



Pennsylvania GreenGov News



May 2021

Welcome to the first issue of *Pennsylvania GreenGov News*, our quarterly newsletter on state agencies' work toward ambitious goals in carbon dioxide emissions reduction. We value your partnership in the idea exchange and knowledge base expansion that are key to bringing Pennsylvania the benefits of lowered emissions statewide. As we share news of our ramped-up initiatives in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation in state government, we hope our progress informs and inspires your carbon emissions reductions goals, whether you're a local government, educational institution, or business or industry leader, and whether you're new to the endeavor or well on your way.

Find more information on the [GreenGov Council](#), and please consider sharing this newsletter with your networks!

— Mark Hand, Director, GreenGov Council

GreenGov Council News

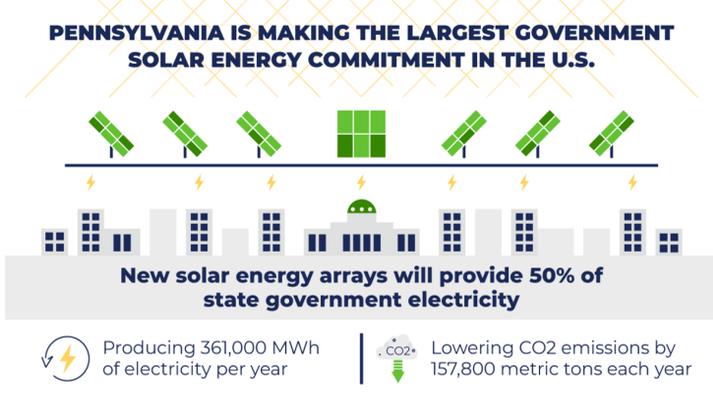
State government to go 50 percent solar in largest government solar commitment in United States

Governor Tom Wolf [announced in March](#) that 50 percent of state government's electricity will come from seven new solar energy arrays that will go online in January 2023.

The solar arrays will be built in seven locations in six counties: Columbia, Juniata, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and York. They'll provide a combined 191 megawatts of alternating current electricity per year, supplying 100 percent of the electricity for 434 accounts across 16 state agencies, or about half the electricity used by state government.

The Department of General Services contracted with Constellation for long-term price protection and budget certainty in a retail purchase model coordinated by the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute.

Upon completion, the project will begin lowering CO2 emissions statewide by 157,800 metric tons each year. It's the largest solar commitment by any government entity in the United States announced to date. Learn more about the project, called Pennsylvania PULSE, in this [Constellation brochure](#).



GreenGov grows in 2019-2020

Despite the significant challenges of 2020, commonwealth agencies made notable progress in fiscal year 2019-2020 on the primary [sustainability performance goals Governor Tom Wolf set for state agencies](#) as part of his goal for Pennsylvania to reduce carbon emissions statewide 26 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050.

- **Energy conservation:** Commonwealth facilities achieved a 6.2 percent normalized energy reduction from the previous year with actual cost savings of over \$6.5 million. This savings is due to a combination of energy efficiency projects and three months of the reporting period impacted by COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. The commonwealth also expanded and improved its energy utility tracking across its electricity, natural gas, and steam accounts.
- **Renewable energy:** State government procured 308,978 megawatt hours of Renewable Energy Credits, offsetting 40 percent of its electricity load for the year. At the time of this writing, this purchase ranks the commonwealth 47 on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership National Top 100 list](#).
- **Building construction:** Seventeen projects in the new construction or major renovation queue are incorporating high-performance building criteria into design and construction.

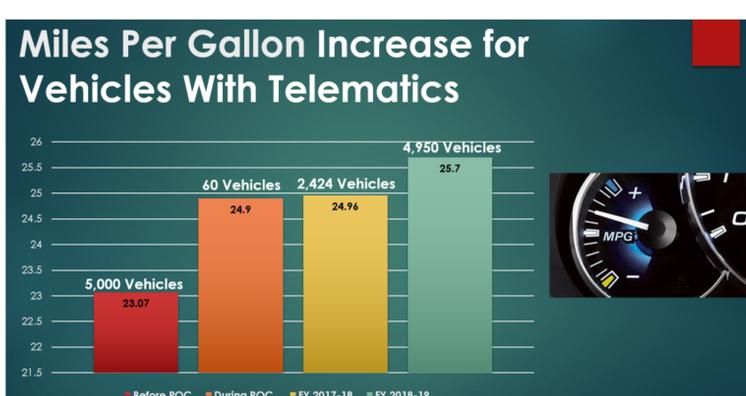
For the second consecutive year, 30 state agencies conducted internal reviews of their progress in meeting sustainability and efficiency goals and demonstrated this in their [GreenGov Agency Certification Checklists](#). See more details and success highlights in the complete [2020 GreenGov Annual Report](#).

Agency Action Highlights

Bureau of Vehicle Management sees \$700,000 in annual savings through expanded telematics use to track fleet fuel efficiency

The Department of General Services Bureau of Vehicle Management continues to expand its use of vehicle telematics to track and improve the fuel efficiency of commonwealth fleet vehicle use. Telematics offer a variety of features, including identifying engine hours, idle time, vehicle health, and fuel consumption.

Prior to using telematics, there were 5,000 vehicles averaging 23 miles per gallon (mpg). After gradual increases as the system was implemented, the fleet then saw an increase of nearly 3 mpg! Combine the fuel savings and the cost reductions in maintenance, collision, and personnel costs, and it adds up to nearly \$700,000 in net savings each year!



POC: proof of concept

Climate training program for DEP staff grows into Climate Academy for all state agencies

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Energy Programs Office coordinated a Climate Change Training Program for DEP staff from July 2020 through January 2021. The program, which was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, was led by the Association of Climate Change Officers.

The goal of the program was to assess and build organizational capacity on climate change at DEP. An 8-hour online "Climate Activator" primer was completed by 130 senior leadership and then voluntarily completed by 703 staff. In addition, 107 staff pursued the in-depth Certified Climate Change Professional with 13 employees earning their CC-P credential to date.

The program will now be offered to staff in all state agencies as the Pennsylvania Climate Academy, to be coordinated by DEP Energy Programs Office beginning this summer.

Resources to Help Your Effort

Climate action tools from DEP

Here are [ten things to know about climate change in Pennsylvania](#), and related tools from DEP, including grant sources, that can help your organization or business take action in energy efficiency, clean transportation, climate planning, and other areas. And check out [DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell's recent discussion of state government climate actions](#).

PA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Your go-to resource for climate action!
Includes strategies and 100 actions for:

- Energy
- Farming
- Recreation
- Forestry
- Transportation
- And more!

Goals >>> To significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect Pennsylvanians' health and safety, and create opportunities for new jobs and other economic benefits!

dep.pa.gov/climate

Join us: GreenGov Events

GreenGov Public Meeting

2:00 pm, May 5

The GreenGov will host a public meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 2:00 PM that will cover the status of the GreenGov program to date as well as agency efforts toward our collective energy reduction goals. The meeting will be held on the Microsoft Teams platform. [Join the meeting](#).

Sustainability Webinars

If you'd like to attend any of these webinars, please [complete this survey](#) to let us know which ones you're interested in. The GreenGov Council will review and then send a Microsoft Teams meeting calendar invitation. These webinars are co-hosted by the GreenGov Council and Penn State University Sustainability Institute.

Hidden Sustainers: Using Mapping to Advance Pennsylvania's Environmental Justice

1:00-1:45 pm, May 14

Speakers: Peter Buck, Nyla Holland, and Nebraska Hernandez, Penn State Sustainability Institute

Solar Electricity and Renewable Energy Credit Procurement for State and Local Governments

1:00-1:45 pm, June 11

Devin Pennebaker Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute, and Greg Knerr, Pennsylvania Department of General Services

2021 Climate Risk Assessment in Pennsylvania

1:00-1:45 pm, July 9

Speaker: TBA

Pennsylvania GreenGov Council



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