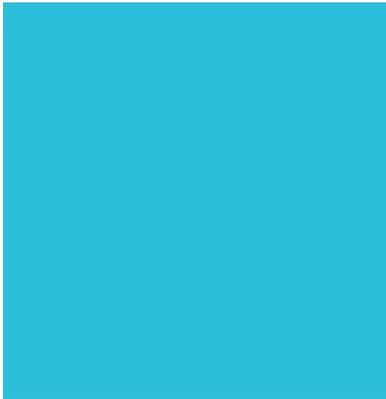
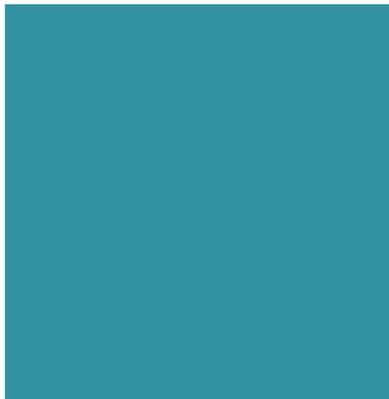
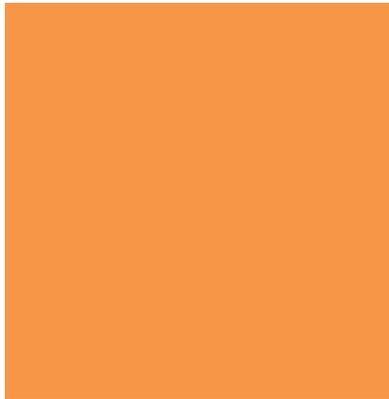


Recommendations from the Equity Advisory Group in Far NE Ward 7

Guidance for Implementing the Climate Ready DC
and Clean Energy DC Plans



Photos: Georgetown Climate Center



PREPARED BY
SKEO SOLUTIONS

AUGUST 2018

Introduction

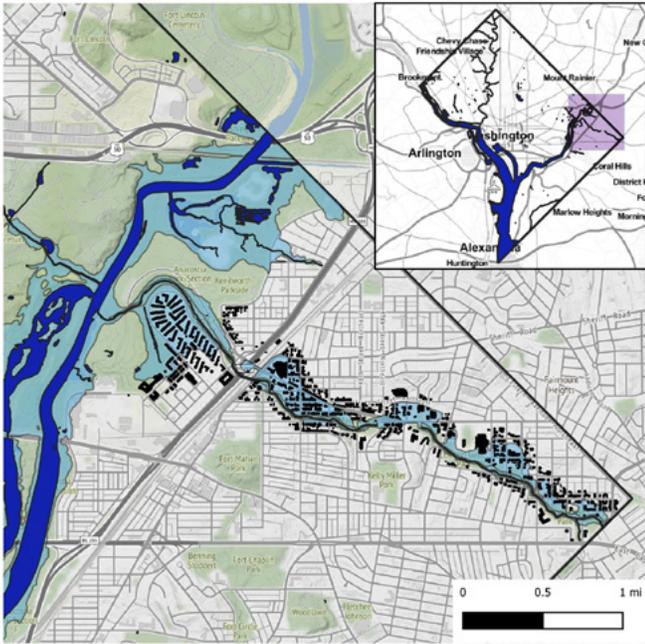


Watts Branch creek, near Marvin Gaye Park in Ward 7.

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

The Far Northeast area of Ward 7 in Washington, D.C., which includes neighborhoods along the Watts Branch tributary of the Anacostia River, has for generations contributed to the rich and diverse fabric of the city. These lands have seen many transformations over the centuries and, over the last one hundred years, have become vital centers for D.C.'s African-American community. Ward 7 is home to the city's first racially integrated restaurants and one of the nation's first housing developments designed by and for African-Americans. Even as these communities continue to experience the acute and persistent impacts of economic and social inequality, compounded by impending pressures of gentrification, Far Northeast Ward 7 remains shaped by its resilience and richness of resources – both in its people and its natural environment.

Starting in December 2017, the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), in partnership with Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) and Skeo, engaged residents in Far Northeast Ward 7 to form an Equity Advisory Group (EAG) representing the neighborhoods surrounding the Watts Branch tributary of the Anacostia River. DOEE sponsored the EAG to develop recommendations on how to implement the District's climate adaptation (Climate Ready DC) and climate mitigation (Clean Energy DC) plans. The Climate Ready DC plan is the District's effort to prepare for the potential consequences of the changing climate, including more heatwaves, severe weather, and flooding. The Clean Energy DC plan provides a roadmap for the District to shift D.C.'s power grid and supply towards cleaner energy sources



The Watts Branch stretches from the easternmost point of the District to the Anacostia River at Kenilworth Park. This map shows the tributary's path across Ward 7. The current 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain is shaded in light blue.

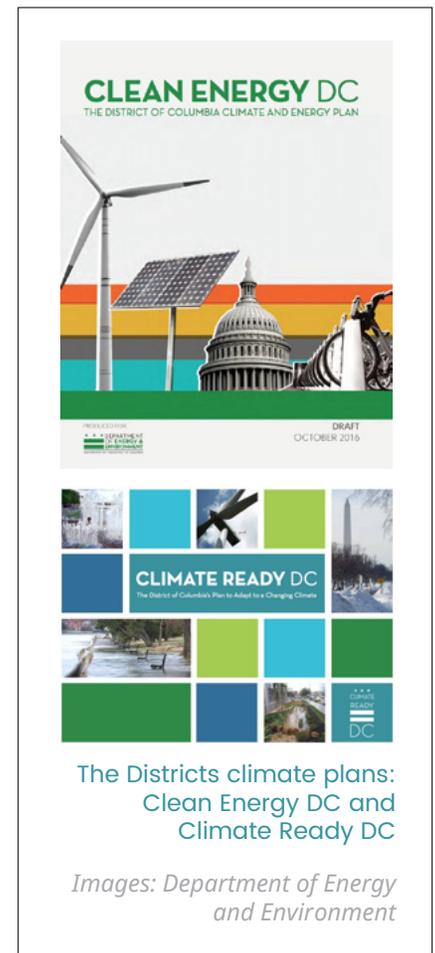
Image: James Dewese, Harrison Institute for Public Law

to cut pollution, save money, and create jobs. Though DOEE conducted a standard community engagement process during plan development, DOEE initiated the EAG process specifically to engage residents in how to implement the plans in a way that would benefit East of the River communities with an explicit focus on inclusion and equity.

From January to June 2018, the EAG met monthly to work together to develop recommendations that provide guidance on how to take action on climate change and related core concerns in ways that are equitable and supportive of the interests of the local community. The EAG deliberated in earnest about how strategies could not only align core community needs with climate resilience and clean energy programs, but also create additional opportunities for Ward 7 residents. Further, the EAG process piloted new methods to engage residents in an equitable and inclusive manner. Importantly, the EAG process demonstrated the value of gathering in-depth community input on feasibility and implementation.

This document presents the recommendations from the EAG for how the District could implement key elements of these plans as it relates to Far Northeast Ward 7, including:

- Core recommendations in three priority areas for implementing the District's Climate Ready DC and Clean Energy DC plans at the neighborhood scale in the Far Northeast Ward 7 communities.
- More detailed summaries of the EAG's implementation recommendations for the creation of:
 1. Neighborhood-scale resilience hubs;
 2. A workforce development program for the resilience economy; and
 3. An expanded workforce program for non-college bound youth.



The District's climate plans: Clean Energy DC and Climate Ready DC

Images: Department of Energy and Environment

Summary of EAG Recommendations



EAG members at work reviewing the District's climate plans and making recommendations for implementation.

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

The Equity Advisory Group (EAG) met monthly for seven months to develop and prioritize recommendations on how DOEE should implement the Climate Ready DC and Clean Energy DC plans to benefit residents in Far Northeast Ward 7. EAG dialogues focused on shared learning, discussion, and priority setting with support from DOEE, the Georgetown Climate Center, and Skeo. This document summarizes the outcomes of this process. The EAG recommends that DOEE work diligently to implement the following priorities in Ward 7 related to the Climate Ready DC and Clean Energy DC plans.

1. Create neighborhood-scale Resilience Hubs in Far Northeast Ward 7 to provide ongoing (steady state) and emergency services that increase neighborhood resiliency.

The EAG recommends that the Resilience Hubs:

- Be strategically located in Far Northeast Ward 7 in physical spaces that are trusted and recognized by the community they serve; resilient to flooding and other physical hazards; and welcoming and accessible, addressing barriers (both physical and perceived) that limit connectivity and the likelihood that residents will utilize them.
- Offer resources during a disaster – including power, information, and essential provisions – and be natural gathering places to meet community needs during non-emergency situations.
- Uplift the community by leveraging sustainable funding to hire and train local residents, building on existing community resources, and partnering with established leaders.

2. Create an integrated workforce development program that positions residents with the skills needed to enter and thrive in the resilience economy.

The EAG recommends that a workforce development program:

- Align and coordinate resources across agencies.
- Provide “wrap-around services” to support workforce development for both hard and soft skills.
- Align training opportunities with workforce demands related to climate resilience.
- Identify strategies to increase demand for resident labor.
- Develop metrics to ensure accountability and the success of these investments.

3. Expand workforce development programs that lead to gainful employment opportunities for Ward 7’s youth, especially those who may not pursue a college degree.

The EAG recommends that the youth workforce program:

- Develop specific curriculum to incorporate into high school lesson planning (e.g., H.D. Woodson) to help youth prepare for green certifications after graduation.
- Develop environmental education opportunities for younger (i.e., middle school) students.
- Provide a pathway to certification and/or apprenticeships in trades such as plumbing, pipefitting, electrical wiring, HVAC services, and carpentry.
- Include ongoing resources for monitoring green workforce trends so that certification opportunities are closely tied to workforce demands.

In addition, the EAG recommends that DOEE: (1) support the EAG in sharing these priorities with the broader Ward 7 community for input; (2) continue to engage the EAG at regular intervals to advise on the implementation of their priority recommendations; and (3) develop a timeline and metrics to measure and report on progress to the broader Ward 7 community.

Alignment between EAG Recommendations and Priorities for Improving Local Quality-of-Life:

The following chart illustrates how the EAG’s final recommendations align with priorities they have identified for improving quality-of-life in Far Northeast Ward 7. These community priorities include:

- Creating jobs for the residents of Far Northeast Ward 7.
- Building residents’ capacity for resilience through community education.
- Improving the safety of residents in Far Northeast Ward 7.
- Increasing resilience through investments in sustainability and “greening” the community.
- Uplifting, investing in, and partnering with existing community resources.

Recommendations	Create Jobs 	Build Residents' Capacity 	Improve Safety 	Green the Community 	Uplift Existing Community Resources 
Neighborhood-Scale Resilience Hubs	Hire local residents and provide workforce development training onsite as a non-emergency service.	Offer non-emergency services that benefit the community, such as youth education.	Ensure that hubs are resilient to flooding, power outages, and other physical hazards. Provide needed emergency services to the community during disasters.	Power hubs by renewable energy with backup power.	House hubs in a trusted and recognized community space.
Workforce Development in Resilience Economy Jobs	Increase demand for local labor and enhance and enforce local hiring.	Provide wrap-around workforce development services and technical training.	Train people for jobs in the resilience economy.	Train people in solar installation and green infrastructure jobs.	Align with existing workforce development programs and leverage existing community organizations as partners.
Workforce Development for Ward 7 Youth	Monitor green workforce trends and ensure that opportunities are tied to workforce demands.	Provide educational opportunities that can lead to certification and apprenticeships after graduation.	Train students for jobs in the resilience economy.	Prepare youth for green jobs after graduation; develop exploratory environmental opportunities for younger students.	Leverage Ward 7 schools when developing green jobs curriculum.

Image: Georgetown Climate Center

1. Create Resilience Hubs in Far Northeast Ward 7

Recommendation: Create neighborhood-scale Resilience Hubs in Far Northeast Ward 7 to provide ongoing (steady state) and emergency services that increase neighborhood resiliency.

Plan References:

Climate Ready DC -
Neighborhoods and Communities Goal 15.1

Leverage ongoing work with neighborhood planning to begin to implement neighborhood-scale resilience solutions – including District energy and micro grids, and District storm-water and water reuse systems.

Climate Ready DC -
Neighborhoods and Communities Goal 15.2

Explore the creation of Community Resilience Hubs, which would locate emergency preparedness and response supplies and training in resilient community facilities, be they privately or publicly owned (e.g., churches, community centers).

Implementation Vision: The EAG recommends that Resilience Hubs:¹

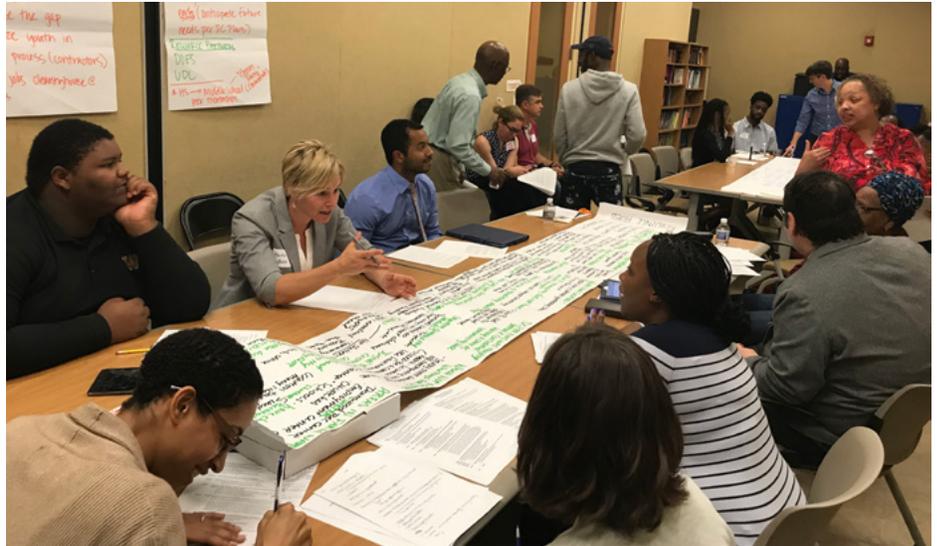
- Be strategically located in Far Northeast Ward 7 in physical spaces that are: trusted and recognized by the community they serve; resilient to flooding and other physical hazards; and welcoming and accessible, addressing barriers (both physical and perceived) that limit connectivity and the likelihood that residents will utilize them.
- Offer resources during a disaster – including power, information, and essential provisions – and be natural gathering places to meet community needs during non-emergency situations.
- Uplift the community by leveraging sustainable funding to hire and train local residents, building on existing community resources, and partnering with established leaders.

Essential Considerations:

1. Resilience Hubs should include both emergency services and steady state services as follows:

Emergency Services

- Offer essential information, especially during periods of disasters or emergencies.
- Serve as a communication center to help people locate family members.



The EAG members brainstorming ideas for tailoring neighborhood-scale Resilience Hubs to Far Northeast Ward 7 with resource partners Kristin Baja (Urban Sustainability Directors Network) and Nickea Bradley (D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency).

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

¹ Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities meant to both support residents and coordinate resource distribution and services before, during and after a natural hazard event.

- Offer medical services and supplies such as refilling needed medical prescriptions, identifying where medical services can be accessed.
- Provide internet access and electrical power.
- Provide air conditioning, refrigeration and ice for essential items, warmth, and potable drinking water.
- Notify people when emergency services are available through existing alert systems, social media, newsletters, and other strategies (NextDoor, tenant associations, ANCs, banners, social media, community newsletters, radio stations: WTOP, WHUR, Radio One).
- Consider the needs of families and multi-generational households by providing services and activities for a wide-range of ages.

Steady State (Ongoing) Services

- Provide community meeting space.
- Host workforce development programs.
- Host summer youth programs.
- Provide space for pop-ups and community markets.
- Provide internet access during non-emergency events.
- Other resident services that will activate the space, such as tool library, community garden, etc.
- Provide emergency and resilience information that can help people prepare for climate change and disaster events.

2. Resilience Hubs should be located so that they:

- Are in areas where need is greatest, i.e., areas of Far Northeast Ward 7 most physically vulnerable to flooding and heat.
- Are easily accessible to the elderly, disabled, and others with special needs.
- Are located along public transit lines outside of the floodplain.
- Serve all the multiple resident-defined micro-communities within Far Northeast Ward 7, which may necessitate having many small resilience hubs.
- Serve places without other community resources. For example, there are already a lot of resources on Minnesota Avenue and Benning Road.

3. Resilience Hubs should partner with:

- Existing community gathering places such as: recreation and community centers, churches (e.g., Bethesda New Life Gospel, Zion Baptist Church of Eastland Gardens, Good Success Christian Ministries), and/or the Fauntery Center.
- Trusted community organizations, recognizing that few organizations are trusted by all.

4. Develop ways to educate the community about the hub before and after it is launched through outreach, such as banners, flyers, text notifications, utility newsletters (DC Water newsletter), tenant associations, apartment managers, mail postcards, ANCs, Marshall Heights Community Development Organization.



Greyson Mann and Marcellus Atkinson sharing with their fellow EAG members ideas for providing both ongoing and emergency services in Far Northeast Ward 7.

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

2. Create a Workforce Development Program for the Resilience Economy

Recommendation: Create an integrated workforce development program that positions residents with the skills needed to enter and thrive in the resilience economy.

Plan References: CCB.8, CCB.18 and NC14.5

Clean Energy DC - Cross-Cutting Building Action 8

Partner to support training and certification of buildings and contractors and managers — Partner with building construction unions and trade associations to help them prepare for a transition to high-performance buildings. Support the creation of a job skills program focused on next-generation building technologies.

Clean Energy DC - Cross-Cutting Building Action 18

Create green jobs and workforce development platform — Create a clear and useful resource for green jobs training and workforce development opportunities and funding.

Climate Ready DC - Neighborhoods and Communities Goal 14.5

Leverage climate adaptation implementation projects to advance workforce development objectives and promote business continuity planning.

Implementation Vision: The EAG recommends that a workforce development program should:

- Align and coordinate resources across agencies.
- Provide “wrap-around services” to support workforce development for both hard skills (e.g., technical knowledge) and soft skills (e.g., professionalism).
- Align training opportunities with workforce demands related to climate resilience.
- Identify strategies to increase demand for resident labor.
- Develop metrics to ensure accountability and the success of these investments.

Essential Considerations:

1. Provide “wrap-around services” (e.g., transportation, mental health, healthcare, coaching, and legal services) to support workforce development, addressing both hard and soft skills. The program should:

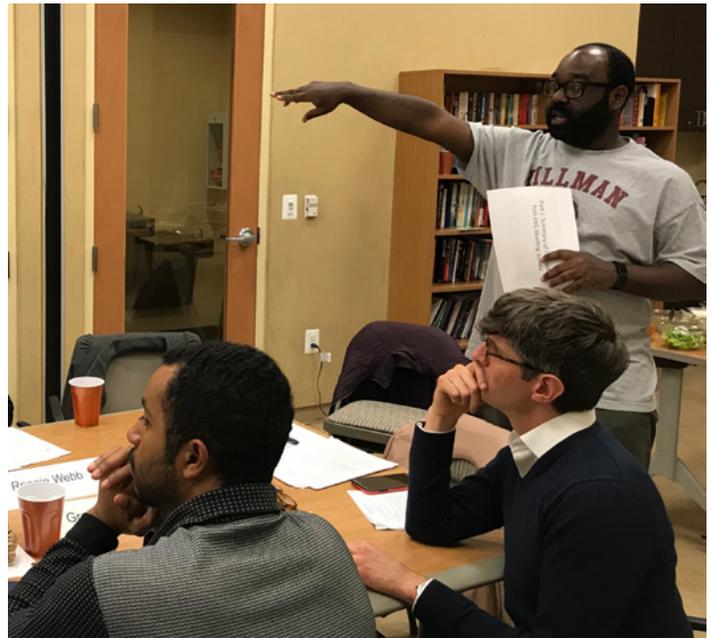
- Identify major providers of hard skills and soft skills, including what services they provide, what constituencies they serve, and any eligibility requirements.
- Align, coordinate, and share resources across agencies and programs.
- Provide both training and mentoring/life coaching.
- Align hard and soft skills providers with projected job training needs.
- Focus on high growth opportunities around climate and resilience (e.g, green infrastructure, solar, construction trades).
- Incorporate lessons learned from “Public Private Ventures,” an initiative from the Department of Labor, which pairs mentors from private companies with participants to increase accountability during job training.
- Address the challenges of participants who are not currently being selected for hire after completing jobs training programs.

2. Align training investments with the demand for skilled workers.

- Find opportunities to increase demand. Work with District agencies, regulators, property developers, and other major job creators and entities to map out the pipeline of major development projects with potential for job opportunities, especially those related to climate resilience. Where D.C. government is providing assistance or zoning permissions, and where practicable, Community Benefits Agreements² should be required that include local hiring requirements and overall health impact assessments to redress existing environmental injustices. Areas of focus may include: solar installation and maintenance, energy efficiency, stormwater management, grey and green infrastructure installation, maintenance, and certification.
- Map priorities of required skills. Work with major employers and potential employers in industries related to climate and resilience to better understand what skills are and will be most in demand for future high growth job opportunities. (This is equally important for soft skills such as time management, professional etiquette, and interviewing.) Talk to developers and city regulators to better understand what upcoming opportunities are likely for training and hiring programs (e.g., new planned stadium for D.C. United soccer team).
- Build connections between climate resilience-related job providers, soft skills providers, and training/wrap-around services (potentially provided by the District).
- Connect program graduates directly to jobs. Training programs should directly connect participants to jobs or, at a minimum, entry into apprenticeship programs that lead to jobs.
- Locate workforce training programs in Ward 7.

3. Increase demand for resident labor. Ideas include:

- Require and enforce local resident hiring preferences.
- Strengthen reporting requirements for local hires for major contracts with the District.
- Monitor, track, enforce, and improve First Source Hiring laws for building development. Ensure retention by enforcing requirements that when a “First Source” hire leaves a position, the replacement is also a local hire, and requiring that contractors reach out to training programs to see if a resident is available to fill that position.
- Consider similar requirements for non-construction activities based on successful programs in other cities.



EAG member Clyde Thompson reporting back on discussions and recommendations from the workforce development work group.

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

2 A Community Benefits Agreement is a contract, often between community groups and a real estate developer, that requires the provision of specific amenities for the community and/or measures to mitigate the impacts of the development on the local community or neighborhood. The Community Benefit Agreement for the Giant development project in Ward 8 provides a model for requiring a one-to-one local hire replacement.



EAG members studying neighborhood flood maps provided by resource partner Marco Ciarla (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the DC Silver Jackets).

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

4. Monitor and evaluate program success. Considerations include:

- Establish a citizens' oversight committee.
- Develop metrics for measuring the success of both established and new efforts.
- Develop clear, high expectations for local hire requirements in contracts with District government agencies, especially those with high potential for job creation, and enforce local hire requirements in all contracts.
- Require employment programs to provide verifiable measures of their results on fulfilling local hiring objectives.
- Develop a reporting database of employment programs and the results they have achieved.

5. Partnerships should include:

- Civic associations and relevant community-based organizations in Ward 7 with a consistent mission of fostering local hiring, workforce development, and wrap-around services
- STEM schools (e.g., H.D. Woodson Engineering Academy)
- Faith community (e.g., 44 churches in Ward 7)
- District government
- Higher educational institutions
- Social services organizations
- Business community and trade associations
- District Council

3. Invest Further in the Education and Employment of Ward 7 Youth

Recommendation: Expand workforce development programs that lead to gainful employment opportunities for Ward 7’s youth, especially those who may not pursue a college degree.

Plan References: CCB.18 and NC12.2

Clean Energy DC - Cross-Cutting Building Action 18

Create green jobs and workforce development platform. Create a clear and useful resource for green jobs training and workforce development opportunities and funding.

Climate Ready DC - Neighborhoods and Communities Goal 12.2

Continue and expand efforts to identify and reach residents with greater vulnerability to climate change impacts including heat and flooding. Provide training to home healthcare, homeless service, and other service providers that engage directly with vulnerable residents.

Implementation Vision: The EAG recommends that the youth workforce program:

- Develop specific curriculum to incorporate into H.D. Woodson (and/or other local schools) lesson planning to help youth prepare for green certification examinations following graduation.
- Provide a pathway to certification and/or apprenticeships in primary trades such as plumbing, pipefitting, electrical wiring, HVAC service, and carpentry.
- Work alongside District government agencies to forecast trends in the green jobs market that would provide tradesmen with supplemental skills, for example solar installation and technical training.
- Include ongoing resources for monitoring green workforce trends so that certification opportunities are closely tied to workforce demands.



EAG member Dennis Chestnut sharing memories of growing up in Far Northeast Ward 7.

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

Essential Considerations:

1. Partnerships could include:

- H.D. Woodson Engineering Academy
- IDEA Public Charter School Academy of Construction and Design
- University of the District of Columbia (UDC), Center for Sustainable Development
- Fauneroy Center (future location for an adult track)
- Department of Employment Services

- Philanthropy (e.g., Chesapeake Bay Trust, Kapor Foundation, Pisces Foundation, Prince Charitable Trust)
- D.C.'s Infrastructure Academy

2. At the outset, partners should evaluate the benefits between: a) a local certificate program providing training on a specialized skill-set, commonly administered through schools; and b) an assessment-based professional certification program that provides trainees with recognized credentials, typically available to individuals with more experience.

Considerations include:

- Local green programs that result in certificates historically present challenges providing those certified with the flexibility to use their skills beyond the District.
- Provide youth with opportunities to pursue interim training and local certifications that will be useful later in nationally recognized professional certification programs.
- Certifications should include, but are not limited to: plumbing, pipefitting, electrical wiring, HVAC services, solar installation, and carpentry. Emphasize certifications that provide training across several of these skill sets simultaneously, and which may offer perennial rather than seasonal employment opportunities.
- Provide additional certification training or education opportunities to educators in addition to students.

3. Certifications should be linked to District investments and trends in green jobs related to sustainability and climate resilience. The District should support the development and funding of these programs.

4. The program should integrate specific curriculum and lesson plans at H.D. Woodson to help youth prepare for certifications after graduation (this could mirror curriculum and programming at UDC). Consider ways to ensure that school curriculum and workforce development programs align to prepare students for careers in the renewable energy sector.³ Specifically, target middle school-aged students (both public and charter) for early environmental education training and provide exploratory education opportunities more generally. Rubrics for achievement should not be grade-based, but rather use a different qualitative scale.

5. A near-term version of this program could include:

- A tiered program that would be used to train youth in varying educational levels, at-risk youth, and adults.
- A pathway where younger teens (i.e., middle school students) can be engaged prior to high school to feed into certification and trade programs.
- School partners that integrate education about environmental careers and green trades into the curriculum and other programs.
- Opportunities to teach, inspire, and support young men and women in seeing these types of jobs as accessible.⁴
- Diversity of job opportunities, including both summer employment and year-round employment.

3 As a result of having a staff member participate on the EAG, H.D. Woodson is in the planning stages of integrating the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program into the school's engineering curriculum. This will allow Woodson students to sit for the certification prior to graduation.

4 For example, recreating programs like former First Lady Michelle Obama's College Signing Day to help motivate students, with an additional focus on green jobs.



EAG members and project partners at the final EAG meeting in June 2018. From left to right, (back row) Clyde Thompson, Jessica Grannis (GCC), Greyson Mann, Justin Lini, Malik Lang, Ronda Chapman, Dennis Chestnut, Marco Ciarla (USACE); (second row) Kate Johnson (DOEE), Francella Chinchilla (Raben Group), Melissa Deas (GCC), Julia Irving, Vernice Miller-Travis (Skeo Solutions), Theresa Wallace; (front row) Dan Guilbeault (DOEE), Everette Bradford (DOEE), Jennifer Li (GCC). Not pictured: Marcellus Atkinson, Zandra Chestnut, LeCount Fantroy, Clifton Martin, Ronnie Webb.

Photo: Georgetown Climate Center

6. A long-term version⁵ of this program could include:

- Certifications for District youth that lead to year-round employment (as opposed to seasonal work) linked to the market and to future District and DOEE investments.
- An apprenticeship program for District youth.
- Workforce development or certification programs that provide living wages (see IDEA Public Charter School pay scale for youth).
- Expand the number of public and charter schools in the District that offer trade and journeymen programs.

⁵ These considerations are ideas that the group would like to see more immediately, but recognize that – absent a budget and structure for implementation – they may take more time to implement.

About the EAG

The Equity Advisory Group consisted of thirteen members representing residents and community-based organizations. They brought a wide range of interests and perspectives. Learn more about the EAG members below.



MARCELLUS ATKINSON

Marcellus is the youngest member of the EAG and well on his way to joining the next generation of climate leaders. Marcellus lives in the Burrville neighborhood of Far Northeast Ward 7 and is a student at H.D. Woodson's STEM High School where he built an electric car from scratch. He is passionate about football and making his community safer and more prosperous for all.



RONDA CHAPMAN

Ronda's relationship with the Watts Branch tributary is based on the years' long work with her organization, Groundwork DC, that works to protect the health and integrity of the Anacostia River watershed. Ronda was interested in being a part of the EAG because she was previously engaged in the development of both the Climate Ready DC and Clean Energy DC plans when she was a staff member with the DOEE. She remains committed to the outcomes of both plans and appreciates the discreet focus on this neighborhood and community. In her free time, Ronda enjoys playing in the outdoors: hiking, camping, kayaking, biking, snowboarding, etc. Her hope for the Far Northeast Ward 7 community is that it thrives in a way that allows folks to have agency over what happens there and can stay in-place in the process.



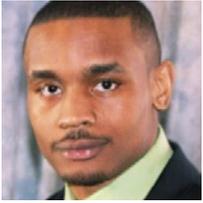
DENNIS CHESTNUT

Dennis Chestnut is the Internship Instructor at the Academy of Construction and Design at IDEA Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. and founding Executive Director of Groundwork Anacostia River DC (retired). Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in the Hillbrook neighborhood of Ward 7 where he and his family still live, Dennis is a vocational and environmental educator and community organizer. Dennis is a civic ecologist and works to improve the quality of life for D.C. youth through building trade skills and developing stewardship of their natural environment and local community.



ZANDRA CHESTNUT

Zandra Chestnut is a longtime resident of Ward 7. For over 40 years, she and her husband have raised six children in the same house her husband grew up in. She presently chairs the board of the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and is a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the National Arboretum. Zandra enjoys photography, camping, and most things outdoors. She volunteers with the East of the River Steelband and also works as the mail communications administrator for U.S. Senator Mark Warner.



LECOUNT FANTROY

LeCount D. Fantroy II is a fifth generation Washingtonian, DCPS graduate, and local youth sports product. Mr. Fantroy’s grandfather, Charles L. Fantroy, is an Air Force veteran and master electrician who started an electrician company based out of Ward 7. LeCount is a product of the Marshall Heights Bison youth football program, a member of the Marshall Heights Civic Association, MHCA Environmental Health Committee Chair, and mentor. LeCount has a strong interest in renewable energy and the environment. Being a part of the EAG accredits him with the opportunity to learn, network, and make a positive impact in his community. His background in renewable energy (solar energy), community organizing/outreach, and sales are components that he brings to the group. In his free time, LeCount likes to walk nature trails, meet new people, and fish. LeCount’s hope for the future of Far Northeast Ward 7 is to someday form a community solar project. This project would assist with lowering the carbon footprint of District residents while giving the District residents the opportunity to supply and produce clean, renewable energy.



MALIK LANG

Malik Lang is a fellow Washingtonian who currently serves as the Deputy Director of FH Faunteroy Community Enrichment Center. He is responsible for all program planning, organizing, operating, and staffing. Malik developed his passion for working with youth while teaching at various elementary schools in the DCPS. Malik received his BA in Sociology from Bowie State University. His focus at FH Faunteroy Community Enrichment Center is to identify social/behavior norms in underserved communities and to develop innovative ways to address these social/behavior norms. He comes from an extensive lineage of educators and is driven to “rebuild the village”.



JUSTIN LINI

Justin Lini is the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the Paradise and Parkside communities. Since moving to the community in 2013, he has become an advocate for transportation and environmental issues in Ward 7. He is a CAC member on the Transportation Planning Board and serves on the Board of the Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. In his spare time, he paints, does graphic design, and enjoys reading up on D.C. history.



JULIA IRVING

An avid runner who loves serving the community through education and engagement, Julia Irving joined the EAG to build upon her knowledge base about her immediate community. As a relatively new resident to Ward 7, specifically Far Northeast, she shares information about the work of the EAG at her civic association meetings. In addition, Julia explores opportunities to implement tools and access resources she learns about from the workgroup. Guided by the transformative practice created by Nikki Pearson called the E.D.I.T Principle, Julia aims to implement this through: Exposure to new opportunities and resources to aid in making better Decisions leading to Informed decisions, ultimately resulting in Transformation of mindsets and the community. Julia is committed to “E.D.I.T” the perception, opportunities, and experiences in her community.



GREYSON MANN

Greyson is a fifth-generation Washingtonian and lives in the Benning neighborhood, just south of the Watts Branch, where his family has lived for three generations. He speaks fluent Mandarin and previously served as a presidential appointee in the Department of Education. He currently works on the founding team for Whittle School & Studios, where he designed a summer program that teaches students about resilience and sustainability in Washington, D.C., with a specific focus on the Anacostia River. He hopes that the work of the group can continue and begin to support the development of a more equitable and just city.



CLIFTON MARTIN

The current director of H.D. Woodson’s STEM High School Engineering Academy, Clifton Martin received his Bachelor of Science Degree and Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Morgan State University and is presently working on his Doctorate Degree in STEM Education. Mr. Martin has worked at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as a Power System Engineer. From 2009 to 2014, he was Director of STEM and Academic Programs at Bluford Drew Jemison (BDJ) STEM Academy (an all-male charter school in Baltimore City). Just before joining BDJ, Mr. Martin worked for the Maryland State Department of Education as a Regional Coordinator for Career and Technology Education, where he assisted many local school systems with their implementation and management of pre-engineering and technology programs. He has also taught high school mathematics in the Baltimore City Public Schools as well as mathematics at several colleges and universities.



CLYDE THOMPSON

Clyde is a current Ward 7 resident who spends a great deal of time utilizing the outdoor spaces of Ward 7, including the Anacostia River Trail, Kenilworth Park, and the Marvin Gaye Trail -- all of which run along, or are connected to, the Watts Branch tributary. After seeing the cleanup efforts along the western bank of the Anacostia River, it became very important to Clyde to ensure that current residents’ needs are considered when making this area more attractive to possible future residents. In his free time, he enjoys running, cooking, golfing, and fishing.



THERESA WALLACE

Theresa is a Marketing Analyst at a marketing agency located in the District. She is a homeowner of Far Northeast Ward 7 and joined the EAG to be a part of the equal distribution of community improvements as seen in other parts of the city. Theresa also runs her own marketing and logistics planning start-up and loves to visit the local parks and libraries with her son. Her hope is for the Far Northeast Ward 7 to be recognized for its beautiful green spaces and for its residents to benefit from upcoming developments.



RONNIE WEBB

President and Co-Founder of Green Scheme, Washington, D.C. native Ronnie Webb stands on the forefront of educating disadvantaged communities on environmental stewardship and community revitalization. From developing and implementing USDA food system projects to consulting on behalf of businesses and organizations to adopt more sustainable methods, Mr. Webb has over 10 years of experience in the environmental sector. The Green Scheme’s founding was based on Mr. Webb’s realization of the lack of environmental awareness that existed in many communities and his concerns regarding access to healthy food. The Green Scheme is a nonprofit that has created stronger communities and healthier families with its dedicated approach to wellness and education.



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