

District of Columbia  
Diplomatic Missions and International Institutions  
Environmental Performance, Climate, and Sustainability Pledge

---

*WHEREAS, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to protecting public health and the natural environment in the city through numerous programs and initiatives; and*



*WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has designated sustainability and resilience strategic priorities and has established the goal of making the District of Columbia the most sustainable city in the United States; and*

*WHEREAS, the Government of the District of Columbia and the District's diplomatic institutions recognize the importance of promoting sustainability practices, including increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases to combat climate change, and planning for resiliency; and*



*WHEREAS, the Diplomatic Missions and International Institutions in the District of Columbia are committed to being good stewards of the environment and recognize the opportunity to take additional meaningful and measurable steps to demonstrate environmental leadership; and*

*WHEREAS, the Diplomatic Missions and International Institutions in the District of Columbia are collectively committed to aiding the District's efforts to be the most sustainable city in the United States:*

*NOW, THEREFORE, the signatory members below hereby join the District of Columbia Diplomatic Institutions Sustainability Pledge committing to efforts to uphold these goals.*

*The signatories of this Pledge hereby agree to form a partnership through the DC Greening Embassies Forum between the District's Diplomatic Institutions and the District Government to pursue and promote programs, policies and projects aimed at advancing environmental quality, economic vitality and social equity in the District of Columbia.*

---

*Signature*

---

*Date*

The signatories of this Pledge will strive to uphold the District of Columbia’s sustainability goals, including through actions in the following categories, which align with the city’s Sustainability Plan:

### **BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

- *Reduce contribution to climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions through ensuring major renovations or new construction include an environmental performance building standard such as Net Zero, Passive House, ENERGYSTAR or LEED.*
- *Reduce contribution to the urban heat island effect by adding cool or green roofs and increasing permeable surfaces.*
- *Implement best environmental management practices by encouraging facilities management and staff to learn about best practices and environmental, building, and energy sustainability certification.*

### **ENERGY**

- *Reduce energy consumption through physical upgrades and behavior change programming.*
- *Increase the proportion of clean, renewable energy used for operations.*

### **FOOD**

- *Increase procurement of sustainable food by exploring onsite growing, buying from local producers, or purchasing foods certified by an international standard.*

### **NATURE**

- *Utilize landscaping that encourages native species, trees, and pollinator-friendly plants.*
- *Reduce outdoor light pollution by using appropriate fixtures.*

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- *Encourage local workforce to commute and travel using sustainable forms of transportation including walking, biking, mass transit, carpooling and electric vehicles.*
- *Provide access to bikes -- through the District’s bikeshare program or private bike fleet -- and the facilities that encourage local workforce to use them, such as bike racks, change rooms and showers.*
- *Operate a more sustainable and fuel efficient vehicle fleet.*

### **WASTE**

- *Reduce solid waste through smart purchasing, use of take-back programs, and donation of unwanted items.*
- *Improve solid waste diversion by recycling and composting materials.*

### **WATER**

- *Reduce vulnerability to flooding by managing stormwater through sustainable landscaping, permeable surfaces, and rainwater capture.*
- *Reduce potable water consumption.*
- *Encourage local workforce to drink tap water over bottled water.*

### **COMMUNITY & LOCAL ECONOMY**

- *Increase local procurement of consumable and durable goods & services, and ensure that purchases comply with relevant sustainability standards.*
- *Encourage use of cleaning supplies, programs, and procedures that comply with relevant sustainability standards.*
- *Contribute to the community of the District of Columbia by supporting forums, workshops, symposiums and other events aimed at exchanging policy, research, and best practices on environmental performance, climate, sustainability and resiliency*
- *Work with and contribute to the District’s efforts to educate and engage the area’s youth in environmental sustainability*

### **REPORTING & ACTION**

- *Contribute, when able, to the District’s efforts to benchmark the energy and water performance of all major buildings within the city*
- *Establish institutional mechanism(s) for advancing and achieving the commitments in this Pledge*
- *Participate in forums and meetings to share progress made towards the goals outlined in this Pledge.*