



District of Columbia

Mayor's College and University Sustainability Pledge

The District of Columbia Mayor's College and University Sustainability Pledge (CUSP) invites the District's institutions of higher education to commit to pursuing sustainability as engaged participants in the Mayor's ambitious goal of making the District of Columbia the most sustainable city in America. The CUSP recognizes the critical leadership role of the District's colleges and universities in advancing sustainability on campus and in the community.

Purpose and Overview: The District of Columbia Mayor's College and University Sustainability Pledge (CUSP) is designed to be meaningful yet flexible, aspirational in vision yet intended to produce tangible benefits for our local environment and our community. Each signatory shall select its own commitments and goals for sustainability. The CUSP awards recognition for accomplishments and provides a framework to measure and communicate the cumulative sustainability leadership of higher education in the District of Columbia.

Actions & Timeline: The CUSP consists of the following four actions and deadlines:

Action 1 – Sign the Pledge – Deadline: February 29, 2012

Sign the CUSP, pledging to undertake at least five commitments included below. A public announcement event will recognize CUSP signatories;

Action 2 – Sustainability Plan – Deadline: December 31, 2012

Publish a Sustainability Plan, and select any additional CUSP commitments;

Action 3 – Report – Deadline: August 31, 2014

Implement sustainability plan, and report on progress toward CUSP commitments. Signatories will be awarded between one and three green stars based on achievement.

Working Group: Signatories will designate staff for a working group to be convened quarterly by the District Department of the Environment. The working group will provide opportunities for ongoing dialogue among signatories and the District government on the development and implementation of sustainability plans and progress toward commitments, and will develop a CUSP reporting framework.

Publicity: We anticipate that this initiative, as the first of its kind nationally, will achieve significant local and national media recognition for participating institutions. The city commits to making every effort to assist Universities in achieving recognition for the institutions' sustainability achievements.



*District of Columbia
Mayor's College and University
Sustainability Pledge*



WHEREAS, the Government of the District of Columbia is committed to protecting public health and the natural environment in the city through numerous programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Vincent C. Gray has designated advancing sustainability in the District of Columbia as a strategic priority and has established the goal of making the District of Columbia the most sustainable city in America; and

WHEREAS, the District's colleges and universities and the Government of the District of Columbia recognize the importance of promoting sustainability practices that optimize social, environmental, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the colleges and universities in the District of Columbia are committed to creating a future that sustains a thriving natural resource system to support the human population now and for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the colleges and universities in the District of Columbia are collectively committed to making the District the Greenest College Town in America:





NOW, THEREFORE,

Mayor Vincent C. Gray

American University

The Catholic University of America

Corcoran College of Art and Design

Gallaudet University

The George Washington University

Georgetown University

Howard University

Trinity College

University of the District of Columbia

Hereby joins the District of Columbia Mayor's College and University Sustainability Pledge, and commits to actions and deadlines described below.

The signatories of this Pledge hereby agree to pursue and promote programs, policies and projects aimed at advancing environmental, economic and social equity in the District of Columbia. Given the current and planned innovative efforts of the higher education sector, feedback from the city's colleges and universities will be critically valuable in steering District sustainability policies and strategies.

The District government will endeavor to assist local colleges and universities in advancing new and maintaining existing programs aimed at environmental, social, and economic sustainability to meet the goals herein pledged. With the signatures below, our institutions take a bold step together in leading the District of Columbia's continued effort to become the "greenest college town in America" that will thrive in supporting its residents for generations to come.



CUSP COMMITMENTS

For the University of the District of Columbia

February 2012

Signatories shall be eligible to earn up to three green stars in recognition of their achievements, one star for each five measures achieved.

- Energy & Buildings**
- ✓ Achieve LEED Silver or equivalent in all new construction and major renovations.
 - Achieve LEED Certification or equivalent for ___% of existing building square footage
 - Reduce energy use in buildings by ___% per square foot, compared to ___ baseline year.
 - ✓ Purchase or generate at least 30% of total energy consumed from renewable sources.*

*UDC has committed to purchasing 50% of its electricity from wind. This green power purchase represents about 30% of our overall energy consumption, when natural gas is figured in. In the last 12 months, (April 2011 to May 2012), UDC purchased 8,030,847 kWh of electricity for the Van Ness Campus.

- Jobs & Community Development**
- ✓ Employ District of Columbia residents in positions directly related to sustainability.*
 - ✓ Provide students with sustainability-related service learning opportunities in the District.

* UDC employs two District of Columbia residents as full-time staff responsible for the UDC Sustainability Initiative.

- Water**
- Reduce potable water use by ___% per square foot compared to ___ baseline year.
 - Reduce stormwater runoff by ___% compared to ___ baseline year.
 - University will use tap water in place of bottled water.



Green Education & Training

- √ Ensure that at least 4% of total courses offered are sustainability-focused.*
- Ensure that at least ___% of students will be eligible to take sustainability coursework.
- Include at least one sustainability course in required curriculum for all students.
- √ Provide institutional funding and/or administrative support for faculty who engage in sustainability-related teaching. **

* UDC pledges to ensure that 4% of all courses offered are sustainability focused by the end of the CUSP performance period. Currently offers 16 sustainability-focused courses, comprising 2% of all courses offered.

** Faculty are provided with sustainability training opportunities at the start of each semester and ongoing support to integrate sustainability into the curriculum. UDC recently launched the Sustainable City Faculty Fellowship to develop faculty sustainability ambassadors from each of UDC's schools to advance sustainability teaching and learning throughout the university.

Transportation

- Increase or maintain campus population commuting trips made by means other than single occupancy vehicle to at least ___% of modal split.

Waste

- √ Reduce total solid waste by 5% compared to 2011 baseline year.*
- √ Improve solid waste diversion rate to at least 40% of total solid waste.**

* In 2011, UDC's Van Ness Campus produced 153 tons of municipal solid waste. Our commitment is reduce total MSW by 5%, or 7.65 tons, for the 12 months preceding the close of the CUSP performance period.

** In 2011, UDC's Van Ness Campus had an average monthly waste diversion rate of 33.8%. During 2011, UDC's Van Ness Campus recycled 154,842 pounds of materials. Our commitment is to improve the average monthly waste diversion rate to 40% for the 12 months preceding the close of the CUSP performance period.

Research & Innovation

- Provide institutional funding and/or administrative support for faculty who engage in sustainability-related research.
- Direct at least ___% of internally funded-research dollars to sustainability-related projects.
- √ Host at least 10 major sustainability outreach event(s) annually.*

* In the last 12 months, UDC has hosted or coordinated more than 10 major sustainability-focused outreach events attended by more than 1000 people, including the 2011 Green Living Expo, 2011 UDC Green Week, Citywide Sustainable DC Meeting, and 2012 Earth Month Events.



Purchasing

- Ensure that at least ___% of food and beverage dollars is spent on sustainable food (produced within 250 miles, Organic, Fair Trade, Food Alliance, Rainforest Alliance).
- Implement LEED compliant cleaning program, policies and procedures.
- Purchase ongoing consumable and durable goods in compliance with LEED.

Grounds and Habitat

- Utilize a four-tiered Integrated Pest Management approach for ___% of campus grounds.
- Increase tree canopy by ___% compared to ____ baseline year.
- Increase campus green space (vegetated landscape) by ___% compared to ____ baseline year.

Management & Reporting

- √ Publish public sustainability report, including measurements of progress on CUSP goals.*
- √ Participate in CUSP working group.

* In an effort to promote more sustainable practices and track our progress, the University of the District of Columbia registered as a Charter Participant of the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System ([STARS](#)). STARS is a transparent, comprehensive self-reporting framework developed for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance and make key indicators publicly visible. In its first submission, UDC earned STARS Bronze. UDC's STARS report is available [here](#).

Other

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