

A young girl with braided hair, wearing a white life vest with a turtle graphic and patterned swim trunks, is playing in shallow water. She is smiling and splashing water. In the background, other people are visible but out of focus.

2020

★ ★ ★
CLIMATE
READY



DC

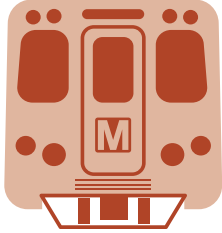
PROGRESS
REPORT



TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES

A changing climate will impact the District's transportation and utility systems—including its energy, water, and communication systems. These systems are fundamental to our safety and well-being, so we are making it a priority to ensure they remain viable.

OUR PROGRESS

 **INDICATOR:** Number of transportation and utility 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

DC Water is building a floodwall, in segments, around the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant to protect it from storm surges and sea-level rise. Once complete, **the floodwall will surpass the recommended 500-year storm level by 3 feet.**

The Department of Transportation installed green infrastructure to **manage runoff from 38 acres** of our streets, protecting our waterways from pollution.



The District, in partnership with Pepco, is **improving the reliability of the electric grid.** In 2019, construction began on the DC Power Line Undergrounding initiative (DC PLUG). Additionally, the Public Service Commission is supporting grid modernization efforts.


ABOUT THIS REPORT *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 Department of Energy and Environment will release *Climate Resilient by 2050*, a strategic roadmap to guide our next steps and annual progress reporting. This 2020 *Progress Report* will describe successes, and establish the baselines for our annual progress on five key output indicators and identify opportunities for more action.



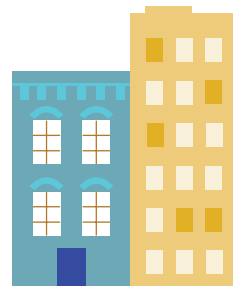
BUILDINGS & DEVELOPMENT

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



The Solar for All program is **funding solar and battery storage at affordable housing properties** including Parkway Overlook in Ward 8, allowing the properties to provide services to their residents during a power outage.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency **improved the resilience of the power system at the 311/911 call center** to ensure continued service.

Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School **installed a solar canopy over the playground area** to provide shade and rain cover so that students can remain active year-round.

The DC Housing Authority is planning for a warmer future during heating and cooling system renovations. Knowing that these systems have a 20-year lifespan, the agency is **installing chillers and boilers that will operate efficiently now and in a hotter future.**



In 2019, the RiverSmart Homes program offered rebates to District homeowners who replaced impervious surfaces with permeable pavers or vegetation, **removing 40,102 square feet of impervious surface and treating approximately 1.8 acres of stormwater runoff.**




The Department of Energy and Environment is **developing resilient design guidelines** that outline how to account for future climate risks and choose design solutions.




NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES

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

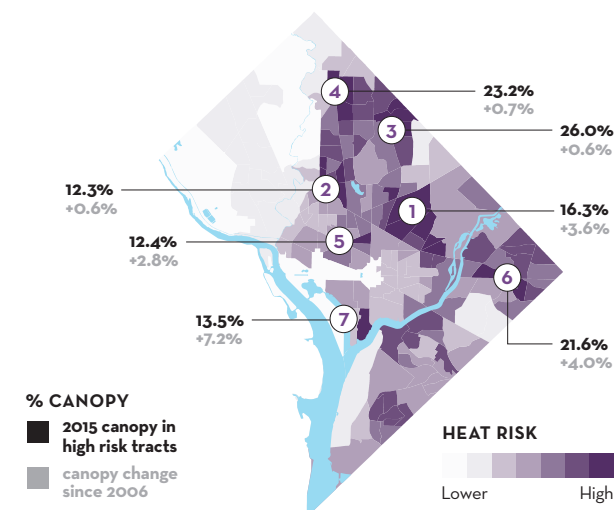
OUR PROGRESS

 **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

 **INDICATOR:** % tree canopy in the most heat sensitive areas. The map below displays an index combining data on exposure and sensitivity to heat. For census tracts at greatest risk we report 2015 canopy percentages and the percent canopy change since 2006.

 **BASELINE:** see heat map below



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



15,726 trees were planted across the District in FY19. The District Department of Transportation is **using urban heat island data to prioritize trees in the hottest neighborhoods.**


The Department of Energy and Environment facilitated a Resilience Hub Community Committee to **gather community input for a future resilience hub** in Ward 7.



GOVERNANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

To successfully prepare for the anticipated effects of climate change the District must institutionalize climate resilience across agencies and sectors. The annual *Climate Ready DC* report will address the progress we've made toward ensuring that all District agencies are integrating climate change into their long-term planning.

OUR PROGRESS

 **INDICATOR:** Number of government agencies incorporating climate risks into their plans.

 **BASELINE:** 5



As part of the 100 Resilient Cities initiative, the District **released its Resilient DC Strategy** in April 2019. The Strategy identifies climate change as a major theme and reasserts the District's commitment to action.

The District's **Commission on Climate Change and Resilience released its first report.** The report outlines 10 recommendations the District should take to mitigate climate change impacts and to coordinate across agencies and with regional and federal partners.

The Office of Planning is in the process of **amending the District's Comprehensive Plan** to integrate policies and actions to support resilience.



The Department of Public Works, in response to hotter weather, **adjusted its service hours during the summer months** so that teams start and end work earlier to avoid the warmest hours of the day.





GET INVOLVED

- **Learn more about climate resilience** at sustainable.dc.gov/climateready.
- **Attend an upcoming meeting** of the District's Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency. The schedule is posted at doee.dc.gov/publication/commission-climate-change-and-resiliency.
- **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.



doee.dc.gov/climateready
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Photo:
Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program