

**2016 DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY AWARD WINNER**  
**CASE STUDY: AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER



### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

American University (AU) demonstrates its strong history of environmental commitment through dedication to green buildings and design, landscape management, transportation initiatives, education programs, zero waste, and internal and external partnerships.

President Kerwin signed the Climate Commitment, and the university pledged to achieve climate neutrality by 2020.





## BEYOND SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY WORKS



Each spring, the AU community gathers to work together to beautify campus through the expansion of edible plantings, rain gardens, and shade trees on Campus Beautification Day. Students, staff, faculty, and community volunteers work to plant annuals and vegetables, spring clean the community garden, plant new rain gardens, or spruce up flower beds.

In 2016, the campus also included a special tree planting of 50 shade trees, kicking off the Canopy 3000 initiative to increase tree canopy in the district alongside the District of Columbia, Casey Trees, the National Park Service, and other local organizations.

Through campus and community partnerships, a commitment to sustainable infrastructure and energy choices, and dedication to the education of students and staff alike, American University demonstrates its commitment to an active pursuit of sustainability.

## COMMITTED TO RESILIENCY

American University builds all new construction to LEED Gold standards, purchases 100% renewable electricity, plants native and adaptive species, uses water saving technology and rain water management techniques that include extensive green roofs and rain gardens, and actively pursues a zero waste goal. In 2016, the AU portion of the Capital Partners Solar Project in North Carolina came online and provides campus with half of its electricity, in partnership with George Washington University and George Washington University Hospital.

American University boasts a comprehensive transportation program that connects the community with a wide range of transportation options including shuttles, bike share, and carpooling. New in 2016, full-time students are able to use the University Pass (U-Pass) for unlimited access to Metro and Metrobus for a fixed semester cost embedded in student fees. The Office of Sustainability runs programs to educate staff, faculty, and students about sustainability practices on campus and encourages and supports environmentally friendly behavior throughout campus.

## ABOUT THE DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS



The District Sustainability Awards recognize businesses, individuals and organizations for outstanding achievements and leadership in sustainability. The honorees support the goals of the District's sustainability plan, Sustainable DC, in areas such as energy and water conservation, renewable energy production, healthy food access, stormwater management, green jobs development, and sustainable waste management.



From the left: American University President, Cornelius Kerwin, Amitava Paul, Megan Litke, Hannah Debelius