



## District of Columbia University Sustainability Pledge

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to making the District the healthiest, greenest, most livable city in America by 2032 through leadership in sustainability and bold climate action;

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Muriel Bowser is building a more resilient city in the face of climate change through the implementation of Sustainable DC and Climate Ready DC, and the development of a comprehensive energy plan, Clean Energy DC;


**WHEREAS**, the District's universities and the Government of the District of Columbia have demonstrated their commitment and success by working collaboratively for five years on an initial sustainability pledge;

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to supporting the District's universities through providing trainings, facilitating discussions, and identifying appropriate financial incentives and grant opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, the District's universities remain committed to creating a sustainable and resilient future for all District residents, including the more than 83,000 university students whom they serve;

**WHEREAS**, the District's universities' collective influence and their role as drivers of cutting-edge research and education are invaluable to implementing local sustainability policies and strategies;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Muriel Bowser

  
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Sylvia M. Burwell, American University


  
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John H. Garvey, The Catholic University of America


  
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Roberta J. Cordano, J.D., Gallaudet University

  
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Dr. John J. DeGioia, Georgetown University

  
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Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc, The George Washington University

  
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Dr. Wayne A. J. Frederick, Howard University

  
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Patricia A. McGuire, Trinity Washington University

  
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Ronald Mason, Jr., J.D.,  
University of the District of Columbia



Hereby join the District of Columbia's University Sustainability Pledge, and commit to collectively working with the other signatories towards the targets and benchmarks described below. To reach these collective goals, the signatories of this Pledge agree to meet with and learn from each other to pursue programs, policies, and projects that increase the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the District of Columbia.

## **University Sustainability Pledge**

To advance the goals set forth in the District's citywide sustainability plan to make DC the healthiest, greenest, most livable city by 2032, the following targets and benchmarks were adapted from the *2012 College and University Sustainability Pledge* and directly correspond with the District's Sustainable DC and Climate Ready DC Plans.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Target:** By 2032, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a collective average of 50%.

*Benchmark: By 2022, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a collective average of 25%.*

### **ENERGY**

**Target:** By 2032, increase the use of renewable energy to make up a collective average of 50% of the universities' energy supply.

*Benchmark: By 2022, increase the use of renewable energy to make up a collective average of 15% of the universities' energy supply.*

### **RESILIENCE**

**Target:** By 2032, 100% of pledged universities will conduct a climate change risk assessment and develop a climate change resilience action plan.

*Benchmark: By 2022, 100% of pledged universities will begin climate resilience planning efforts and identify relevant climate hazards.*

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Target:** By 2032, achieve a collective average waste diversion rate (recycling and composting) of 80%.

*Benchmark: By 2022, achieve a collective average waste diversion rate (recycling and composting) of 40%.*



## **WATER**

**Target:** By 2032, manage or retrofit a collective average of 20% of unmanaged impervious areas on university campuses.

*Benchmark: By 2022, manage or retrofit a collective average of 10% of unmanaged impervious areas on university campuses.*

*The baseline year for the targets above is 2012, aligned with the Sustainable DC plan.*