Like so many things, our sustainability program has been challenged by COVID-19. In the past year, we have purchased very little - and the few purchases made were mostly disinfectants, sanitizers, and other safety-related items. Likewise, our waste stream today contains more hard-to-recycle items, like masks and gloves. Fortunately, with the help of the waste-innovators at TerraCycle, we can now collect these items for recycling too.

However, COVID-19 did have one upside: fewer events meant drastically less environmental impact from our operations. Here are a few stats:

**TOTAL WASTE**
- \( \downarrow 87\% \) from benchmark levels
- \( \downarrow 85\% \) compared to 2 years ago

**WATER USE**
- \( \downarrow 83\% \) from benchmark levels
- \( \downarrow 70\% \) compared to 2 years ago

**ENERGY USE**
- \( \downarrow 41\% \) from benchmark levels
- \( \downarrow 32\% \) compared to 2 years ago

**Meanwhile, our renewable energy portfolio kept working, even when our buildings were idle!**

- **Electricity generated from our solar garden subscription:** Over 5 MILLION kWh (locally produced solar power)
- **On-site solar thermal production:** Over 800 MWh (from District Energy’s solar thermal array, atop RiverCentre)
- **On-site solar PV from RiverCentre Ramp:** 46,000 kWh
- **Windsorce® energy purchased through Xcel Energy:** 1.5 million kWh
- **Renewable Energy Credits purchased from Sterling Planet:** 11,628 MWh (offsetting our impact with wind energy generated elsewhere in the Midwest)

We are proud to announce that we also started down a new path this year, toward offsetting impacts beyond our building operations. On July 1, 2021, we partnered with UPM Blandin, a sustainable forestry company in northern Minnesota, to offset the carbon emissions of Minnesota Wild team travel for the entire 2021-22 season. This partnership offsets about 143 hours of flight time for the entire team - and equates to the energy use of roughly 180 homes.