



2022

Case Studies

District Sustainability Awards

Clean Energy DC Award

The summaries are edited portions of the original award applications.

Prepared by:

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Congratulations to All of Our Winners!



I am pleased to present the 2022 District Sustainability Winners. This year, we have seven winners – six District Sustainability Awards and one Clean Energy DC Award. These awards not only give us an opportunity to recognize the sustainable leaders in our city, but they help to remind us of the creative, passionate people in our neighborhoods and communities that make the District so special, who are giving back in so many ways, every day. I encourage you to take a moment and view their stories on DOEE’s YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/DDOEPublicInfo>.

Our awardees are an individual who has a long history of advocating for the District’s waterways; a local hospital using innovative technology to reduce and control emissions; a nonprofit organization that provides economic opportunities to youth by growing and selling food; a gourmet bistro that offers a new approach on organic food and wild caught fish and provides employment for returning citizens; a neighborhood volunteer group that removes invasive plants and improves the natural environment; a nonprofit organization that encourages youth through sports, while utilizing solar power; and a design firm that is helping DC Public Schools retrofit for sustainability and net-zero energy.

After viewing our short film on YouTube, you can read more about the District’s sustainability goals (and how our winners are moving the needle) at sustainable.dc.gov and check out this year’s progress reports for our trio of sustainability and climate plans: Sustainable DC, Clean Energy DC, and Climate Ready DC.

Congratulations to all of our winners!

Tommy Wells
Director
Department of Energy & Environment



Ariel Trahan

Individual Award

As the Director of River Restoration Programs at the Anacostia Watershed Society, Ariel Trahan is working to educate students about sustainability and the environment. Ms. Trahan started as an environmental educator working with District teachers and students, and since 2009, has been conducting field trips on the Anacostia River.



Ms. Trahan has engaged students in hands-on restoration projects such as raising wild rice in their classrooms and planting it in the Anacostia River, raising shad fry (the District's state fish) in their classrooms and releasing them into the Anacostia River, tree planting, and meadow restoration.

During this time, she has worked towards making the District's waterways swimmable and fishable and increased high-quality habitat through wetland and mussel restoration projects.

Ms. Trahan advocates for environmental education through her work on such initiatives as the drafting of the original DC Environmental Literacy Plan. Ms. Trahan serves as a mentor in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education Environmental Literacy Leadership Cadre. Ms. Trahan was also involved in the drafting of the original *Sustainable DC Plan*, and the update of *Sustainable DC 2.0*.

A core part of her motivation for the work that she does is ensuring that all District (and watershed) residents have opportunities to engage with the local natural resources in ways that are meaningful to them.



Children's National Hospital

111 Michigan Avenue, NW

childrensnational.org



The Children's National Hospital is ranked the #1 pediatric hospital in the District-Maryland-Virginia region and one of the top ten pediatric hospitals in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.

2022 marks the third year that the Children's National Hospital has been recognized by DOEE for its environmental leadership through a District Sustainability Award.

This year's application focuses on lowering greenhouse gas emissions from the healthcare sector. To lower its emissions, the Children's National Hospital implemented a program to reduce emissions from volatile anesthetics which contribute to ozone depletion and climate change.

Gas flows can be safely reduced to as low as 250 mL/min (metabolic flow rates), providing both



economical and health benefits to patients as well as "going green." Desflurane vaporizers have been eliminated entirely from the operating rooms at the Sheikh Zayed campus, at the start of 2022.

By doing so, hospitals can not only decrease the volume of inhaled anesthetics used, and therefore decrease the global warming potential (GWP) but can also decrease costs. This program has saved the hospital \$75,000 (2018 vs. 2020 costs).

The hospital has joined [Practice Green Health](#) and holds a seat on the Vizient Sustainability Council. These steps enable Children's National Hospital to be on the forefront of national sustainability efforts that better position it for success.

Finally, Children's National Hospital works on philanthropy efforts that have supported projects such as the Healing Garden for its patients and visitors, which provides a tranquil outdoor environment for families.



Dreaming Out Loud, Inc.

80 M Street, SE

dreamingoutloud.org



Dreaming Out Loud, Inc. (DOL) works to create economic opportunities for the District's marginalized community members through building a culturally equitable food system. DOL is rebuilding urban, community-based food systems through cooperative social enterprise: increasing access to healthy food; improving community health; supporting entrepreneurs and cooperatives from low-income communities; and creating opportunities for at-risk residents to earn sustainable, family-supporting wages and build wealth.

DOL was founded in 2008 by Christopher Bradshaw in response to the educational and socioeconomic disparities facing communities in Washington, DC. Working to close this gap, DOL started by providing leadership and character development programs to school-aged children in Ward 7, through a partnership with NIA Public Charter School.

DOL is addressing inequities in DC by empowering entrepreneurs in the food industry, producing educational youth programs, and providing access to farm fresh foods in DC's worst food deserts.



FishScale

637 Florida Avenue, NW

wearefishscale.com



FishScale is a gourmet burger bistro that specializes in offering local, organic food (including wild caught sustainable fish) while implementing sustainable restaurant practices. FishScale's dedication to environmental sustainability was recognized by the National Geographic Society office in Washington, DC, as demonstrated by an invitation to participate as a food vendor for their "Party for the Planet" event which was held during the Explorers Festival and their Return to the Workspace celebration. FishScale was awarded the title of a Smart Catch Leader (the highest recognition) of the James Beard Smart Catch program and was recognized and featured as an "Ocean Friendly Restaurant" by the Surfrider Foundation.

FishScale's flagship location is strategically nestled in a historically underutilized business zone and a food desert and provides a healthy alternative to foods from convenience stores and traditional carry-outs. FishScale has teamed up with Compost Cab for its compost needs (organic produce food waste, charcoal ashes, takeout containers, unbleached paper towels).

FishScale is dedicated to hiring individuals of diverse backgrounds with barriers to employment. The restaurant reports that 100% of the individuals it hires are returning citizens, past participants of workforce development programs (such as Department of Employment Services Project Empowerment or United Planning Organizations), or from historically disadvantaged Black and Brown communities.



Shepherd Park Weed Warriors

Email shepherdparkweedwarriors@gmail.com



Shepherd Park Weed Warriors started in the fall of 2021 and is working with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to train folks on how to tackle the invasive plants at Shepherd Field to restore the hillside to a natural setting that is a supportive wildlife and pollinator habitat. In addition to DPR, the Shepherd Park Weed Warriors works closely with the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, District Department of Transportation Urban Forestry, and the Rock Creek Conservancy to create equitable change, engage the broader community, and improve the quality of the natural environment in Ward 4.



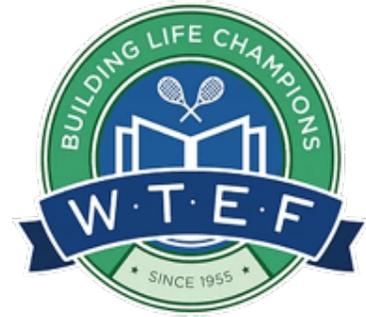
This group trains citizens to remove invasive plants while protecting and planting District native plants. Communities of color and older communities often are not involved in environmental programs for nonprofit organizations. Ward 4, home of the Weed Warriors, is racially diverse and skews older in terms of age. The Weed Warriors provide free training in how to preserve trees and to encourage the planting of native plants and vegetable gardens. These efforts can provide job training for those who want to create careers in environmentally sound landscaping.

Improving the environment decreases pesticide use, improves air and water quality, and enables residents to grow their own vegetables to improve dietary health where access to fresh vegetables may be limited by one's finances.



Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF)

200 Stoddert Place, SE
wtef.org



The Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF) empowers the youth in Ward 7 with its tennis and education programming efforts; efforts that will now receive additional benefits from a solar project revenue stream (749 kW) that would have otherwise gone towards utility bills.

WTEF partnered with New Columbia Solar to bring a 749-kW solar project to its 50,000 sq. ft. standing seam roof, which will benefit both the WTEF and at-large DC community through DOEE's Solar for All program. The installation at WTEF is the 11th largest solar project in the District and is the eighth largest Solar for All project to date (according to the District of Columbia Public Service Commission list of eligible renewable generators). This project is also the third largest Solar for All project that's east of the Anacostia River.



Over the 15-year lifetime of the solar array, WTEF will receive lease payments to host the solar system, which will directly benefit its after school academic, tennis, and wellness programs for the Ward 7 community. The foundation equips more than 1,100 students per year with critical life skills to empower them to achieve their full potential.

The system will also allow more than 214 income-qualified families to cut their electricity bills in half over the next fifteen years through the Solar for All program, which was launched by DOEE in 2017 and is currently operated by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility. This program allows "equal access" to energy and in turn reduces residents' electrical utility burdens while addressing climate change.





Perkins Eastman DC

One Thomas Circle NW, Suite 270
perkinseastman-dc.com/

Perkins Eastman DC has enhanced the District's national and international reputation for innovative green building design. Perkins Eastman DC worked with the DC Public Schools to open the District's first two schools pursuing net-zero energy: John Lewis Elementary School and Banneker Academic High School.

John Lewis Elementary School is poised to become the first school in the world to pursue net-zero energy, LEED Platinum, and WELL certification, setting a new benchmark for performance for the District's public schools. The project's contribution to equity is seen not only in the fact that the school—with more than 70 percent of its enrollment comprised of students of color from the surrounding neighborhood—is the most ambitious design undertaken in the District's \$4 billion school modernization program. It's also seen in the school's purposeful renaming and charge to its students to carry on John Lewis' legacy of getting into "good trouble." Perkins Eastman DC is also committed to pursuing what they call "Net Positive Education"—the creation of a high performance learning environment that will positively support the health and education of all John Lewis Elementary School students, teachers, and staff.

"Over the past twenty years, our team (Perkins Eastman DC) has been actively collaborating with the District of Columbia Public Schools and the Department of General Services to renew the schools that serve as the bedrock of our city's communities. Our designs have not only had a positive impact on individual schools and their surrounding communities but also, through our large-scale vision of sustainable design, have helped expand the potential for all subsequent school projects to realize a more resilient future for the District."



John Lewis Elementary School

For additional information about the District Sustainability Award Winners, please contact the Department of Energy and Environment, Urban Sustainability Administration, at (202) 535-2600.



DEPARTMENT
OF **ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT**

 **GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
 **MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**