



2021 Case Studies

District Sustainability Awards Clean Energy DC Award and Honorable Mention People's Choice Award

The summaries are edited portions of the original award applications.

Prepared by:

Urban Sustainability Administration
Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
1200 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
doee.dc.gov

Common Good City Farm

300 V Street, NW

<https://www.commongoodcityfarm.org/>



Common Good City Farm (The Farm) is an urban farm in LeDroit Park, Washington, DC. For the last 13 years, they've been providing fresh fruits and vegetables to the community while using sustainable and organic growing techniques. The Farm provides educational programming for children, youth, families, and individuals looking for a way to get more connected to their food system and reduce their environmental impact.



Addressing food justice issues is at the core of their mission. The Farm knows that equitable access to food that is healthy for both the people who consume it and the planet that produces it is a long way off. They are filling a small part of that gap in access as the primary place in the LeDroit Park where people can buy fresh fruits or vegetables. In fact, until the Whole Foods in Shaw was built, The Farm was the only place within what most people would consider "walking distance" that wasn't a corner store.

because so many families were struggling to put food on the table in the midst of a global health and economic crisis. The Farm created an entirely new type of market that allows customers to pay whatever they can for their produce. Customers can self-select their ability to pay more or less than the value of the produce they've selected--and can even take up to \$10 worth of produce for free. The Farm also knows that most of the children who attend the LEAF program (Learning for the Environment, Agriculture and Food), regularly come from families that don't have a lot of resources. That's why they've partnered with Learn24 to provide free home gardening and home cooking kits, as well as monthly ingredient kits that students can use along with our virtual classes. Common Good City Farm hopes that when they are able to return in person they can continue to support these families with healthy recipes and ingredients to share.

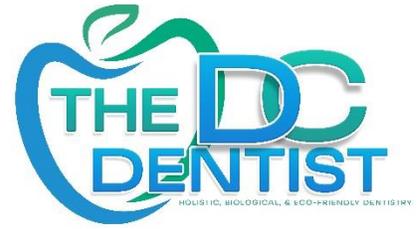
In 2020, The Farm raised funds to give away produce from their farm and from other farms



The DC Dentist

509 11th Street, SE

<https://thedcdentist.com/>



The DC Dentist is a holistic and biological dental office located in Ward 6. They are one of the first eco-friendly dental offices on the East Coast. Their philosophy is to utilize green design and practices that protect the immediate health of their patients, team members, and surrounding community.

The DC Dentist's office is at the forefront of sustainability. Their ceiling tiles are made from recycled plastic bottles to decrease plastic in landfills. The building that houses the dental office was built in 1904 and The DC Dentist restored the original Terrazo floor which still looks beautiful. The front windows and door have a window film



which blocks UV light. In the summer the film helps to keep the inside cool and in the winter it assists in keeping their office warm. It therefore decreases their utilities. Their reception area chairs and carpet were not only bought used, they are reupholstered with post-consumer recycled material. All the paint in the office is No-VOC which is less toxic to staff and patients. They have a high efficiency HVAC system. The office reduces the use of paper by having all charts electronic. Their counter in the reception area is IceStone® which is made of compressed glass instead of marble which has offgases. The bulbs in their work stations are LED. They have a tankless water heater. Skylights are in the ceiling to increase natural light. The office has a green roof with plants year round. The office also has a ductless heating system which

requires less energy than ducts. The office has an amalgam separator which stops mercury from going into the city waste water. The DC Dentist has had it for 10 years and it was mandated for all dental offices to have it in 2020. When The DC Dentist set out to design their dental practice sustainability was at the core of their thought process--how to have a safe, cleaner space that is also efficient and it also had to be beautiful. Their philosophy is that they will always do their part to make DC a more sustainable city.





Gearin' Up Bicycles

1811 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

<http://gearinupbicycles.org/>

Gearin' Up Bicycles' purpose is to create career development opportunities and teach essential workplace skills to youth from under-served communities, while encouraging cycling as a practical, healthy means of transportation. Gearin' Up provides access to quality, affordable, used bicycles for those in need and hosts various community outreach programs throughout the year.



Gearin' Up Bicycles empowers local communities of color in the District's Wards 5, 7, and 8, to become adept bicyclists, to do their own basic bike maintenance, and to pursue cycling for local transportation as well as recreation. They take donations of hundreds of used bicycles each year and are able to either fully refurbish them for (affordable) resale or strip them for parts.

The world of cycling is predominantly white--in shop ownership, ridership, skills, and access to resources. Gearin' Up Bicycles provides workforce training opportunities for youth of color, with paid internships as highly qualified bicycle mechanics. These young people are promoted, including their current shop manager, and find good jobs in other bike shops. Gearin' Up also offers affordable repairs and refurbished bicycles to community members--at lower cost than other shops. Gearin' Up runs educational programs in bicycle maintenance and safety focused on youth in Wards 5, 7 and 8--much of which is a bicycle "desert" with no shops. Gearin' Up promotes cycling for health but also as the most affordable means of transportation in the city, and as a lifelong habit, not

just a kids' activity. Gearin' Up also features people of color in leadership positions--also key in the bicycle and nonprofit worlds.



Kaifa Anderson-Hall

<http://www.plantsandbloomsreimagined.org>

Ms. Anderson-Hall is a horticultural therapist and started her organization, Plants and Blooms Reimagined, to bring post-event floral arrangements, surplus and end of market cut floral materials to senior communities, homeless shelters, day programs for differently-abled adults, social service facilities, and health care clinics.



With her organization, Kaifa has implemented five areas of the District's *Sustainable DC Plan*: 1) Waste - utilizes post event floral arrangements and surplus floral supplies. Instead of going directly into the waste stream, they are repurposed

and reused; 2) Nature - brings the joy and beauty of nature to individuals who often do not have access such as youth from low-income neighborhoods, youth and young adults with intellectual disabilities, seniors in nursing homes, hospital patients, and more; 3) Equity -- works exclusively in low income and marginalized communities, as well as with individuals with disabilities; 4) Education-- leads flower arranging workshops and therapeutic activities with seniors, homeless women, the visually impaired, youth, and more; and 5) Health - especially during this pandemic, which exacerbated mental health concerns related to isolation and loneliness, and where the restorative nature of being outside was encouraged, the people Kaifa works with

often do not have that ability to be socially distant with others and/or outside. Research shows that the having plants and flowers inside can still provide the mental boost you need to experience the benefits of nature.

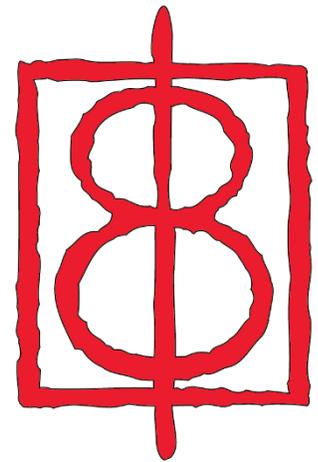
Ms. Anderson-Hall has a long career of bringing the joys and benefits of nature to under-resourced and marginalized communities.



One Eight Distilling, LLC

1135 Okie Street, NW

<https://www.oneeightdistilling.com/>



One Eight Distilling is DC's only grain to glass craft distillery. They support local agriculture by purchasing organic (certified or grown with organic practices) grain from small farms. They create innovative spirits, primarily their core District made line, from scratch that highlight the rich distilling terroir and history of our region.

One Eight Distilling has taken many steps to improve their sustainability. They have installed a massive solar array (since installation they have generated 134 MWh, 60% of the energy consumed) on their roof top. They utilize an efficient heat exchanger to reduce cooling water needs for their mash and another efficient heat exchanger (beer warmer) to warm the distillers beer prior to distillation. They collect up to 3,000 gallons of cooling water to reuse in their processes. They purchase their organic (certified or grown with organic practices) from Maryland and Virginia farms to help support local agriculture and reduce the carbon footprint of transporting grain. They have eliminated 99% of their chemical use (acids and caustics) from their tank cleaning and sanitization steps, replacing with steam.

One Eight Distilling has made huge donations to homeless shelters and food banks of hand sanitizer and of product (an entire barrel of whiskey was donated to DC Central Kitchen for their annual auction).





Clean Energy DC Award

Research & Innovation Campus, Children's National Hospital

7144 13th Place, NW

<https://childrensnational.org>

New Columbia Solar

401 New York Avenue, NW

<https://newcolumbiasolar.com/>

The solar installation project of Children's National Hospital and New Columbia Solar reflects the commitment of both organizations to serve the DC community. The solar canopy project installed at the Children's National Hospital Research & Innovation Campus employed the installation of 2,444 solar modules to generate 1.148 megawatts of clean energy. Annually, the solar canopy can generate 1.5 million kilowatt hours per year, enough to offset the electrical needs of 325 District low-income households. This installation also represents the largest solar canopy in the District of Columbia.



At the Research & Innovation Campus (RIC), Children's National was fortunate enough to acquire a large five-story above grade parking garage the provided the perfect location for a cutting-edge solar array. The original re-development vision of the parking garage at the RIC always had the goal to incorporate a solar array as a recognizable element to further exhibit human technological successes. Once Children's National began collaborating with New Columbia Solar, they started to understand that they could do some great things with this project in order to support and improve the location community in the District of Columbia. In order to move forward with this plan, Children's National held many meetings with the local ANC and community members to understand their input,

positions, and any concerns. They were able to communicate the solar array design to the community and able to incorporate modifications so that the delivered structure "in the backyard" of Ward 4 was accepted and not associated as a negatively viewed installation.



New Partners Community Solar

799 9th Street, NW

<https://www.npsolar.org/>

Clean Energy DC Honorable Mention

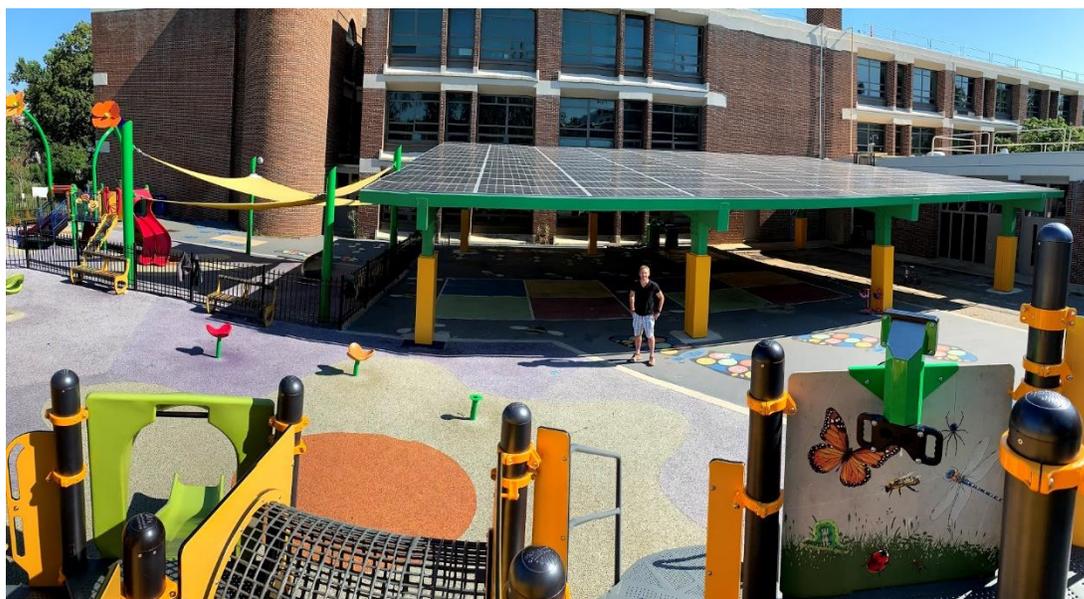


New Partners Community Solar is a nonprofit organization that envisions inclusive communities where the health, environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy are accessible to everyone, regardless of their income. Their work in increasing the District's renewable energy supply not only addresses producing solar energy on some of the most challenging locations, but doing so in a way that promotes environmental justice by transforming renewable energy development, finance, and policy to benefit their most vulnerable citizens.



100% of the economic benefit of their solar arrays is distributed to low-income households in the District in the form of billing credits. These credits aim to lessen the energy burden disproportionately felt by these communities by 50%. In addition to having an immediately-realized economic benefit to community members, solar energy credits allow communities that suffer from environmental injustice equitable access to the benefits of clean, renewable energy. Their beneficiaries all live within the properties owned and managed by our affordable housing partners – with whom they work very closely to enroll their residents and promote solar energy.

New Partners Community Solar is sensitive to the opportunity for workforce development that solar presents. They support trainee programs, promote hiring trainees, hire local minority-owned contractors, and have hired minority staff. Most recently they have worked with both affordable housing and commercial building owners to specify the use of such workforce members in their renewable energy projects.



Goodwill of Greater Washington

1140 3rd Street, NE

<https://dgoodwill.org/>

People's Choice Award

Goodwill of Greater Washington is an approved non-profit charitable 501(c)(3) organization. Their mission is to transform lives and communities through the power of education and employment. They fund that mission primarily through diverse lines of business including a chain of retail stores, custodial services, pest control and grounds maintenance operations. They also generate revenue through individual, foundation, and corporate giving. In downtown DC, Goodwill operates an adult charter school called The Goodwill Excel, a unique school for that offers high school diplomas at no charge to District residents.

Through their Donation Centers, Goodwill diverts millions of pounds of waste from local landfills, reselling donated items at our 20 retail stores. Items that cannot be sold at their retail locations are recycled through their salvage operations. When Goodwill receives excess clothing donations that won't sell in the stores, the items are baled and sold as textile salvage to salvage companies.



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Goodwill is not just environmentally sustainable, they're economically and culturally sustainable as well. In 2019, Goodwill provided free job training and education opportunities to more than 3,400 people in need in our community. 130 people were directly placed into new careers. The average starting hourly wage of those placed into employment was almost \$16.00. Through the

Goodwill Excel Center, Goodwill breaks down the barriers to access to education. The school is offered in-person and virtually. To meet the needs to DC residents, the school is tuition-free, offers free childcare on-site, and transportation assistance. The high percentage of the school's students are African American.



For additional information about the District Sustainability Award Winners, please contact the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), Urban Sustainability Administration at (202) 535-1939.

