



## *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.



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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,

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Mayor Vincent C. Gray

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American University

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The Catholic University of America

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Corcoran College of Art and Design

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Gallaudet University

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The George Washington University

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Georgetown University

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Howard University

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Trinity College

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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

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 Gold or equivalent in all new construction and major renovations.
  - ✓ Achieve LEED Certification or equivalent for 60% of existing building square footage by 2017.
  - ✓ Reduce energy use in buildings by 1% per square foot, compared to 2008 baseline year.
  - ✓ Purchase or generate at least 100% of total energy consumed from renewable sources.
- 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.
- 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 5% 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.
- Transportation**
- ✓ Increase or maintain campus population commuting trips made by means other than single occupancy vehicle to at least 60% of modal split.
- Waste**
- Reduce total solid waste by \_\_\_% compared to \_\_\_ baseline year.
  - Improve solid waste diversion rate to at least \_\_\_% of total solid waste.



**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 1 major sustainability outreach event(s) annually.

**Purchasing**

- ✓ Ensure that at least 25% 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 100% 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.

**Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_