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**Poster Title:** The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction: A Whole Story of Institutional Strategic Energy Management

**Abstract:** Strategic Energy Management (SEM) is a long-term, data-driven effort for sustained management focused on a chosen outcome, often reduction in energy use, reduced utility costs, reduced green-house gas emissions, or sustained incorporation of renewable energy resources across an entire institution. A Strategic Energy Management Plan (SEP) is the organizational foundation for implementing and maintaining SEM. Starting in 2010, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) began its SEM journey when the American Correctional Association adopted sustainability standards as part of its accreditation program. Three years later in 2012, the Ohio DRC had developed and adopted an Energy Conservation & Waste Reduction Policy and was embarking on a Three-Year Strategic Sustainability Plan. Pivotal to these efforts were energy use tracking and energy efficiency projects, which the institution purposely pursued. However, it wasn't until 2017 and in the context of a Sustainability Proposal and a new Five-Year Plan, that SEM became a crucial component to achieving the Ohio DRC's newly stated concurrent goals of pursuing net-zero energy use and reducing recidivism. In early 2018, we worked closely with the Ohio DRC to develop an SEM Plan Framework to embody and guide the energy component of its continuing sustainability journey. Since then, the institution is pursuing what is likely to be the State of Ohio's largest solar PV installation as well as a more highly refined SEM Plan. This paper chronicles journey of the Ohio DRC, the state government's largest energy user, towards internalizing SEM through the development and adoption of an SEP. It details the history, foundation, and drivers that led to this development. This paper then leads into presenting the basic approach to and the subsequent development of the SEP framework crafted for the Ohio DRC, the resultant pathways it has since pursued and intends to pursue in the future, and the milestones achieved and challenges faced so far. This paper will also celebrate the successes as well as attempt to understand and characterize the challenges and short-comings of the SEP framework in terms both specific to the Ohio DRC as well as general to the concepts of SEM and SEP. It will also attempt to understand and characterize what have been the primary drivers motivating the Ohio DRC to pursue SEM and SEP. In conclusion, it will pose questions and contemplations for encouraging additional institutional progress and for creating a more meaningful SEM and SEP product in general.