

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Cultivating, celebrating, and improving a culture of sustainability through leadership and engagement

Questions? Contact mnsustainability@state.mn.us



DLI staff picking up litter for Earth Week

OBJECTIVES

Foster a culture of sustainability among staff.

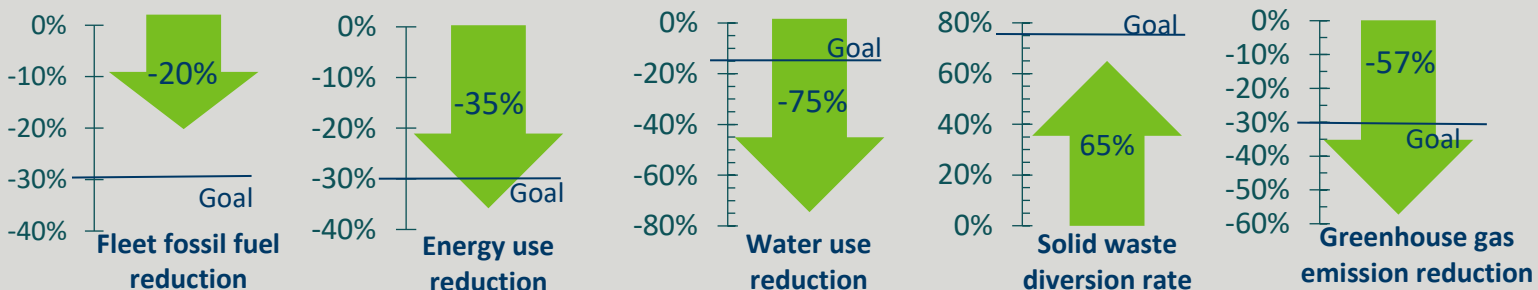
SOLUTIONS

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is committed to increasing sustainability throughout its operations. In 2021, DLI created a Facilities and Operations Director staff responsible for leading the sustainability efforts and empowering sustainability-motivated team members, among other duties.

DLI’s Facilities and Operations Director also facilitates a green team comprised of staff seeking to get engaged in sustainability efforts. Every year, the green team develops a new challenge where staff can participate to win points. The 2023 challenge was to promote and reward the use of DLI’s electric fleet vehicle. The green team also develops and shares articles on a variety of sustainability topics, and hosts “Green Team Talks” for staff to learn and engage with local experts.

Sustainability is incorporated into new employee orientation so new staff are introduced to their role in the sustainability program at the onset of their employment. This includes properly sorting waste, following DLI’s green meeting policy, and fleet vehicle best practices. DLI also includes a sustainability message at their monthly manager & supervisor meetings and bimonthly all-staff meetings to provide tips on how to live and work sustainably.

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS (2022)



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Proactively saving water and improving water quality

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OBJECTIVES

Decrease water use 15% by 2025 from a 2017 adjusted baseline.

SOLUTIONS

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) uses proactive methods, stormwater management, and education to improve water resources.

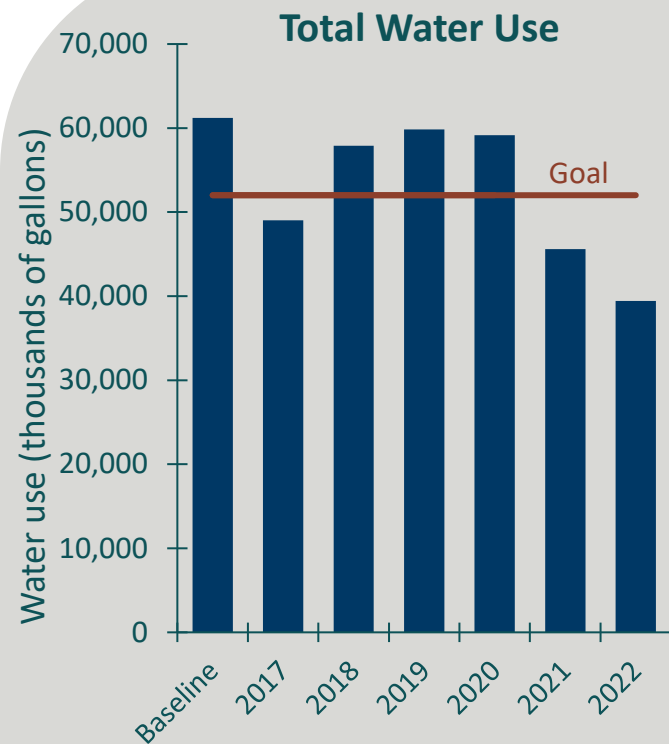
Water infrastructure at DMA's Camp Ripley Training Center is aging, so staff conduct annual inspections to identify subsurface leaks which would otherwise go unnoticed. Through this program, plumbing employees conduct a series of waterline shutdowns to identify a source of a suspected subsurface leak.

To protect water quality, stormwater runoff from the Camp Ripley Training Center drains to infiltration basins so it can replenish groundwater. DMA also uses native plants to minimize irrigation because native plants require less water than non-natives.

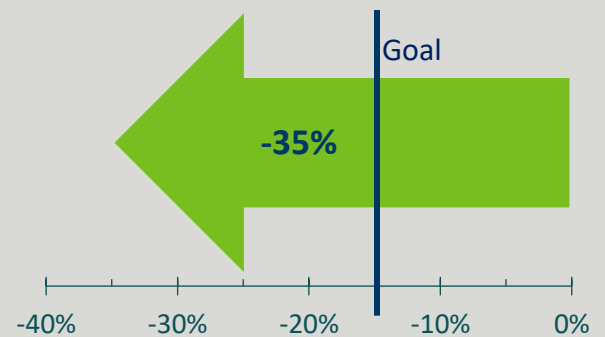
Soldiers and staff understand how they can be good stewards of water resources by completing training modules on reducing water use, preventing stormwater pollution, and smart salting techniques. DMA staff also join the annual Morrison County Water Festival, an event for all 6th grade classes where DMA teach about water quality projects at DMA.

RESULTS

- Promptly identified and repaired a leak of **70,000 gallons per day** with subsurface investigations.
- Stormwater from **300 acres** is infiltrated to groundwater instead of draining unfiltered into the Mississippi River.



Reduction in Water Use (2022)



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Reducing reliance on fossil fuels by prioritizing efficient vehicles and using cleaner fuels.

OBJECTIVES

Reduce fossil fuel use in fleet vehicles 30% by 2027 compared to a 2017 adjusted baseline.

SOLUTIONS

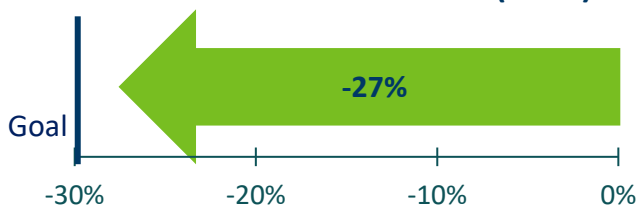
The Department of Natural Resource (DNR) reduces fossil fuels used in fleet vehicles and equipment using a purchasing hierarchy that identifies the most efficient option that meets the business needs. Following the hierarchy, a buyer must first consider an all-electric option. If electric doesn't meet business needs, the buyer must then consider a hybrid-electric options, then one that uses alternative or cleaner burning fuels, and lastly gas or diesel only if necessary.

The DNR chooses diesel engines for pickups that are rated ¾ ton or higher because they're efficient and run on a cleaner B20 blended biodiesel.

RESULTS

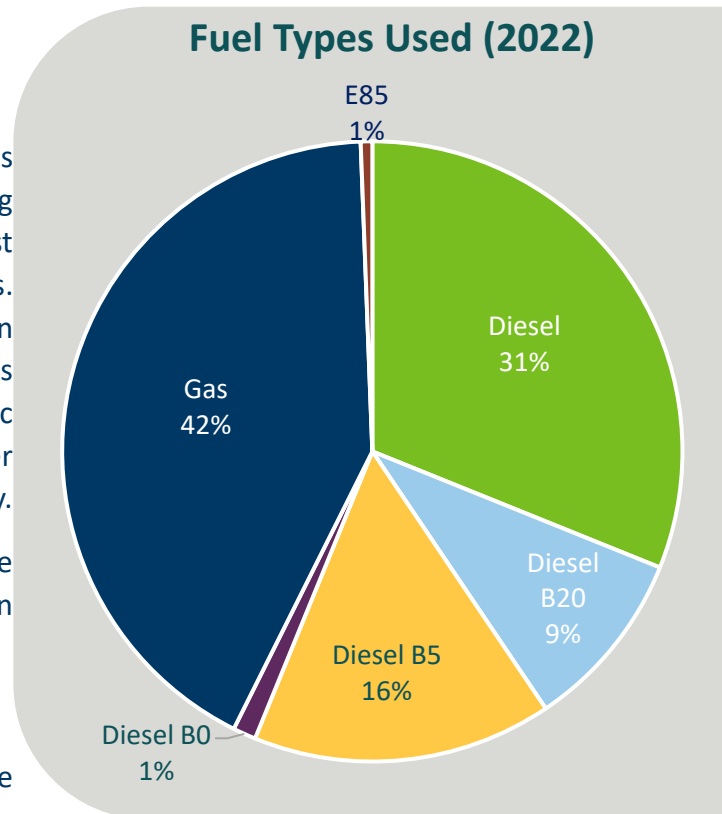
- In 2022, **333,745** fewer gallons of fossil fuels were used compared to the baseline a - **27%** drop!
- **8%** of riding mowers were replaced with electric models between 2019-2022.
- **18%** of the mowers are propane.
- **15%** of utility task vehicles are electric.

Reduction in fossil fuel use (2022)



Fully electric park ranger vehicle

Fuel Types Used (2022)



Electric utility task vehicle

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Lowering greenhouse gas emissions through intentional space planning



OBJECTIVES

Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 30% by 2025 relative to a 2005 baseline.

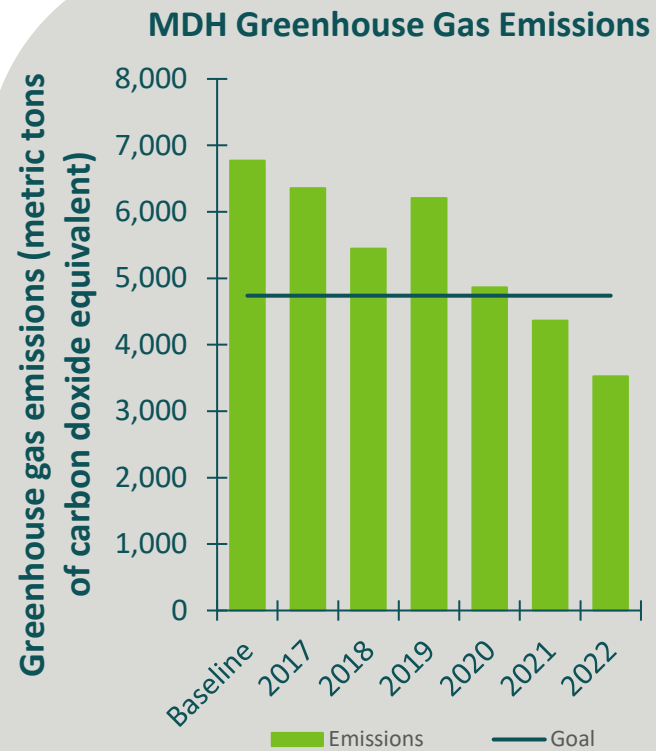
SOLUTIONS

The new hybrid work environment means fewer Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff are going into the office on a daily basis. In response, MDH implemented a far-reaching approach to use space more efficiently. MDH conducted an aggressive space consolidation planning effort led by Facilities Management staff and involved multiple internal and external partners and various property owners of district offices across the state. This comprehensive process reduced the square footage of space MDH leases, preventing greenhouse gas emissions related to MDH heating, cooling, and lighting unused spaces.

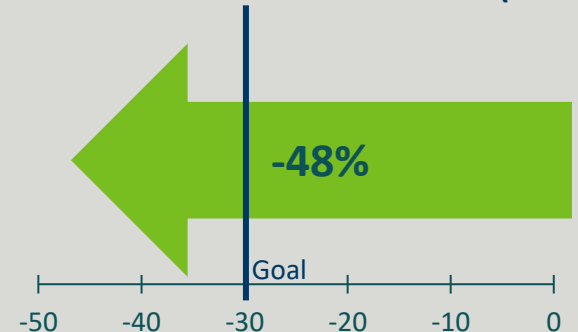
To prioritize sustainability throughout the space consolidation process, MDH implemented a supply management system to ensure office supplies and materials are repurposed first, then recycled, and lastly disposed of in an economically and environmentally friendly manner.

RESULTS

- Overall, MDH will reduce statewide footprint by **one third**.
- In 2022, eliminated **27,976 square feet** of space.
- By August 2024, MDH will eliminate an additional **104,580 square feet** of space.
- By August 2024, MDH will reduce District Office space by about **50%**.



Reduction in GHG Emissions (2022)



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Lowering energy use and increasing Resident comfort with an efficient heating and cooling system

Questions? Contact mnsustainability@state.mn.us



New boilers at the Silver Bay Veterans Home

OBJECTIVES

Reduce energy use per square foot 30% by 2027 from a 2017 adjusted baseline.

SOLUTIONS

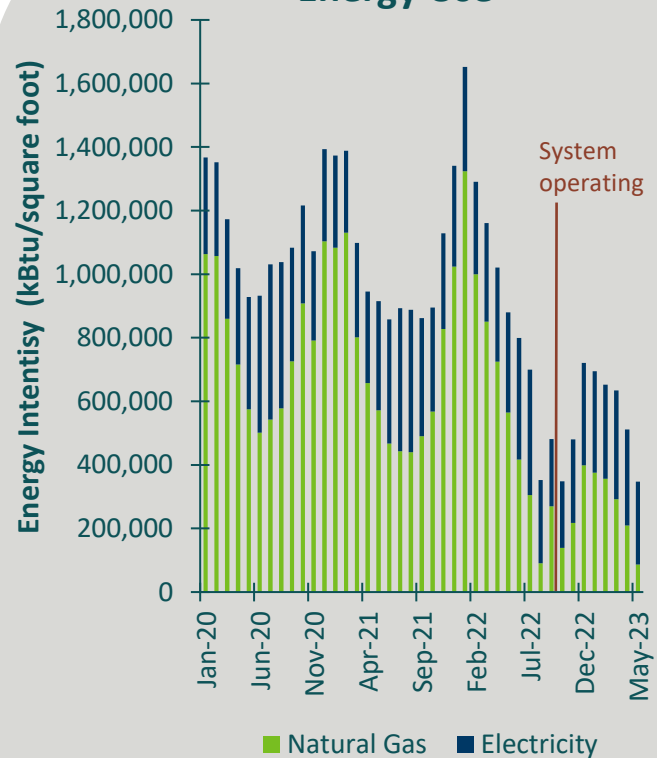
The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) installed a new heating and cooling system at the Silver Bay Veterans Home. The new system is a variable refrigerant flow system that provides heating and cooling to specified zones. The system modulates capacity based on the settings in the individual zones. This saves energy because the system isn't always running at 100% capacity. It also improves Resident and staff comfort by maintaining a set temperature for each zone. During the project, the backup generator was also switched from #2 diesel fuel to cleaner-burning propane.

The project started in 2021 and completed in October 2022. Roughly six million dollars of asset preservation funds were used for the project. The system has a 50-year lifespan and replaced 70-year-old steam boilers and 30-year-old air handlers.

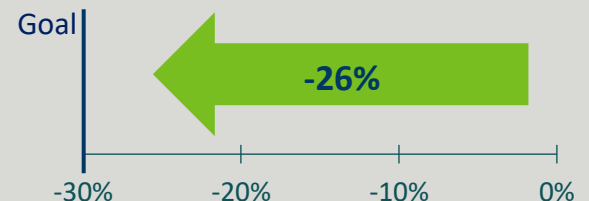
RESULTS

- Reduced natural gas use and costs **70%**
- Reduced water use and costs **19%**
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions **33%**
- Improved infection control
- Increased Resident and staff comfort
- Improved temperature control

Silver Bay Veterans Home Energy Use



Reduction in energy use (2022)



MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Preventing waste and eliminating single use items through intentional programming and messaging

MPCA staff conducting a waste sort



OBJECTIVES

Divert 75% of waste to recycling and organics and foster a culture of sustainability.

SOLUTIONS

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) prioritizes a “buy nothing, waste nothing” mentality. This approach challenges staff to consume less, reuse more, and minimize overall waste while moving from the mindset of being a consumer to that of a steward.

MPCA recently introduced reusable service ware and dishware at each office location. Now, staff can readily host zero waste meetings with the stock of plates, cups, mugs, bowls, forks, knives, spoons, serving platters, utensils, and cloth napkins. These items are available individually and in event party packs that serve 10 to 100 people for larger meetings.

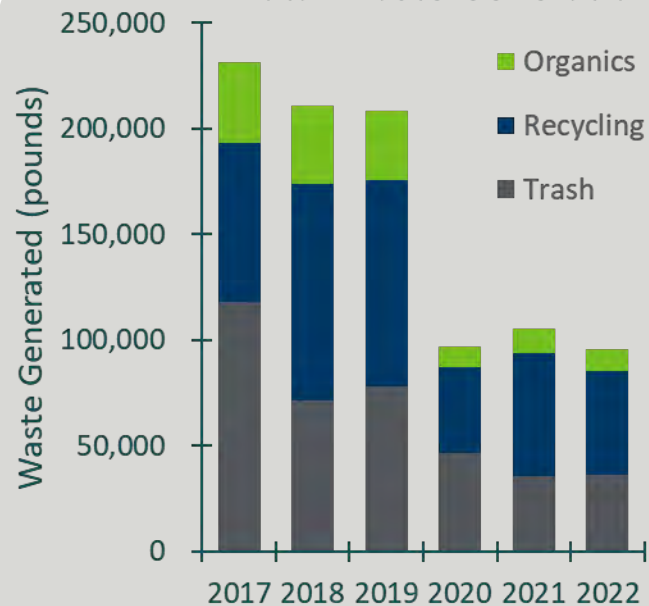
To foster a culture of sustainability, the Sustainability Program and volunteer staff Sustainability Advocates create monthly messaging, meet with new staff to provide tips on how to work and live sustainably, and host activities that emphasize the MPCA’s role as leaders in sustainability. Sustainability staff meet with leadership and operations staff on a recurring basis to reiterate the MPCA’s sustainability values and identify areas for improvement.

RESULTS

- Reduced overall waste generation **59%** since 2017
- Increased waste diversion by **25%** since 2017
- Published meatless cookbooks
- Host clothing, book, and tool swaps

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Total Waste Generation



Recycling + Organics Diversion Rate

