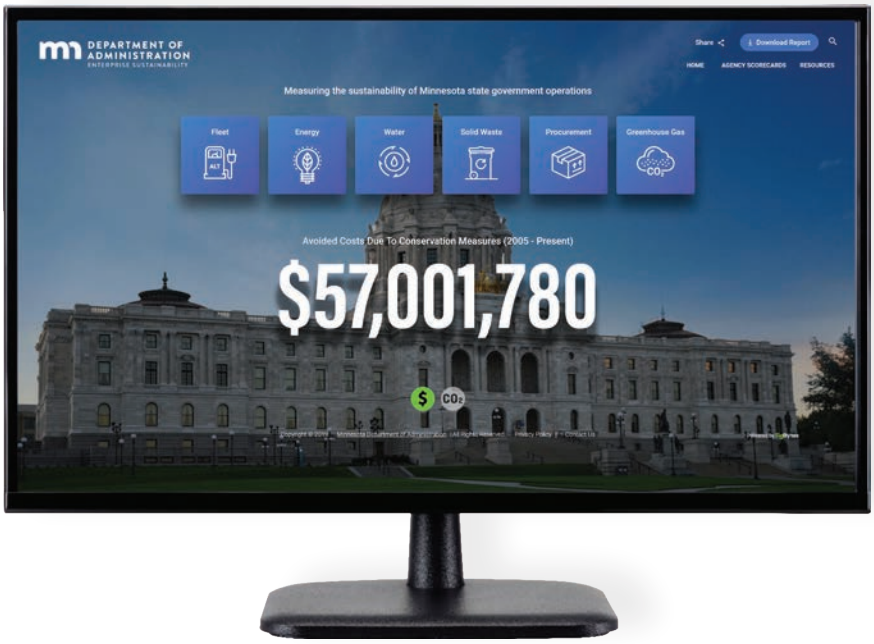
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from state operations reduced in 2020, driven by the reduction in operations of the Metro Transit's bus fleet in response to COVID-19. We expect some rebound in future years as Metro Transit returns to normal operations. Over the last couple of years (2017 to 2019) the enterprise's GHGs had increased because there were more severe winters requiring more snow plowing. However, long-term GHG emissions are decreasing due to reductions in emissions from the generation of electricity and reduced emissions from District Energy St. Paul.

Agency Progress

Minnesotans can track state government's progress toward the ambitious sustainability goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste, energy and fuel consumption, water usage, and the sustainable procurement of goods and services that were laid out by Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan in Executive Order 19-27.

The Office of Enterprise Sustainability maintains the Sustainability Reporting Tool (SRT). The SRT uses millions of data points submitted by all cabinet-level state agencies to assess progress towards goals. It also allows the viewer to review agency specific data and to drill down on certain data points for a better understanding of what is driving agency outcomes. For a more comprehensive look at progress towards goals and for agency specific information, please go to **https://sustainability.mn.gov.**





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ENTERPRISE SUSTAINABILITY

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