



# A VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE DC





## FROM MAYOR VINCENT C. GRAY

This is a unique time for our city. After decades of population decline, we have seen a solid decade of population growth as people discover all that the

District of Columbia has to offer. In the 15 months after the 2010 Census, more than 16,000 new residents moved to the District, and all signs point to escalating growth for years to come. As our population expands, we have an important decision to make. We can take decisive action now to ensure that our citizens—particularly the most vulnerable among us—benefit from increasing innovation and amenities, a broader tax base, a growing and diversified economy, and a wide range of new and accessible jobs. Or we can ignore this opportunity, and allow historic gaps in education, income, housing and access to transportation to further divide our city.

The choice is clear. I believe we must plan for a city that is sustainable—not just environmentally, but economically and socially as well. We must continue our investments to revitalize neighborhoods, expand transportation choices, better our health, restore rivers and parks, and improve our schools. By setting ambitious goals for our built environment, climate, energy, food, nature, transportation, waste, water, and the green economy, we strengthen the District's commitment to the core values of quality of life, economic growth, and equal access to opportunity.

With our vision for a sustainable city, and strategic action to achieve our goals, we will be ready to attract employers, investment, and job growth in existing fields and emerging sectors of a green and competitive

economy. We also will ensure that the District is a healthier, more livable place for our families to grow and thrive for generations to come.

With this in mind, I share my vision for a more sustainable future—one that I hope you will embrace, and that we can all work together to achieve: **In just one generation—20 years—the District of Columbia will be the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States. An international destination for people and investment, the District will be a model of innovative policies and practices that improve quality of life and economic opportunity. We will demonstrate how enhancing our natural and built environments, investing in a diverse clean economy, and reducing disparities among residents can create an educated, equitable and prosperous society.**

It is critical that we start with a vision, but our work is far from over. Together, we must develop an implementation plan that ensures we reach our goals. I ask for your support and input as we work with community volunteers, District agencies, and stakeholders citywide to craft detailed goals, actions, timelines, and measures of progress. Help us reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues for input and ideas. We need to know what you think of this vision and how we all can help turn it into reality.

Vincent C. Gray  
Mayor, District of Columbia





In just one generation—20 years—the District of Columbia will be the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States. An international destination for people and investment, the District will be a model of innovative policies and practices that improve quality of life and economic opportunity. We will demonstrate how enhancing our natural and built environments, investing in a diverse clean economy, and reducing disparities among residents can create an educated, equitable and prosperous society.

# SUSTAINABLE DC GOALS *FOR 2032*



**JOB**S: Increase by **5** times the number of jobs providing green goods and services



**HEALTH**: Cut citywide obesity rate by **50%**



**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**: Attract and retain **250,000**

new and existing residents



**CLIMATE**: Cut citywide greenhouse gas emissions by **50%**



**ENERGY**: Cut citywide energy consumption by **50%**; Increase use of renewable energy to **50%**



**FOOD:** Bring locally-grown food within a quarter mile of **75%** of the population



**NATURE:** Cover **40%** of the District with a healthy tree canopy; Ensure **100%** of residents are within a 10-minute walk of a natural space



**TRANSPORTATION:** Make **75%** of all trips by walking, biking, or transit



**WASTE:** Achieve **ZERO** waste by consuming less and reusing everything else



**WATER:** Make **100%** of District waterways fishable and swimmable; Use **75%** of our landscape to filter or capture rainwater for reuse



**GREEN ECONOMY:** Develop **3** times as many small District-based businesses;  
Cut city-wide unemployment by **50%**

# THE DISTRICT IS A LEADER

This vision is built on our progress in realizing the 2006 Comprehensive Plan's vision of growing an inclusive city, and the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative's vision of revitalizing the Anacostia waterfront to unite the city around a restored river. Businesses, government, and community members citywide have already distinguished the District as a national leader in many areas of urban sustainability, laying a foundation to achieve our ambitious goals. Here are some examples of the city's recent achievements:

**200+** ..... LEED-CERTIFIED AND ENERGY STAR-CERTIFIED GREEN BUILDINGS

**3** ..... FOLD INCREASE IN USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SINCE 2004

**7,600** ..... ACRES OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE—MORE PER CAPITA THAN ANY CITY OF OUR SIZE

**4%** ..... OF THE CITY'S JOBS IN GREEN GOODS AND SERVICES—2ND HIGHEST OF ANY STATE

**55** ..... MILES OF BIKE LANES AND FACILITIES

# WHAT DOES SUSTAINABILITY MEAN FOR YOU?

Sustainability means balancing the demands of economic development, environmental protection, and community equity across our city. Ultimately, sustainability means good things for your health, your community, and your wallet. For example:

- Sustainability means spending less on utility bills because it takes less energy to heat and cool your energy efficient home.
- Sustainability means saving up to thousands of dollars a year by walking, biking, and using transit more often, and not needing another car for your family.
- Sustainability means saving hundreds of dollars a year in grocery costs by growing your own food at home, in community gardens, or on a nearby urban farm.

The savings from sustainability can be used towards other needs like rent, mortgage payments, or for discretionary spending at stores or restaurants. If you spend it with local merchants, you are growing the local economy, creating the potential for more jobs. But the benefits of sustainability go beyond money. Sustainable cities are cleaner, greener, and healthier.

For example:

- Sustainability means lower asthma rates because the air quality inside and outside your home is better.
- Sustainability means broader access to fresh and healthy food, and less obesity and chronic disease, because you can walk or bike to work or school, and be active in your neighborhood park in your free time.

# MANY VOICES, ONE PLAN

Sustainable DC has engaged people across the city to raise awareness, gather input, and tap into the wisdom and knowledge of community members, institutions, and organizations. The plan has benefited greatly from this community input, but the conversation must continue, and reach an even broader audience across our neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.



## Working Groups:

Over the winter of 2011-2012, hundreds of dedicated volunteers in nine working groups **met every other week** to identify and prioritize potential **goals and actions within the topics of built environment, climate, energy, food, nature, transportation, waste, water, and the green economy.**



## Green Cabinet:

Convened by the Mayor, led by the City Administrator, and composed of **agency directors and key government officials**, this group is determining how District agencies can innovate to **incorporate sustainable practices while advancing their core missions.**



## Green Ribbon Committee:

The Mayor convened this committee of **civic leaders** from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, in order to take a big picture view of plan development, as they review the plan from a broad range of community perspectives.

Past presentations, meeting notes, and proposed sustainability measures are available on the web at **[www.sustainable.dc.gov](http://www.sustainable.dc.gov)**.

With the release of this Sustainable DC vision, we move into the next phase of developing a detailed implementation plan. A draft implementation plan will be released for public review in summer 2012 and a final plan is expected in fall 2012.



BY THE NUMBERS—

**125**

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS



**1,600**

REGISTERED EMAIL FOLLOWERS



**1,100**

ACTIVE WEBSITE USERS



**400+**

UNIQUE SUGGESTIONS



**440**

ATTENDEES FOR MAYOR'S KICK-OFF



**9**

WORKING GROUPS



**700**

PARTICIPANTS



**900**

WORKING GROUP GOALS AND ACTIONS



# EARLY COMMITMENT:

## *MAKING A DOWN PAYMENT*

Although we are in the midst of planning, our city is already working hard to become more sustainable. Across the District government, and with the help of the city's institutions, businesses, community groups, and individuals, progress continues toward a more sustainable city.

The District and development partners are pushing the boundaries of sustainable technology and design for buildings and neighborhoods. We are updating regulations and policies to make our buildings healthier, our water cleaner, and our energy use more efficient and renewable.

Private developers and building owners put the District at **the top of national rankings for LEED and ENERGY STAR buildings**. The city has **more than 18,000 Capital Bikeshare members** taking 100,000 trips per month by bike, keeping hundreds of cars off the road. **Thousands of homes in the RiverSmart Homes program** control stormwater, improving the health of our streams and rivers. **More than 50 embassies** signed a sustainability pledge with Mayor Gray to help create a more sustainable District. And **nine District-based universities** signed a sustainability pledge covering their buildings and operations. We are just getting started as a city, but there is tremendous momentum toward our goal of becoming the most sustainable city in the country.

## *PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE DC LEGISLATION*

As a further down payment on a sustainable future, Mayor Gray is putting forth a package of initial legislation that touches on the economy, social equity and environmental health components of sustainability:

### LEADING THE WAY FOR GREEN BUSINESS

- Energy Efficiency Financing Amendment Act – accessing private financial capital to create energy efficient buildings
- Renewable Energy Incentive Program Amendment Act – promoting renewable energy generating systems
- Clean and Affordable Energy Benchmarking Amendment Act – fully funding the ENERGY STAR building benchmarking program

### RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Fertilizer Act – preventing fertilizer pollution in our streams and rivers
- Sustainable Urban Agriculture Act – promoting urban agriculture through beekeeping

### PROTECTING OUR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Child-occupied Facility Healthy Air Amendment Act – protecting children from toxic exposure
- Heating System Repair, Replacement, or Tune-up Program Amendment Act – energy system retrofits for low-income and elderly households
- Low-Income Weatherization Plus Program Amendment Act – weatherization for low-income and elderly households

Underlying each section of this vision are two crosscutting issues at the heart of sustainability in DC. More jobs and better health will be explicit outcomes of each of the nine major topics.

# JOBS

The District is the economic engine of the Washington metropolitan region, drawing new businesses and new jobs. As a city that is both locally and globally competitive, the District must be prepared to innovate and change to remain attractive to potential employers.

Overall, our city has an unemployment rate of just under 10%. However, **it ranges from as low as 2% in Ward 3 to as high as 24% in Ward 8.** With more than 50,000 unfilled jobs currently available across the city, there is a clear disconnect between the workforce and the skills and training required by these positions. There is a tremendous opportunity to train and employ workers in the District's growing green economy.

Each component of this vision should help generate and maintain quality jobs for our residents, while simultaneously addressing the training required to succeed in those positions. For each goal or action suggested, there is the opportunity to create new jobs at every rung on the career ladder.

## *OUR GOAL FOR 2032:*

**INCREASE FIVE-FOLD THE NUMBER OF JOBS ASSOCIATED WITH GREEN GOODS AND SERVICES INCLUDING TRANSIT,**

### **STORMWATER, MANAGEMENT, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND WASTE RECYCLING AND REUSE, WHILE PREPARING THE DISTRICT WORKFORCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**



#### **SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Create incubators to support the development and success of new green industries.



#### **MID-TERM ACTION:**

Stimulate a supportive environment for growing green industries through streamlined regulations, new sources of financial capital, and incentives for private investment in under served markets.



#### **LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Develop training pipelines for green careers at different skill levels from Pre-K to 12 through higher education.

*These goals and actions represent illustrative recommendations of our working groups; the final Sustainable DC implementation plan will detail a complete range of fully vetted commitments.*



# HEALTH

Wherever we live, or whatever we do for a living, our health and that of our family matters profoundly. Today, we face different health challenges in different parts of our city. Overall, 15% of deaths in the District arise from poor diet and obesity, but residents of Wards 5, 7, and 8 are much less likely to be of healthy weight and more likely to suffer from chronic diseases than residents of other wards.

Current programs like Live Well DC aim to improve this situation, but the physical environment and access to fresh and healthy foods also impact public health. Improvements in the city's air, water, buildings and infrastructure can also contribute to good health. By providing safe and easy transportation access, high performance buildings, opportunities to be physically active, and access to local healthy foods, we make the District a healthier place to live, work, and play.

*OUR GOAL FOR 2032:*

**CUT IN HALF THE CURRENT  
22% CITYWIDE OBESITY RATE.**



#### **SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Cut in half the 21% of people who do not participate in some form of physical activity on a monthly basis.



#### **MID-TERM ACTION:**

Eliminate lead exposure threats and the incidence of children with elevated levels of lead in their blood.



#### **LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Improve air quality in the District, and cut in half the rate of childhood asthma.

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# BUILT ENVIRONMENT

*BUILDINGS AS EFFICIENT AS THEY ARE HEALTHY*

Our buildings and neighborhoods will be vibrant, resilient, and embody innovative practices that ensure high quality of life, a competitive economy, and respect for the natural environment.

## *WHY IT MATTERS*

The District's built environment includes 1,100 miles of road, 1,600 miles of sidewalk, hundreds of thousands of buildings, and thousands of miles of infrastructure such as gas, water, and sewer pipes and electric lines. The built environment is where people, buildings, and infrastructure intersect, and what gives our city its unique form. However, the built environment is also the District's largest contributor to energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—contributing 75% of all District GHG emissions (which is almost double the national average of 38%). Because so much of the District is already built, improving existing buildings and infrastructure is especially important. Reducing energy, water, and infrastructure costs through better building and infrastructure performance can produce huge financial savings across the city, lowering operating costs and improving affordability for residents and businesses alike.

# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**WE WILL ATTRACT AND RETAIN 250,000 NEW RESIDENTS AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EXISTING RESIDENTS IN TRANSIT-ORIENTED, WALKABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COMMUNITIES. ALL NEW BUILDINGS WILL PRODUCE AS MUCH OR MORE ENERGY THEY CONSUME; EXISTING BUILDINGS WILL BE RETROFITTED TO USE HALF AS MUCH ENERGY AND WATER.**



## **SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Require public disclosure of ENERGY STAR performance for all private buildings of more than 25,000 square feet, and mandate energy audits and improvement of poorly performing buildings, with disclosure of audit results to prospective buyers and tenants.



## **MID-TERM ACTION:**

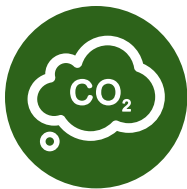
Rehabilitate all low-income housing to be green, healthy, and capable of meeting “net zero” energy standards.



## **LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Require all new buildings to be energy and carbon neutral or “net positive” energy producers.

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# CLIMATE

## *A CITY PREPARED FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND A POST-CARBON ECONOMY*

Our city will minimize and offset its greenhouse gas emissions, while adapting to climate change in ways that protect the most vulnerable residents and create economic opportunity for all.

### *WHY IT MATTERS*

Global climate change caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution is widely understood to be the result of human activities, especially the use of fossil fuels. Some of the impacts of climate change are already occurring in the District, including sea level rise and more frequent and intense weather events that result in property damage, lost revenue, and potential deaths. Global efforts have begun to attack this problem, but to date progress has been slow. Local actions to reduce energy use, promote alternative forms of energy, conserve resources, and change development patterns have become an increasingly important part of the solution. Unfortunately, time is not on our side, so we must act quickly: ten of the earth's warmest years ever recorded have occurred since 1998, and March 2012 was the warmest in the District's recorded history. When added together, the individual actions of the District's citizens have a meaningful impact on both our local quality of life and global climate change.



# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**REDUCE CITYWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 50% (AND 80% BY 2050) WHILE ADAPTING TO THE HAZARDS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**



**QUICK ACTION:**

Adopt a Climate Action Plan that establishes emissions reduction targets for each emission source or sector of the economy.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Create a set of interactive online tools such as calculators, online portals or forums that allow people citywide to view and share GHG emission data, and to make more informed decisions.



**LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Create financial tools, such as a fee-and-dividend style carbon tax or a carbon benefit program, to capture the true costs of products and services and to support climate protection programs.

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# ENERGY

## *RELIABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY AS A FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY*

Our city will be a beacon for energy efficiency, reliability, and independence, and will lead the nation in the transition to affordable, clean, and locally generated renewable energy.

### *WHY IT MATTERS*

We need energy to run our homes, businesses, and schools, but **less than 10% of our current electricity comes from renewable sources**, such as solar, wind and geothermal. Energy bills account for a large and increasing proportion of housing costs, especially for low-income families. Enhancing energy efficiency and promoting more local renewable generation will make the city more competitive globally and more fair, while providing well-paying jobs for residents. Like most U.S. cities, the District is grappling with the challenge of financing the costs of retrofitting its existing buildings to vastly reduce their energy use. Developing solutions to use our energy more wisely, and using smarter energy sources can ensure a competitive and sustainable society for current and future Washingtonians.

# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION BY 50% AND INCREASE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO 50%.**



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Require energy audits and disclosure for all buildings periodically and at the point of sale.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Replace all public street lighting and related infrastructure with efficient, energy-saving models.



**MID-TERM ACTION:**

Develop and implement a Clean Alternatives Technologies Standard (CATS) that shifts reliance from coal-generated power sources to more renewable sources, using a timed phase-out to reduce by 60% electricity-driven carbon emissions.

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# FOOD

*A NEW URBAN ECONOMIC SECTOR PROVIDING HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE FOOD*

District residents will be healthier and the local economy more diverse, thanks to equal access to a local, self-sustaining food production and regional distribution system.

## *WHY IT MATTERS*

One in eight households in the District struggles to access enough fresh fruits and vegetables, and the entire city copes with the consequences of hunger, obesity, and poor health. Distribution of grocery stores, fresh and healthy foods, and farmers' markets varies widely across wards, with low-income areas often losing out. Each year, \$112 million of grocery spending occurs outside the District because local stores are not able to satisfy local demand. Local production and availability of fresh, healthy foods can improve the health and nutrition of everyone in our community, build a local food economy, and reduce the city's carbon footprint by growing food closer to the city. However, the District currently has no commercial farms, missing out on an opportunity to open up new jobs and career ladders.

Fortunately, local nonprofits, government, and community organizations are partnering in response to community demand for improvements in the local food system. Legislation like the FEED DC Act and Healthy Schools Act are making strides to provide fresh, local and healthy foods to the District's schoolchildren, increasing participation in school breakfasts by 34% in the first year alone. But these actions alone not enough; a coordinated effort is required to address the inequities of food in the District, and improve nutrition for everyone in our community.

# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**GROW A FOOD CULTURE AROUND PROVIDING EQUAL FOOD ACCESS, ENSURING LONGEVITY OF URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND BRINGING LOCALLY GROWN FOOD WITHIN A QUARTER MILE OF 75% OF THE POPULATION.**



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Ensure healthy food access by expanding “Double Dollars” programs (i.e., WIC and SNAP) for fresh and healthy foods in farmers’ markets citywide.



**MID-TERM ACTION:**

Ensure all residents are within one mile of a full service grocery store.



**LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Dramatically expand local food production by putting 20 additional acres of land under cultivation, and produce or obtain 25% of District food within a 100 mile-radius.

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# NATURE

## *PRESERVING GREEN SPACES AND CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE*

Our city will conserve and manage natural resources to enhance biodiversity, improve quality of life, and build people's connection to, understanding of, and appreciation for nature.

### *WHY IT MATTERS*

The District has extensive natural spaces and an impressive diversity of wildlife. These important natural resources provide a range of benefits from cleaner water to fertile soils to flood control. Protecting and enhancing our natural environment is essential to maintaining the District's environmental and human health. Incorporating daily interactions with nature into our everyday lives reinforces our connection to and appreciation of the natural environment. Access to space for physical activity can help reduce obesity—of particular importance in a city where 22% of adults and 18% of high school students are obese—as well as the risk of many chronic illnesses, such as heart disease and diabetes. Creating a well planned and maintained network of recreational spaces and wildlife habitats can extend these benefits to people and communities citywide.

# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**COVER 40% OF THE DISTRICT WITH A HEALTHY TREE CANOPY, AND PROVIDE PARK OR NATURAL SPACES WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK OF ALL RESIDENTS.**



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Engage community members, especially in low-income and under served communities, to become stewards of their local parks and natural spaces.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Incorporate an Environmental Literacy Plan into the curriculum for all District public schools.



**LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Ensure no further loss of species and biodiversity by protecting habitats, strengthening native populations of fish, birds, and other wildlife, while controlling invasive species.

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# TRANSPORTATION

## *TOWARD A CITY THAT MOVES YOU*

Our city will create and sustain a system of accessible, convenient, and resilient transportation options that improve mobility and access, and enhance the quality of the District's economic, social, and natural resources.

### *WHY IT MATTERS*

The District of Columbia has a unique transportation infrastructure, serving all kinds of users. **Each day, the District's population grows by 400,000 as people from the region enter the city** for work, shopping, or entertainment. At the same time, **the city hosts 16 million tourists annually**. For a city of just under 620,000 residents, that's a lot of extra people to transport in and out.

Transportation systems can use a huge amount of energy for moving people and goods, particularly if energy-intensive cars and trucks are used. However, trains, buses, walking, and biking can have positive effects that go far beyond the much smaller environmental footprint they create. Encouraging walking and biking can reduce obesity rates and prevent chronic health problems by increasing daily physical activity. Reducing car emissions will help to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and relieve pressure on road infrastructure. Increasing transportation options also helps to quickly disperse people in the event of an emergency, improves mobility for the very young, the elderly and the disabled, and reduces the cost of or need to own personal vehicles, saving money both for households and costly infrastructure. Unfortunately, not all areas of the city are well served by transit and many parts of the District remain hard to reach and travel through. Focusing sustainability efforts on transportation infrastructure and services will be as important for social equity and public health as for economic security and climate stability.





# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**AT LEAST 75% OF ALL TRIPS ORIGINATING IN THE CITY WILL BE BY WALKING, BIKING, TRANSIT, OR OTHER CLEAN TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE.**



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity through a citywide network of 80 miles of bike lanes, prioritizing east of the Anacostia River, and completing the Metropolitan Branch Trail.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Reduce building parking minimums and increase the availability of on-street parking through citywide performance parking districts.



**LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Prioritize the expansion and enhancement of transit services, and complete at least 37 miles of new streetcar or premium bus service, like Circulator or WMATA express.

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# WASTE

## *TURNING WASTE INTO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY*

Our city will eliminate solid waste by reducing the amount of waste we generate, and reusing or recycling all other materials for their economic value in manufacturing, energy production, or agriculture.

## *WHY IT MATTERS*

For most people, “throwing away” a piece of trash seems like the end of the story, but a complex system of collection, distribution, reuse, and eventual disposal is only the beginning for a discarded item. Each year, the District produces more than 800,000 tons of solid waste and too often we think of it as only waste. In reality, much of this material is valuable and can be reused. Buildings are torn apart and deposited in landfills when most of their material can be reused for the next new building. Tons of organic material are thrown out that could be processed into compost for gardens and urban farms or converted to energy to help fuel our city. But instead, District residents and businesses spend over \$100 million dollars annually collecting, transferring, hauling, and disposing of waste. Today, we have opportunities for large-scale improvements in composting, better monitoring of commercial and residential recycling, and changes in our construction and demolition waste management systems. By reducing the amount of waste we generate and maximizing the amount of materials diverted from landfills, we can conserve resources, create employment and new businesses in waste diversion and reuse, and save money, thus turning a potential liability into an asset.

# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**ACHIEVE ZERO WASTE BY PRODUCING LESS WASTE IN THE FIRST PLACE AND CAPTURING VALUE FROM EVERYTHING ELSE THROUGH REUSE, RECYCLING, COMPOSTING AND ENERGY PRODUCTION.**



**QUICK ACTION:**

Study the feasibility of waste-to-energy and waste conversion technologies.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Expand the number of public recycling and litter receptacles, concentrating on neighborhoods with large amounts of litter.



**MID-TERM ACTION:**

Provide all households with a three-track collection process (landfill, recyclables, compostable material) and implement other strategies to encourage recycling and composting.

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# WATER

## *CLEAN RIVERS AND A GREEN LANDSCAPE*

Our water resources—all water falling in and flowing through the District—will be clean and fully accessible to support good health, thriving ecosystems, and an innovative economy.

### *WHY IT MATTERS*

The District is home to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, Rock Creek, and many other smaller streams, and is a critical part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We have miles of waterways and waterfront, but much of it is difficult to reach, not clean enough for fishing or swimming, and does not provide safe habitat for much of the region’s abundant wildlife. Though water is one of the District’s most valuable resources, it presents some of our greatest challenges. Each year, more than 400 billion gallons of water fall on the District in the form of rain and other precipitation. Instead of water running down pipes as quickly as possible — picking up pollutants, contaminating our streams, and overwhelming our sewer infrastructure — we can collect and reuse it.

Each year, the District consumes more than 100 million gallons of potable water for drinking, bathing, gardening, and countless other tasks, some of which do not require water to be treated to drinking standards. This costs the community an enormous amount of money. One way to reduce that cost is to treat water as a resource. A system of green infrastructure to treat this ‘free’ rain water will create a strong local industry, focusing economic development on green business and permanent job opportunities for District residents.



# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**MAKE THE ANACOSTIA RIVER, ROCK CREEK, POTOMAC RIVER, AND ALL DISTRICT WATERWAYS FISHABLE AND SWIMMABLE, AND 75% OF TO CITY'S LANDSCAPE ABLE TO NATURALLY FILTER OR CAPTURE RAINWATER FOR REUSE.**



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Install 1.5 million square feet of green roofs in the District.



**MID-TERM ACTION:**

Increase the number of green infrastructure jobs by 50% by expanding the amount of stormwater retention and infiltration infrastructure by 100%.



**LONG-TERM ACTION:**

Double the area of wetlands to aid in the filtration of stormwater runoff and to create buffers for waterways and habitat corridors for wildlife.

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# GREEN ECONOMY

*MAXIMIZING JOBS AND GROWTH FROM THE EMERGING CLEAN ECONOMY*

Our economy will create and sustain jobs, businesses, and institutions that protect and enhance our people, the planet, and the shared prosperity of present and future generations.

## *WHY IT MATTERS*

All of our citizens deserve the opportunity to hold a good job. However, creating and sustaining stable well-paying jobs is a shared responsibility. Spending our dollars locally has benefits for the community that quickly multiply. Some jobs can provide even more benefits to our community. Jobs such as planting and maintaining trees and green roofs help manage stormwater and cool our city; auditing the energy performance of our buildings and weatherizing our homes help us to use fewer resources and save money; and cultivating food in urban farms provides less expensive food while reducing the need to transport it. These jobs that help keep our city clean and livable are part of the green economy. Fortunately, the green economy is growing in our city and promises ladders of career options — ranging from low-skill, entry-level opportunities to highly skilled positions to design and build a world-leading sustainable city.

# OUR GOAL FOR 2032

**TRIPLE THE NUMBER OF SMALL DISTRICT-BASED BUSINESSES, INCLUDING LOCAL RETAIL; INCREASE THE VALUE OF THE DISTRICT'S EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES TEN-FOLD; AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT BY HALF.**



**QUICK ACTION:**

Pass legislation that recognizes corporations that meet rigorous independent social and environmental performance standards.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

District government will implement a green procurement program that achieves at least 50% procurement for green goods and services.



**SHORT-TERM ACTION:**

Retool our workforce development system to increase training opportunities for District residents and prepare them for jobs associated with green goods and services.



**MID-TERM ACTION:**

Universities, hospitality, and healthcare industries will pool their collective purchasing power to buy sustainable goods and services from local, cooperatively-owned businesses.

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# WORKING TOGETHER

*TO CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR US ALL*

This vision plan is intended to provide **a picture of what is possible** in the District of Columbia, what we can achieve for this and future generations, and **why we need to act now**. Over the next six months, we will use the recommendations from the public, our working groups, civic leaders, agencies, and consultants to design an implementation strategy to achieve the ambitious sustainability vision and goals we have set for our city.

To reap the **benefits for our environment, community, and economy**, we must build on current successes and lay the groundwork for new action. We will engage everyone to help achieve a sustainable, prosperous, abundant, and livable future for the city and its citizens. We are a city that is leading the nation in sustainable practices, and we should take pride in, and build on, that fact.

We encourage you to **stay active in the Sustainable DC process** and **engage others** in your community to be a part of this critical initiative to make the District of Columbia the **healthiest, most economically vibrant and sustainable city in the nation**.

**We want your comments and feedback.** Please contact us at [sustainable.future@dc.gov](mailto:sustainable.future@dc.gov) or **(202) 442-8809** or visit **[www.sustainable.dc.gov](http://www.sustainable.dc.gov)**



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