



2021 JEFFERSON COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary	3
Energy	4
Waste Diversion	5

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SUMMARY

As we continued to search for normalcy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 was a very successful year in pursuit of sustainability at Jefferson County. Internal county operations and facilities initiatives as well as external community-facing projects took shape and gave us plenty of positive results to focus on and celebrate.



2021 Sustainability Highlights

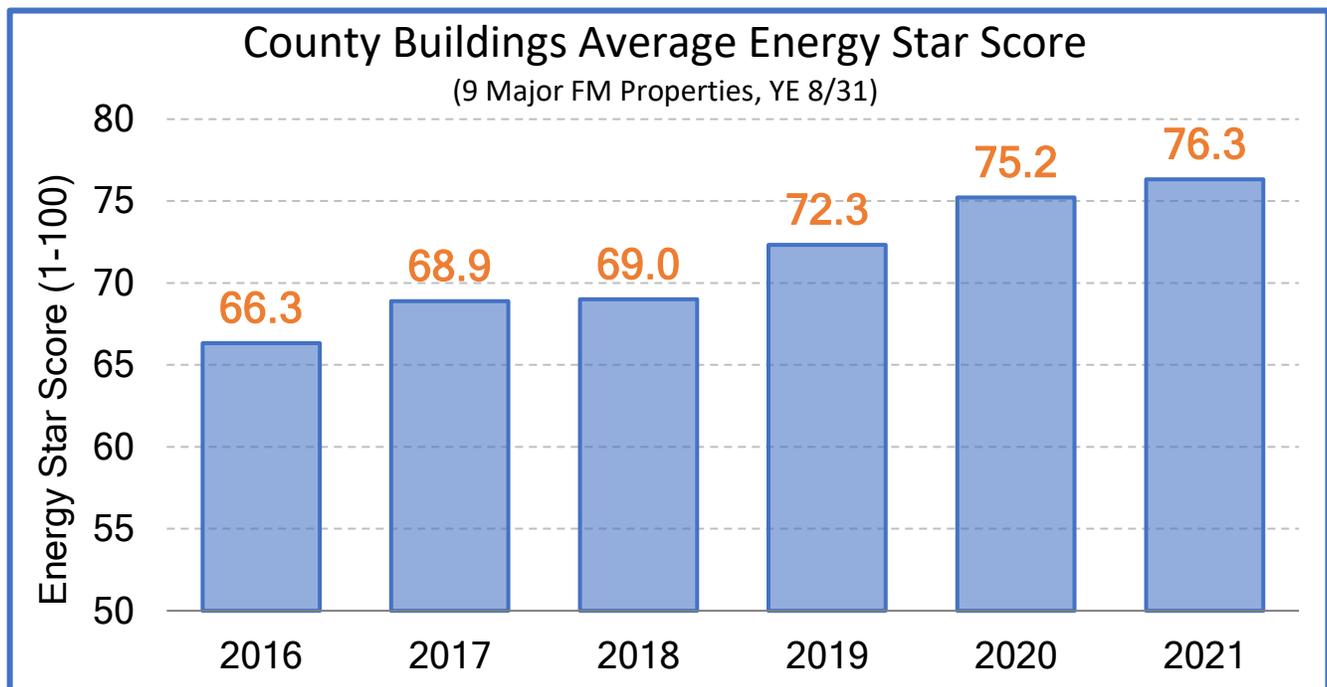
- Increased our internal county recycling rate from 47.3% to 55.5%
- Increased our average Energy Star Score for the 5th year in a row, to an all-time high of 76.3
- Hosted an Earth Day EV 101 Seminar and Virtual Test-Drive for county staff featuring Commissioner Kerr
- Crossed a milestone of 1,000 charging sessions since installation of our EV charging stations at the Admin and Courts Facility
- Conducted ASHRAE Level 1 Energy Audits at 11 major county facilities through Xcel Energy promotional program
- Began preventative maintenance on county-owned solar PV
- Recycled thousands of pounds of batteries collected from county staff
- Comprehensive retrofit of domestic water faucets and toilets/urinals with water-saving motion sensor valves
- Request for Proposal and award of contract to a consultant to conduct a county-wide Climate Action Plan
- Distributed 100 energy-saving LED lighting kits to Human Services clients, along with 100 Sustainability Commission-branded COVID-19 masks

ENERGY

For the 5th year in a row, we've increased our average Energy Star Score yet again. Achieving an all-time high of 76.3, we are proud of our commitment to energy efficiency in County buildings.

Continuous Improvement in Energy Efficiency

With an average [Energy Star score](#) of 76.3, we've increased the energy efficiency of county facilities 2% since last year (75.2) and 15% over 2016 baseline levels (66.3). This is high level of performance should be celebrated by all county staff. Our continuous upward trend is owed to the Facilities Management team's hard work completing both routine maintenance and larger replacement/retrofit projects like HVAC equipment and LED lighting, plus continued operational efficiency strategies like the Building Temperature Setpoint Policy. Especially impressive, the Admin and Courts Facility achieved our highest-ever Energy Star Score for a single building of 93.



What is Energy Star score?

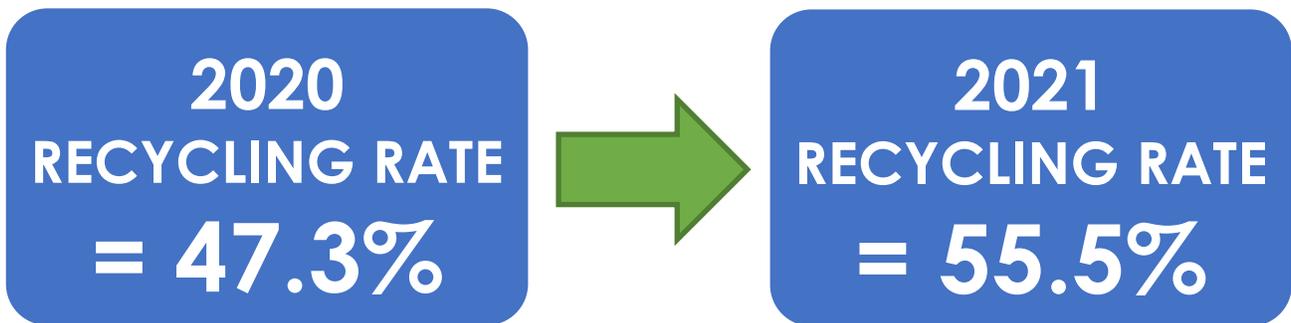
The score is a comprehensive metric for measuring a building's energy performance. Not only does it measure efficiency on a simple scale of 1-100 but it also compares us to peer buildings nationwide, where 50 = the national median score. The score is calculated based on source energy use intensity (EUI), a measure of total energy (namely electricity and natural gas) used per square foot of a building normalized to account for property use details, climate, and weather. The annual period used for our scores is a year ending 8/31, as determined by current data availability.

WASTE DIVERSION

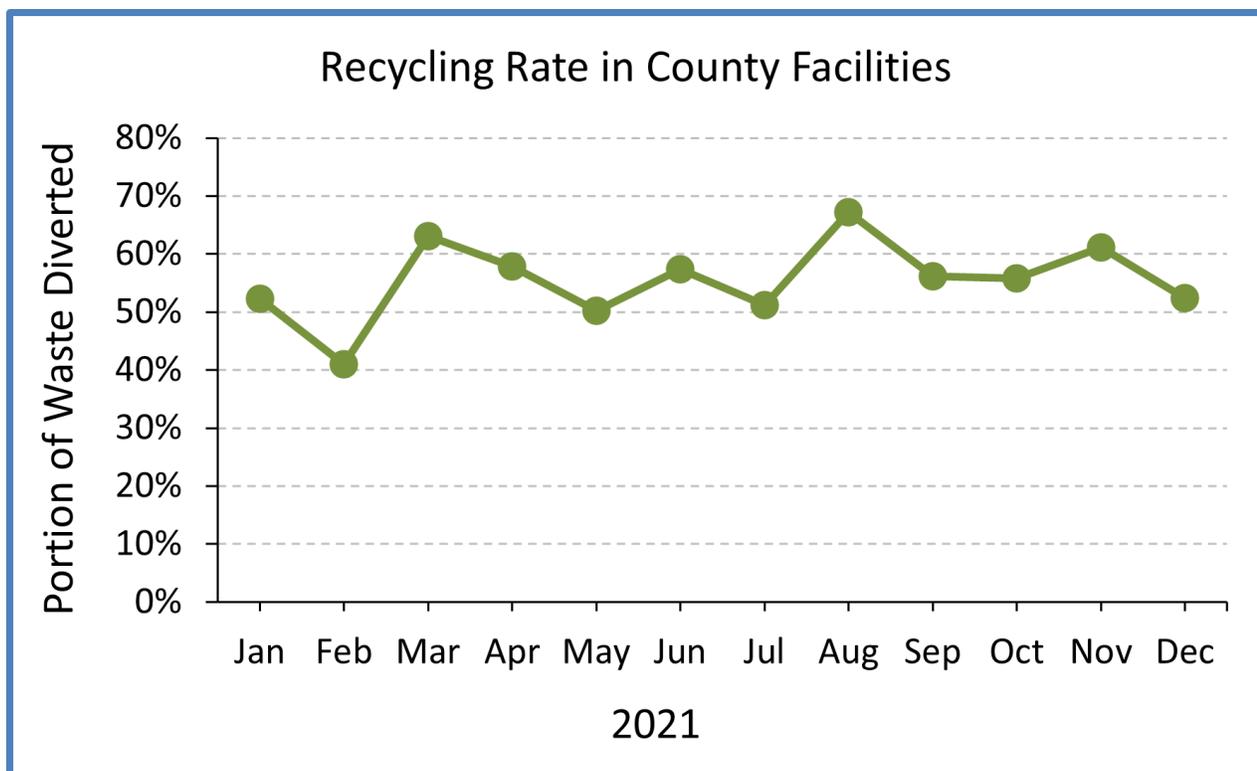
In 2021, the County's internal recycling rate increased to a very impressive 55.5%, up 8 percentage points over last year.

Recycling Rate

We use *recycling rate* as a metric to measure performance of our waste diversion efforts in internal county facilities. We began benchmarking our recycling rate in 2019, tracking our municipal solid waste generated in county buildings and how much we divert from the trash through recycling programs. In a typical month, we produce over 60,000 pounds of waste, equivalent to 360 tons each year; in 2021, we recycled over half of this amount!



In 2021, we improved our recycling rate even further with an annual rate of 55.5%. For reference, the most recent Colorado state average is 17.2%, while the national average rate is about 35%.



Continued Success and Improvements

We continued to successfully divert a large amount of waste through our single-stream recycling program as well as our Shred-It secure document destruction services. Additionally, the closure of the cafeteria at the Admin and Courts Facility has greatly reduced the amount of food waste and single-use plastic serving and packaging items ending up in our trash compactor. We have also seen a reduction in the amount of general trash coming from our offices, break rooms, and restrooms in county buildings as a result of many county staff continuing to work remotely throughout 2021.

