



2023

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 2023 District Sustainability Award Winners. This year, we have five winners – four District Sustainability Awards and one Clean Energy DC Award. The awards give us an opportunity to thank and recognize the individuals, businesses, and organizations that help to make the District the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States.

Mayor Muriel Bowser recently announced *DC's Comeback Plan* to revitalize the District of Columbia. One important goal of the Mayor's Plan is to attract 15,000 new residents. The Bowser Administration recognizes that a clean environment is a major factor in deciding where to live and work. These case studies give our winners the opportunity to share their stories with current and future residents.

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!

Richard Jackson
Interim Director
Department of Energy & Environment



Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy

<https://dopark.org/>



Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy's mission is to restore, promote, and maintain Dumbarton Oaks Park now and for future generations, working in public-private partnership with the National Park Service. This formal partnership enables the mobilization of thousands of volunteers, and a wide range of businesses and community groups from the Greater Washington Area, to restore this historic, Farrand-designed, public landscape.



As a small community-based non-profit with limited resources, the Conservancy cultivates alliances at every level to accomplish their work and bring all kinds of people and ideas into the process. With over 93,000 volunteer hours now invested in the restoration of the Park, Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy leads the effort to rejuvenate this threatened landscape treasure. Their work centers on sustainable restoration methods to mitigate stormwater, invasive plants, and the deterioration of the historic built garden structures - advancing an ecologically healthy urban oasis for all to enjoy.

The Conservancy has a maintenance master plan in place to secure the investment and artistic value of the wild garden. The stewardship that this garden inspires is a great testament to the vitality of this open space in the nation's capital.

Some of the Conservancy's partners include Casey Trees, Howard University, Jelleff Boys & Girls Club, DC Public Schools Wards 1-8, DC Green Zone Environmental Program, Green Muslims, Georgetown Garden Club, DC River Corps, many District and regional universities, independent schools, and for-profit businesses.





Farmers Restaurant Group

1924 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

<https://www.farmersrestaurantgroup.com>

Since Farmers Restaurant Group (FRG) opened their first business in the District over 15 years ago, they have been operating sustainable, farmer-owned restaurants that support the health of our beautiful city, our waterways, and beyond. Their flagship location, Founding Farmers DC, was the District's first LEED Gold Certified restaurant. All three of their DC restaurants — **Founding Farmers**, **Founding Farmers & Distillers** (which includes an onsite distillery, **Founding Spirits**), and **Farmers Fishers Bakers** — are LEED and Green Restaurant Association (GRA) certified. GRA estimates that FRG restaurants divert 90% of their waste from landfills through composting and recycling programs. FRM is a mission-driven company working to take care of their people, their communities, and the planet while earning farmers a larger share of the food dollar.



Under the leadership of co-owner Dan Simons, FRG started a city-wide campaign called *Our Last Straw*. This grassroots, business-led initiative partnered with the Mayor's Office and the Department of Energy and Environment to support DC's ban on plastic straws through business-to-business education. *Our Last Straw* continues to set an example for other states.

FRG works directly with the DC Public School system to support their Career Ready Internship program and hosts paid interns in their Founding Farmers DC restaurant. High school students learn about the hospitality industry and gain hands-on culinary experience in their scratch-made kitchen. They also have multiple ongoing partnerships to support justice-involved citizens as chef interns, some of whom grow into full-time employees.



Always working to raise the bar across the restaurant industry, FRG supports the mental wellness of their team with access to free online therapy for salaried and hourly employees and their family members.

Goodwill of Greater Washington

1140 3rd Street, NE, Suite 350

www.dcgoodwill.org



Goodwill of Greater Washington (Goodwill) transforms lives and communities through the power of education and employment by providing free job training, education, and employment services to people with disabilities and disadvantages.

Goodwill practices economic sustainability by providing free job training and education opportunities to thousands of people in need in the community. Additionally, hundreds of students have graduated from the Goodwill Excel Center adult charter high school, a tuition-free school that offers DC residents the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. The school also offers free childcare services and transportation assistance. Goodwill operates two Goodwill Excel Center locations in NW and SW.

Goodwill keeps millions of pounds of material out of area landfills through the collection and resale of donated goods at their retail locations and donation centers.





Sycamore & Oak

1110 Oak Drive, SE

<https://engage.soulofthecity.org/parcel-15-2>

The Retail Village at Sycamore & Oak is a new transformative community-led development in Congress Heights incubating 13 East-of-the-River, Black-owned businesses. In addition to providing retail space, the project is supporting these businesses by offering local entrepreneurs technical assistance, national networking opportunities, and enhanced marketing resources.



The project is led by a diverse, mission-aligned coalition that includes the Emerson Collective, Redbrick LMD, Gragg Cardona Partners, Congress Heights Community Training and Development Corporation, and other local community groups. Guided by the community's desire to see local and diverse retail options, the site will host the following businesses, all owned by residents of Wards 7 and 8:

- Black Bella Spa & Wellness Center
- Soufside Creative
- Chris Pyrate & Friends
- LoveMore Brand
- Paradyce Clothing Company, Inc.
- Vaya Beauty
- The Fresh Food Factory Market
- The Museum DC
- WeFitDC
- Dionne's Good Food
- Glizzy's DC
- Triecy's DC
- Buna Talk Café

The Retail Village at Sycamore & Oak is housed in a mass timber structure in St. Elizabeth's East in Ward 8. The mass timber method of construction greatly reduces the embodied carbon of the structure. The project contains no onsite combustion sources, will support a roughly 100kW onsite rooftop solar array, and has a substantial battery backup for resiliency. Each of these measures will help meet the District's goal of achieving a 56% reduction in overall emissions by 2032.

MetLife

Investment Management

One Thomas Circle NW, Suite 270

<https://investments.metlife.com/about/sustainability/>

MetLife Investment Management (MIM) strives to be a responsible owner of real estate and act as an industry leader by following best practices included in the *Clean Energy DC Plan*. MIM understands the role that buildings play in contributing to the District's greenhouse gas emissions, and they have made public commitments to lower their emissions so that the District may meet its goals.

MetLife, the enterprise, has been carbon neutral since 2016 and announced a goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the company's global operations and general account investment portfolio by 2050 or sooner. The MetZero™ program is central to MIM Real Estate and focuses on a Carbon Cascade™ approach to reduce emissions through investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy, off-site green power procurement, renewable energy certificates (RECs), and carbon offsets. A short-term target was set for a 50% reduction of scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, for equity assets that MIM owns and controls. Select investment funds have set more ambitious carbon targets to achieve carbon neutrality sooner than 2050 and to incorporate scope 3 emissions.



MIM is also an inaugural partner in the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Climate Challenge, which requires 50% reduction in scopes 1 and 2 emissions within 10 years of signing, and a signatory to the Urban Land Institute's Greenprint Net Zero Framework, which requires 50% reduction in scopes 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

Locally, MIM is especially focused on helping the District meet its clean energy goals. They have installed a 562 kW solar array on their office building – called Constitution Center – located at 400 7th Street, SW. This solar array is the largest rooftop solar array on an office building in Washington DC and will offset over 650,000 kWh of electricity used at the building each year.

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**