

DC Healthy Homes Digest



February 2021 • DOEE Announces New Resources to Protect Children from Lead in Homes, Schools, and Child Care Facilities | Radon Action Month

WELCOME TO THE DC HEALTHY HOMES DIGEST!

This publication connects you to organizations and community members dedicated to creating and maintaining safe, healthy, and energy-efficient housing in the District of Columbia.

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Events

DOEE and DCRA Offer Green Building Professional Seminar Series

DOEE Receives \$2.3 Million Grant from EPA to Protect Kids in District Child Care Facilities and Schools from Lead in Drinking Water



The [District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment \(DOEE\)](#) is the recipient of a [\\$2.3 million grant](#) from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enhance the District's efforts to protect young children from lead in drinking water. DOEE joined EPA for a [virtual event announcing the grant](#) on October 27, 2020 as part of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. "Mayor Bowser continues to lead the advancement of maternal and child health" said DOEE Director Tommy Wells. "This EPA grant award is a substantial investment in keeping vulnerable children safe from exposure to lead."

The \$2.3 million grant will be used by DOEE, the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB), and the Department of General Services (DGS) to remediate lead. DOEE will focus on the remediation of lead lines, fixtures, and water faucets in licensed child development facilities. DC PCSB will utilize the funds to replace drinking water fixtures and fountains, reconfigure piping to exterior water fountains, and monitor drinking water lead levels at 134 campuses. DGS will utilize the funds to replace interior and exterior drinking fountains and to reconfigure piping at schools and recreation facilities.

EPA awarded DOEE another water grant to address lead in child development facilities and to conduct outreach to parents and the public. The two-year grant will focus on training, testing, taking action to develop and implement a plan to reduce lead contamination in

DOEE and DCRA are conducting free virtual educational events designed to accelerate the implementation of the Clean Energy DC Act and the new building construction codes. The virtual events will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm Eastern Time. You can register for one or more events. Two upcoming events in the series include:

March 10, 2021: Funding Clean Energy Projects

April 14, 2021: Getting Ready for the new Building Energy Performance Standards

[Register for the 2021 Virtual Green Building Professional Seminar Series](#)

HUD's Let's Get Serious About Radon Webinar Program

[HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes](#) and the National Healthy Homes Partnership, a national network of indoor environmental health educators at state land-grant universities, are presenting three webinars in February to educate health care providers, community-based organizations, property management firms, and other housing and health stakeholders on how to save lives by testing and fixing radon hazards in the home. The first webinar will be in Spanish and the next two webinars will be in English. You must register separately for each webinar.

February 23, 2021: Radon: Developing Strategic Alliances to Increase Radon Awareness (Radón: Creación de Alianzas Estratégicas Para Incremental la Conciencia Sobre el Radón). Time: 2:00 pm–3:00 pm Eastern Time.

February 24, 2021: Building Partnerships to Increase Radon Awareness. Time: 2:00 pm–3:00 pm Eastern Time.

drinking water, and communication of lead hazards in drinking water. Initially, [EPA awarded DOEE a grant amount of \\$158,000](#). That amount was increased to \$242,000 for year one of the award. The second-year award amount is expected to be \$158,000.

CDC and DOEE Launch Multisector Initiatives to Advance Lead-safe and Healthy Housing

CREATING LEAD-FREE COMMUNITIES • Kicking off the new year, the District joined Louisville, KY as one of two sites selected to launch CDC's Lead-Free Communities Initiative. CDC announced the District's selection at the close of CDC's 2020 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Cooperative Agreement Recipient Meeting on December 10, 2020. DOEE and its partners will engage in CDC's new initiative via the Public Health Institute's year-long National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health (NLAPH). Each year, NLAPH trains and mentors small multisector teams as they design and conduct applied health leadership projects to transform their communities, improve health, and advance equity.

The District's core NLAPH team, coordinated by DOEE, includes the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, DC Healthy Housing Collaborative, DC Primary Care Association's Positive Accountable Community Transformation (DC PACT) Coalition, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation DC. The team will engage many other community stakeholders to inform and create a collaborative primary prevention approach to eliminating lead hazards in the District.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND WORKFORCE CAPACITY • DOEE's three newest grantees are also mobilizing multisector partners to address housing conditions that put disadvantaged children in the District at disproportionate risk for lead exposure and asthma. Funded through a cooperative agreement with CDC, DOEE's [Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing for DC Kids](#) grantees will create collaborative action plans for reducing housing-related health disparities. They will also educate and train key stakeholders to strengthen community capacity to identify and address lead, mold, pests, and other home health hazards.

- [Ethiopian Community Center, Inc. \(ECC\)](#): ECC's mission is to enhance the social and economic well-being of the African community in the Washington metropolitan area. Through its grant, ECC will partner with local faith-based and community nonprofit organizations and businesses to educate African families living in Wards 1, 4 and

February 25, 2021: Providing Radon Education: Most Common Questions and Misconceptions. Time: 2:00 pm-3:00 pm Eastern Time.

[Learn more about and register for the HUD Radon Webinar Program](#)

2021 Virtual LIHEAP Action Day

February 23-24, 2021

To promote awareness of the energy needs of low-income energy consumers and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) invites individuals to register for its [LIHEAP Action Day Virtual Events](#) scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and Wednesday, February 24, 2021. NEUAC also provides a [LIHEAP Action Toolkit](#) for individuals interested in raising awareness of the program year-round.

2021 Virtual Conference on Lead and Healthy Housing Issues

February 22-26, 2021 and on demand through May 1, 2021

The conference includes access to more than 30 presentations on lead poisoning prevention, lead hazard control, and healthy and safe housing issues. The conference is also pre-approved for 28 continuing education credit (CEU) hours from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Registrants will receive the NEHA pre-approval letter and Certificate of Completion upon request.

[Register for the 2021 Virtual Conference on Lead and Healthy Housing Issues](#)

5 of the District on how to reduce housing-related risks for childhood lead exposure and asthma.

- [Green & Healthy Homes Initiative \(GHHI\)](#): GHHI works to end lead poisoning and to advance long-term healthy homes solutions in communities nationwide. Through its grant, GHHI will train housing repair professionals in District neighborhoods most impacted by poor housing conditions. GHHI will also engage and support community ambassadors recruited from District families in Wards 4, 5, 7, and 8 to inform its education and outreach activities.
- [Institute for Public Health Innovation \(IPHI\)](#): IPHI serves as the backbone organization for the [DC Healthy Homes Collaborative](#), a multisector coalition seeking to address substandard housing conditions impacting the health of District residents. Through its grant, IPHI will support stakeholder engagement, planning, training, mobilizing, and product development activities to improve community and workforce knowledge, awareness, and capacity to address lead and other home health hazards.

DOEE also continues to support lead outreach and education activities to targeted populations through the agency's CDC-funded grants to the Central American Resource Center, Latino Economic Development Center of Washington, DC, and District of Columbia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. DOEE monitors all six of its CDC-funded grantees against approved project workplans and benchmarks. DOEE also encourages collaboration among the grantees and other stakeholders through bimonthly meetings of DOEE's Lead Poisoning Elimination and Healthy Homes Advisory Committee.

What's Buzzing at DOEE?

DOEE IMPLEMENTS NEW LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

- DOEE's [Lead Reduction Program](#), funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control, provides up to \$11,000 per unit to reduce or eliminate lead-based paint hazards in eligible single-family and multifamily properties in the District.



Properties eligible for the Lead Reduction Program must be of pre-1978 construction, have an income-eligible household in residence, and meet at least one of the following criteria:



How to Go Solar in DC

Many residents and landlords are interested in solar power but do not know where to start. DOEE invites residents, landlords, and clean energy stakeholders to join the solar seminar series to learn what steps they can take to go solar. Each of the five events in the solar seminar series begins at 1:00 pm Eastern Time and focuses on a specific aspect of going solar.

February 25, 2021: Before You Go Solar

March 11, 2021: Solar Contracting

March 25, 2021: Options & Incentives

April 8, 2021: Solar Renewable Credits

May 6, 2021: Community Solar

[Register for How to Go Solar in DC: A Solar Seminar Series](#)

Register to Attend Green Schools Summits in February

Throughout the month of February 2021, the Center for Green Schools and the Green Schools National Network will offer the [2021 Green Schools Summits](#), a series of four summits specifically designed [School Leaders](#), [Educators](#), [Building Industry Professionals](#), and [Facilities and Sustainability Professionals](#). On June 28-29, 2021, a [virtual Green Schools Conference](#) will offer attendees opportunities to hear diverse perspectives and dive deeper into the topics that were most in demand at the February 2021 Green Schools Summits.

- Have a child under six years of age in the residence; or
- Have a child under six years of age visiting for a significant amount of time (defined as at least three hours a day on two separate days of the week and a total of 60 hours per year) at the residence; or
- Have a pregnant woman residing in the home.

To determine if your property is eligible for DOEE's Lead Reduction Program, contact Ms. LaWanda Jones at (202) 236-2657 or at lawanda.jones@dc.gov, or visit the [Lead Reduction Program webpage](#).



You can also [register for a DOEE Lead Reduction Program informational webinar](#). The next

three dates for the free bimonthly webinars are Thursday, April 8; Thursday, June 17; and Wednesday, August 4. All webinars will be conducted at 11:00 am Eastern Time.



DC AGENCIES LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE FOCUSED ON PANDEMIC RELIEF FOR UTILITY CONSUMERS

• Are you concerned about electricity, gas, and water bills? "Make a plan. Pay what you can to keep utility costs under control." That's the message of [#Here2HelpDC](#), a joint initiative of the Department of Energy and Environment, DC Public Service Commission, DC Sustainable Energy Utility, and Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia. The District extended coronavirus (COVID-19) moratoriums on utility shutoffs until April 15, 2021. However, consumers are still responsible for paying their utility bills. [#Here2HelpDC](#) offers tips and tools to help you conserve energy and water resources, cut your utility bills, and find financial relief and payment programs. To learn about the District's energy and money-saving programs and initiatives, visit the website here2helpdc.dc.gov or call 311.

DOEE UPDATES LEAD PAINT DISCLOSURE FORMS • Did you know the [DC Lead Disclosure Form](#) for potential renters now requires disclosure of information related to lead plumbing and water systems? DOEE added the disclosure requirement to the DC Lead Disclosure Form in accordance with Section 3 of the Lead Water Service Line Replacement and Disclosure Amendment Act of 2018, (D.C. Law 22-241; D.C. Official Code § 42-1305), effective March 13, 2019. When selling a District property built before 1978, owners must also provide potential homebuyers a DC Lead Disclosure Form.

**Request for Public Comments:
HUD's National Standards for the
Physical Inspection of Real
Estate**

Deadline: March 15, 2021

On January 13, 2021, HUD published a request in the federal register for public comment on its proposed rule on the Economic Growth Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act: Implementation of National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE). Through the rule, HUD proposes to create a unified assessment of housing quality by aligning and consolidating inspection regulations used to evaluate HUD housing across multiple programs.

[View the proposed HUD rule and instructions for submitting comments](#)



**2021 District Sustainability
Awards! Now Accepting Award
Applications**

Deadline: March 19, 2021

Are you an environmental leader? Does your business operate sustainably? Is your organization working to build an equitable #SustainableDC? The District Sustainability Awards highlight businesses, individuals, and organizations that are working towards a more sustainable DC. Awardees' projects and programs support the Mayor's [Sustainable DC Plan](#), which aims to make the District the nation's greenest, healthiest, most sustainable city. Award

Last March, DOEE split the DC Lead Disclosure Form into two forms. Both forms are available in English and in Spanish. The DC Rental Lead Disclosure Form requires disclosure of information related to lead-based paint, lead-bearing plumbing, and related hazards. The DC Sales Lead Disclosure Form requires disclosure of information related to lead-based paint only. However, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) requires property sellers in the District to provide information on lead plumbing and water systems using the [Real Property Seller's Disclosure Statement](#) included in DCRA's notice of final rulemaking published in the District of Columbia Register on March 20, 2020.

Even small amounts of lead in paint, paint chips, dust, and water pose a serious health risk if not managed properly. Lead exposure is especially harmful to young children and babies in utero. For more information about the District's lead disclosure requirements, contact DOEE's Lead Compliance and Enforcement Branch at (202) 535-2600 or visit [DOEE's Lead Paint Disclosure Form and Instructions webpage](#).

EPA STRENGTHENS STANDARDS FOR DUST-LEAD LEVELS ON FLOORS AND WINDOW SILLS

• EPA announced new, tighter standards for lead in dust on floors and window sills to protect children from the harmful effects of lead exposure. The standards apply in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities. If you are [certified to conduct lead-based paint activities in the District of Columbia](#), including risk assessments, inspections, and/or abatements, you must adhere to these new standards.

Dust-Lead Hazard Standards: Effective January 6, 2020, EPA lowered the standard for lead in floor dust from 40 micrograms (μg) per square foot (ft^2) to $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$. At the same time, EPA lowered the standard for lead dust on interior window sills from $250 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ to $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$. [EPA's dust-lead hazard standards](#) are enforceable in the District pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 8-231.01(24)(C) and 20 DCMR §3399.

Clearance Standards: On December 21, 2020, EPA announced final action to lower the clearance levels for the amount of lead that can remain in dust on floors and window sills after lead removal activities. [EPA's final published rule on dust-lead post abatement clearance levels](#), effective March 8, 2021, lowers the clearance level for lead in dust to $10 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for floors and $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for window sills. These standards will be enforceable in the District pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 8-231.01(24)(C) and 20 DCMR §3399 as of that date.

categories include Individual, Business, Organization and Clean Energy DC. For more information, contact Mary Lynn Wilhere at marylynn.wilhere@dc.gov or (202) 870-2924.

[Apply for the 2021 District Sustainability Awards](#)

Nominees Sought for EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Deadline: March 24, 2021

EPA invites nominations from a diverse range of qualified candidates for its National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. The NEJAC provides advice on broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice. EPA seeks to fill approximately seven new vacancies. Individuals or organizations can nominate qualified candidates for NEJAC membership, or individuals can self-nominate.

[View the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council nomination process](#)

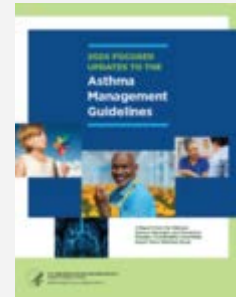
Connect with the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative

The [DC Healthy Housing Collaborative](#) is a multisector coalition seeking to address substandard housing conditions that contribute to significant health issues affecting District residents. [Sign up to stay connected to the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative](#) and [complete the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative Membership Survey](#). For more information about the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative, contact Abby Charles at the Institute for Public Health Innovation by email at acharles@instituteptepi.org or by telephone at (202) 400-3555.

Resources You Can Use

UPDATES TO ASTHMA MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES RELEASED

• For the first time in more than a decade, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released updated recommendations for improving asthma care based on systematic reviews of the best available evidence. The [2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines: A Report from The National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Expert Panel Working Group](#) provides tailored treatment interventions for specific age groups based on disease severity.



The focused updates take into account new medications and other advances since the last revision of the national asthma care guidelines in 2007. The new recommendations also incorporate input from focus groups and in-depth interviews with individuals with asthma, caregivers, and health care providers.

More than one in every ten children and adults in the District currently has asthma. The chronic lung disease inflames and narrows airways, causing wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. Asthma cannot be cured. However, asthma symptoms can be controlled through monitoring; avoiding allergens, irritants, and other triggering factors that can set off or worsen asthma symptoms; and using medications as prescribed. NIH also recommends all patients with asthma and their caregivers use a written [asthma action plan](#), developed with their health care provider, to manage asthma.

The new report offers guidance in six areas of asthma care: 1) intermittent inhaled corticosteroids, 2) long-acting muscarinic antagonists, 3) immunotherapy, 4) fractional inhaled nitric oxide testing, 5) bronchial thermoplasty, and 6) indoor allergen reduction. To reduce exposure for individuals allergic to a specific allergen, example, the report suggests using multiple strategies rather than a single strategy. For house dust mites, a common asthma trigger, such strategies might include removing carpet, cleaning with a HEPA vacuum, and using impermeable pillow and mattress covers to keep dust mites out. The report also recommends using [integrated pest management](#) for people who are allergic and exposed to cockroaches, mice, or rats.

To help people living with lung conditions breathe better, the NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute also released a [free companion Digital Toolkit to](#)





Join the DC Asthma Coalition's Fight Against Asthma

The [DC Asthma Coalition](#) is a community partnership of local citizens, health care providers and nonprofit organizations united to fight asthma in the District of Columbia. [Complete a DC Asthma Coalition Membership Application](#) to join or [contact the DC Asthma Coalition](#) to learn more.



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Stay up to date on all things Healthy Housing in the District. [Subscribe](#) and forward to your colleagues!

For questions, comments or additions, [contact our Editor](#).

Want to get more involved? Contact the [Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division](#), (202) 535-2600

Media Inquiries: Contact the [DOEE Public Information Officer](#)

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[promote the 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management Guidelines](#). The toolkit includes clinical guides for health care professionals, fact sheets for patients and caregivers, and media resources for asthma organizations.

ADDRESSING DC's COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS • How can we create a healthier community for all District residents? That's the question behind a nearly two-year data gathering, analytical, and priority-setting process led by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health), DC Hospital Association, DC Health Matters Collaborative (a coalition of four non-profit hospitals and four Federally Qualified Health Centers), and community partners. The findings, published in several reports and as a [new Interactive DC Community Health Needs Assessment \(DC CHNA\) website](#), summarize the health status of District residents and community resources that could be mobilized to improve District residents' health and equity over the next decade.



DC Health's [2019 DC CHNA report](#) analyzes key health and quality of life indicators for District residents by ward, race/ethnicity, age, gender, and sexual identity. The report also identifies local resources available to improve residents' health, including health care and social service organizations, community partnerships, and funding opportunities. The DC CHNA will serve as the foundation for developing DC Healthy People 2030's goals, objectives, targets and strategies.

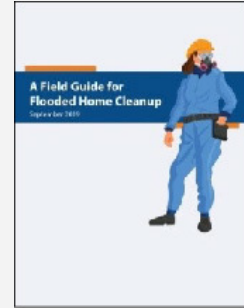


DC Health Matters Collaborative's [2019 CHNA and companion Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#) deliver insights from more than 300 community partners and a three-year roadmap for action centered around four priority areas: mental health, care coordination, health literacy, and place-based care. The CHIP outlines specific strategies for influencing policies, systems, or social conditions to foster a more efficient, responsive, and equitable system of care for District residents.

UPDATED GUIDE TO HOME CLEANUP AFTER A FLOOD • Did you know floods can make the air in your home unhealthy? Flood water, flood-damaged building materials, and post-flood cleanup activities can expose you to airborne contaminants arising from mold, bacteria, pests, lead-laden dust, asbestos fibers, chemical cleaning solutions, and other toxic substances. Such hazards can trigger respiratory illness, allergic reactions, and other adverse health effects. Scientists predict flooding will increase as climate change leads to

more frequent intense storms and extreme weather events.

How can you protect yourself and your family after a flood? [A Field Guide for Flooded Home Cleanup](#) by the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) and Enterprise Community Partners offers step-by-step guidance for addressing mold and other likely hazards in flooded homes. ([La guía también está disponible en español.](#)) CDC's National Center for Environmental Health and the National Environmental Health Association funded the revision of the field guide, first published in 2006 after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the online course, [Safe Cleanup of Your Flood Damaged Home](#), also available from NCHH.



ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFER CHILD CARE SETTINGS • Does your child care provider take steps to protect children from exposure to lead, radon, mold, improperly applied pesticides, and other pollutants? Did you know certain plastic and vinyl toys, costume jewelry, and imported candy may contain lead? Many environmental exposures in children are preventable. Check out the following tools and resources to learn how.

- [EPA's Healthy Child Care website](#) connects providers, parents and government agencies with tools and resources to identify and reduce children's exposure to pollutants that may be present in child care facilities.
- [Children's Environmental Health Network's \(CEHN\) Eco-Healthy Child Care® Program](#) endorses child care facilities that follow simple, low-cost eco-friendly best practices. The program is the recipient of awards from the EPA, National Environmental Health Association, and IPM Institute of North America, Inc. For more information, email ehcc@cehn.org or call (202) 543-4033, extension 10.
- [Lead-Safe Toolkit for Home-Based Child Care](#), developed by CEHN, National Association for Family Child Care, and National Center for Healthy Housing with funding from the JPB Foundation, offers posters, worksheets, and a four-part webinar series to help home-based child care providers identify and protect children from lead hazards found in paint, water, soil, and consumer products.

NATIONAL RADON MONTH • DOEE

observed January's National Radon Month by spreading the word to District residents about the importance of getting homes tested for radon and the health risks associated with radon exposure. Radon, a naturally occurring, radioactive gas, is the second leading cause of lung cancer behind smoking. You cannot see, smell, or taste radon. Since radon levels can fluctuate, it is a good idea to get homes tested every few years. If you are a District resident and would like to receive a free radon test kit, visit [DOEE's Radon webpage](#) or call the Radon Hotline at (202) 535-2302.



Questions? [Contact Us](#)



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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

