

Black People in Environmental Careers

SPEAKERS:

- **Emil King**: District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- **Danielle Nkojo**: Ralph Lauren
- **Jerome Nesbitt**: The Green Scheme
- **Beatrice Ohene-Okae**: DOEE
- **Ousman Cheek**: Sierra Club

Facilitators: Etayenesh Asfaw & Asteria Hyera



From Urban Gardens to Economic Sovereignty



Meet the Team



Ronnie Webb
Founder/Executive Director
The Green Scheme



Tom McDougall
Founder/CEO
4P Foods
TGS Board Member



Jerome Nesbit
Deputy Director
The Green Scheme

The Green Scheme

Founded in 2011 to improve the trajectory of public health, educational and economic outcomes in challenged communities through training and awareness of environmental issues.

Code Green

- 6-week youth programming that creates and empowers environmental stewards through planting urban gardens

Consulting

- Teaching schools and communities how to apply our curriculum

Girls Gone Green

- Brings women and girls together to address their specific health issues
- Learn to create and monetize plant-based cosmetics and body care products



Corner Water



4P Foods

- Regional food hub aggregating from 200+ small, local farmers using sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices.
- Delivering to homes, offices, and community sites throughout DMV.
- Plays the role of solving the geographic access problem.
- Partnering with organizations to tackle rural poverty and urban food access.



Food Justice Definitions

Food Deserts

- Per the [USDA](#), “A food desert is a low-income census tract where either a substantial number or share of residents has *low access to a supermarket or large grocery store.*”
- Low income means 20 percent or more of individuals are below the federal poverty line. A low-income census tract is any tract in which ***33 percent of the population is over a mile from a grocery store in urban areas, or 10 miles in rural.***

Food Apartheid

- This term recognizes the political, economic and social inequalities in the food system, rather than solely focusing on racial and geographical discrepancies.

Food Insecurity

- The lack of sufficient food and a healthy diet.

Current Food Chain



- Slavery
- Free labor
- Farm Subsidies
- Cost of land
- Avg age 59

- Farm workers are not paid a living wage

- Segregation
- Fast-food
- Diet related illness

- Redlining
- Policies
- Subsidized food system

- Lack of supermarkets
- Profits and tax dollars leave community
- Cost

- Racism
- Poverty
- Transportation

THE FOOD SYSTEM

FOOD WASTE MANAGEMENT

COMPOST

ENERGY

FOOD RESCUE

SCHOOLS

GROCERS

HOSPITALS

RESTAURANTS

FOOD PANTRIES

HOMES

DISTRIBUTION

RETAIL

WHOLESALE

PRODUCTION

LAND

LABOR

SOIL, WATER

EQUIPMENT

ENERGY

PROCESSING

VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS

PACKAGING

CONSUMER

Corner Water

- This project takes urban gardening and nutrition best practices and turns them into economic sustainability.
- Herbs come from the Code Green gardens or local farms
- Began as a youth-focused program, but is applicable to other populations
- Easily transitions youth to a sugar-free beverage
- Capitalize on 4P's current distribution system & customer base



New Food System

- Own the supply chain – from farming to consumption
- Public, Private, Philanthropic partnerships
- Locally owned and developed
- Equitable distribution of wealth creation
- Entrepreneurship and economic sovereignty
- Invest profits into community

4P Foods

Aggregation

Distribution

Storage

Marketing

+

The Green Scheme

Urban Farming

Education

Entrepreneurship

Youth Empowerment

Arts & Culture

=

The Green Scheme & 4P

Urban Farming

Aggregation

Education

Distribution

Entrepreneurship

Storage

Empowerment

Marketing

Arts & Culture

Economic and Food Sovereignty

- Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- Emulate the Girl Scout cookie model
- Co-op of independent Corner Water franchises
- Develop a portfolio of products (Girls Gone Green etc.)
- Promote autonomy and entrepreneurialship



Corner Water Demo



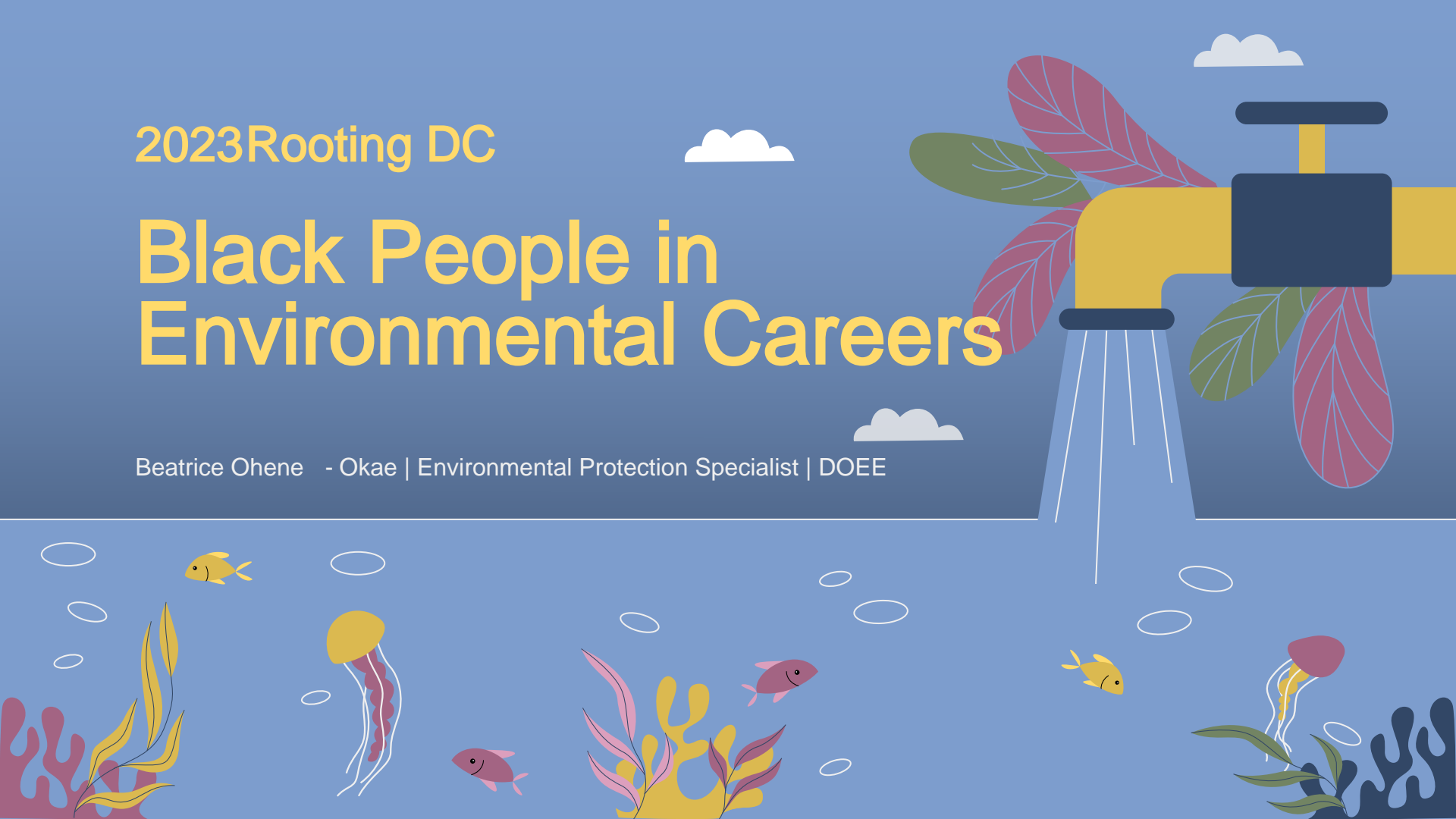
Questions & Answers



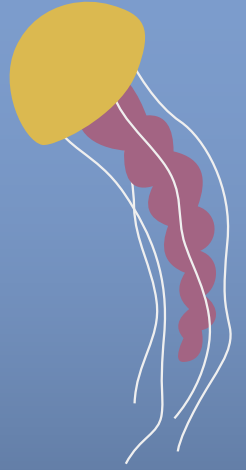
2023Rooting DC

Black People in Environmental Careers

Beatrice Ohene - Okae | Environmental Protection Specialist | DOEE

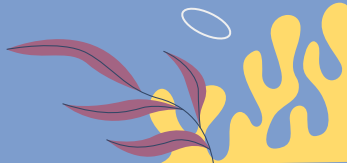
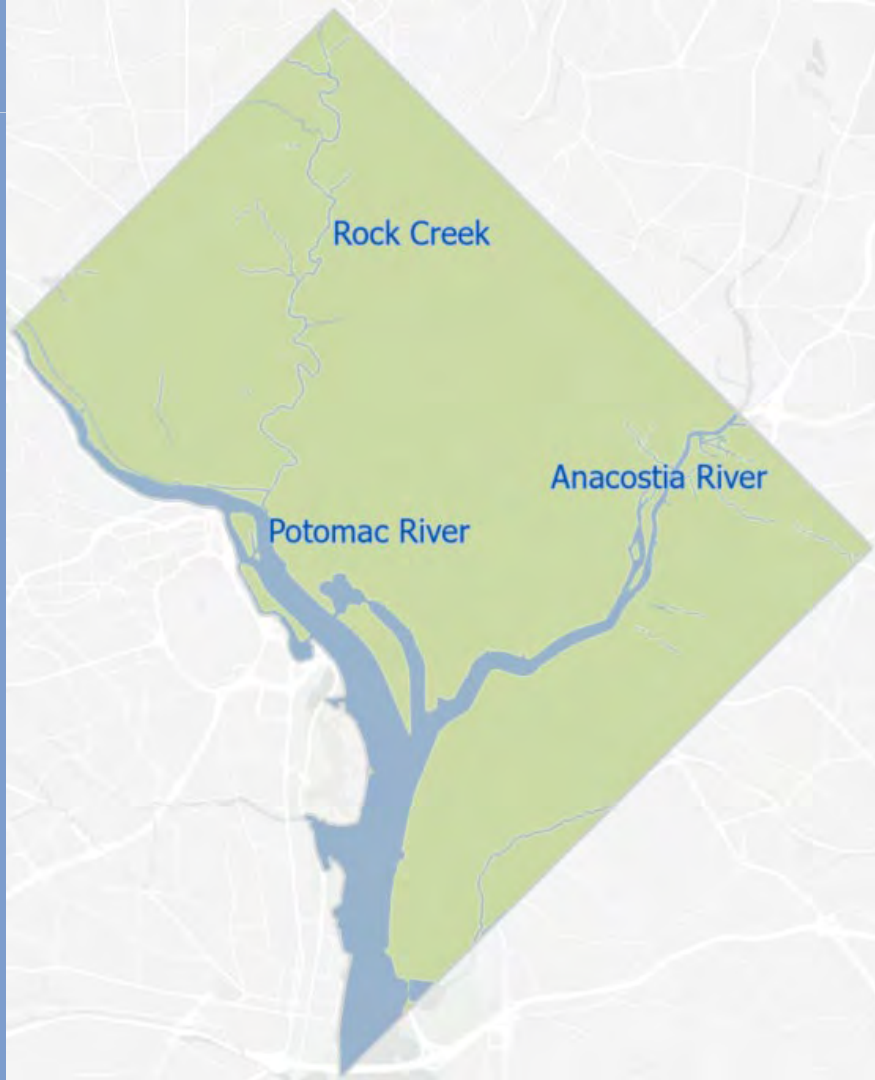


Mission statement



...[!] mprove the quality of life for the residents...by protecting and restoring the environment, conserving our natural resources, mitigating pollution, increasing access to clean and renewable energy, and educating the public on ways to secure a sustainable future.

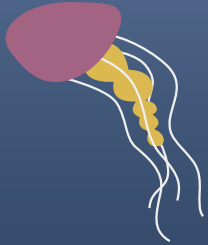






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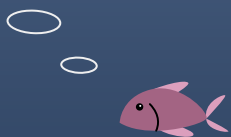






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460K+

Gallons Retained

DOEE programs help prevent harmful runoff into the District's waterways

15.4



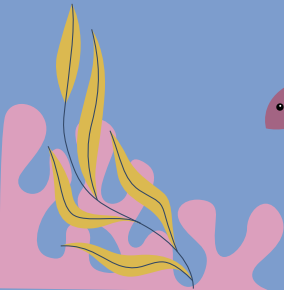



Acres Retrofitted

Grants and projects help install new green infrastructure across the city

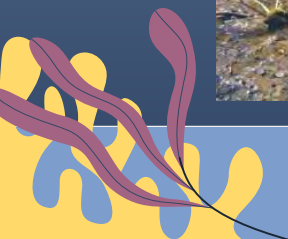
5M+


New Sq ft

New green roof installations in the District help manage stormwater runoff





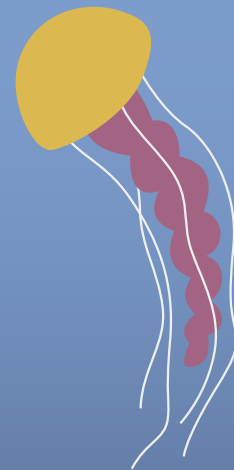


An underwater scene with a blue background. There are several small white circles representing bubbles scattered throughout. A pink fish is in the top left, a yellow fish is in the top right, a pink fish is in the bottom center, and a yellow fish is in the bottom right. A yellow jellyfish with a red bell and white tentacles is on the left side. There are also some green and yellow seaweed-like plants at the bottom left and bottom right.

*“Our goal is a fishable, swimmable
Anacostia River...efforts like these
are how we will become the
healthiest, greenest, and most
sustainable city in the world”*

—Mayor Muriel Bowser

Thank You!



Do you have any questions?

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“The Farm @ Kelly Miller” (Kelly Miller Middle School)



Harvest from Community Gardens

(figs, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, mint, squash, nasturtium)

Tea blend from Mutual Aid

Apothecary



Environmental Education through Community Gardening

Moving with Purpose - Being in Community

Rooting DC - James Ousman Cheek



Climate Protest @ COP26



Poor People's Campaign Event



Climate Protest @ COP26



Meeting peers in the movement @ COP26 (Glasgow, Scotland)



Dr. Colonel West @ Student Debt Relief Event



Juan, Paola & Little Mario
Owners of "Good Choice" Zero Waste Shop



Bulk eggs w/ empty cartons



Drums of toiletries (shampoo, soap)



Free containers (for bulk)





Site of Global Youth Tech Summit (Kigali, Rwanda)



Green terracing (sustainable urban design)



ITU Delegation @ Kigali Genocide Memorial



Former Astronaut Dan Tani



Sierra Club's "Black Action Team" - First Annual Retreat (New Orleans, LA)

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