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CLIMATE
READY
DC

2021
PROGRESS
REPORT




TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

A changing climate will impact the District's transportation and utility infrastructure—including its energy, water, and communication systems. We are making it a priority to ensure the viability of these systems, which are each fundamental to our safety and well-being.



OUR PROGRESS

 **Indicator:** Number of Transportation and Utilities projects specifically incorporating climate projections into planned or implemented designs and operations. Projects must exceed District regulations or show that changing climate hazards were explicitly considered.

 **Baseline:** 3 | **2021:** 3

The District will invest \$4.2 million over three years to develop an integrated flood model that considers coastal, riverine, and inland flooding. The model will help identify where flood management investments are needed most.



In 2020, the DC Public Service Commission convened the PowerPath DC Pilot Project Governance Board to recommend pilot projects related to grid modernization that will make energy safer, more reliable, and affordable.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“Metro”) began developing a Resilience Implementation Strategy, which identifies risks and cost-effective investments to protect Metro’s assets. Metro is also implementing flood hardening measures in several Metro stations in DC.

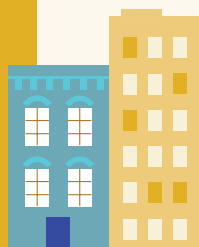


In the midst of both the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the District’s fifth hottest summer on record, four District agencies collaborated to launch the #Here2HelpDC campaign to inform residents and businesses about resources to make utility bills more affordable.




BUILDINGS & DEVELOPMENT

The District is developing new and revised policies, programs, and incentives to retrofit existing buildings and design new buildings and development projects to withstand climate change impacts.



OUR PROGRESS

 **Indicator:** Number of buildings (including critical facilities) specifically incorporating climate change into planned or implemented designs and operations. To be counted, projects must exceed District regulations or show that changing climate hazards were explicitly considered.

 **Baseline:** 0 | **2021:** 1

Under the leadership of Mayor Muriel Bowser, **Climate Ready DC** is the District’s plan to prepare for a changing climate and thrive in the face of extreme heat, increased flooding, and more intense storms. In 2020, the District released **Climate Ready by 2050**, a strategic roadmap to guide implementation and develop a methodology for annual progress reporting. This 2021 Progress Report describes actions taken in the last year and reports on metrics related to five key indicators.



The DC Office of Planning launched an effort to build a Flood Resilience Strategy in Southwest, with the goal of redesigning public parks and roadways to better serve the community’s needs while also protecting residents from the hazards of climate-related flood events.

The District released the first Resilient Design Guidelines for the District, which outline a methodology for considering and reducing risks related to flooding, heat, and power outages when designing buildings and adjacent sites.

The Department of Energy and Environment is engaging stakeholders to update floodplain regulations to better protect the District’s buildings and residents from floods now and in the future.



The Department of Parks and Recreation and DC Public Schools used the Resilient Design Guidelines to assess climate risks and preparedness opportunities at Ketcham Recreation Center and Smothers Elementary School, which are both slated for modernizations.



A resilient city ensures that all its communities and residents are prepared for climate hazards and can bounce back quickly after extreme events. The District is focused on making its neighborhoods and communities safer and more prepared.



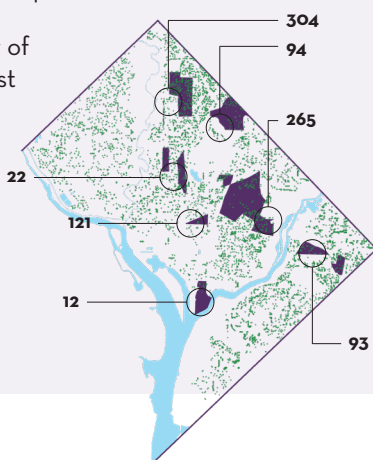
OUR PROGRESS

Indicator: Proportion of District residents living within walking distance of a resilience hub. Resilience hubs are community-serving facilities that support residents before, during, and after disasters.

Baseline: 0 | **2021:** 0

Indicator: Number of trees planted in the most heat sensitive areas throughout the District.

+ Trees Planted in FY20¹
■ High Heat Risk Census Tracts²



The Department of Energy and Environment collected 468 survey responses and hosted four focus groups to collect feedback on how District residents cope with extreme heat and what types of interventions will assist them in staying safe.

In FY20, the District sought partnerships to provide emergency air conditioning to seniors.



DC Urban Forestry Division planted 8,552 trees in FY20, 1,094 of which were planted throughout Districts parks, significantly expanding shaded areas across the District. Additionally, the District constructed three splash pads to increase recreational cooling amenities.

The Department of Energy and Environment installed two high water mark signs in Marvin Gaye Park and Kingman Island and is planning for a third at the Wharf. High water marks raise awareness and help communities understand the extent of flood risk.

¹ On years when data is newly available, we will present tree canopy rather than tree plantings.

² Sensitivity/Exposure index combines data on income, age, race, English proficiency asthma, disability, obesity, coronary heart, disease, air temperature, impervious surface, and tree canopy.



To successfully prepare for the anticipated effects of climate change, the District must institutionalize climate resilience across agencies and sectors, integrating climate change into their long-term programing and investments.



OUR PROGRESS

Indicator: Number of government agencies with a climate plan.

Baseline: 5 | **2021:** 6



The Department of Parks and Recreation's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified resiliency as a key priority. It calls for the District to use parks strategically to capture rainwater, reduce flooding, provide shade, and build social resilience.

The Department of Energy and Environment completed the first Wetland Conservation Plan and the Wetland Creation Site Suitability Guidance to help identify opportunities for new and restored wetlands that can help protect against climate risks such as flooding.

The Department of Transportation has developed a Climate-Adapted Tree Planting Analysis to better select tree species that enhance the resilience of the District's urban forests.



In FY20, the District saw an increase in the use of its emergency communication system AlertDC by 493% with nearly 72,750 new subscribers. Alerts totaled 9,678, including on topics related to extreme weather.



GET INVOLVED

Learn more about climate resilience at sustainable.dc.gov/climateready.



Read the District's **Resilient Design Guidelines** and the **Climate Ready Strategic Roadmap**.

Attend an upcoming meeting of the District's Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency. The schedule is posted at dccccr.org/



Stay up to date on extreme weather events and outages by signing up for AlertDC notifications at hsema.dc.gov/page/alertdc.

Let us know how you're building climate resilience using **#ClimateReadyDC** on social media.



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GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



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