

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON CREATING A SUSTAINABLE GREEN
WORKFORCE IN THE DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Virtual Roundtable via Zoom

To Watch Live:

<https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>

<http://video.oct.dc.gov/DCC/jw.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen/>

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will convene a public roundtable to consider “Creating a Sustainable Green Workforce in the District.” The roundtable will be held from 11:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. at Anacostia High School but will be conducted **virtually** for public witnesses via the Zoom platform. Witnesses at this roundtable will be limited to those invited by the Committee.

The District is poised to receive unprecedented federal funding that will enable significant investments in green sectors and job creation within those sectors. Given this opportunity, it is crucial to ensure that these investments are maximized for the benefit of District residents, particularly those who have historically faced barriers to employment and economic opportunities. The Committee recognizes this unique opportunity to transition our local economy to a sustainable model that meets energy demands and prioritizes climate goals, while supporting and growing our local workforce.

The concept of a "green workforce" encompasses a wide range of careers that directly contribute to advancing sustainability in our communities and built environment. This includes existing jobs that require new skills to meet green requirements, occupations in higher demand due to green initiatives, as well as entirely new and emerging professions. For example, within the commercial building sector, green jobs encompass high-performance building construction, building maintenance, retro-commissioning, energy auditing, and various engineering, technology, trade, and design professions. With rapid growth in market demand for jobs in this sector, many employers have found it difficult to find enough qualified workers to meet the demand. Robust and targeted education and training programs can prepare workers with the skills and knowledge

to fill this gap, which can lead to well-paying jobs for District residents and environmental benefits from better performing green buildings.

For the District, fostering a robust local green workforce presents numerous benefits. As we strive to enhance sustainability and create a greener future, the development and alignment of the green workforce with local employment opportunities play a pivotal role. Local government entities, including action by the Committee, can actively contribute to this objective in various ways, ensuring the growth of a vibrant and active green workforce.

This public roundtable provides a platform to discuss key aspects related to the development, enhancement, and better integration of a green workforce in the District. The Committee hopes to hear a broad range of input and proposals, but the themes that the Committee hopes the roundtable will address include:

- How can we effectively incorporate workforce development initiatives into the District's climate plan, ensuring that green jobs provide sustainable career pathways and economic opportunities for our residents?
- What strategies can we employ to directly address racial and economic disparities in workforce programs, ensuring that the benefits of green job creation are equitable and accessible to all communities?
- What are the key principles and best practices for designing effective workforce development programs within the green economy? What green workforce development initiatives exist in other states, cities, and counties? How can we learn from successful case studies and adapt them to our local context?
- How can we foster meaningful community engagement, involving diverse voices in decision-making processes, and effectively communicate the benefits and opportunities of green jobs to all residents?
- How can we align worker training programs with the evolving demands of the transition economy, ensuring that our workforce possesses the necessary skills for the clean energy sector and emerging green industries?
- How can we ensure a just transition to a low-carbon economy in the District, where no workers, particularly Black District residents and other residents of color, are left behind? In this context, how can we effectively integrate apprenticeship programs to provide equitable access to training and employment opportunities within emerging green sectors?
- What strategies can we adopt to increase access to green jobs for individuals facing barriers to employment, such as returning citizens and those from historically marginalized communities? How can we improve work protections, rights, and fair labor practices within the green economy?
- How can the District leverage existing opportunities, such as those within schools, and integrate green curriculum into standard education and training programs?
- How can the District take advantage of federal funding, such as from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, to reach its goals?
- What other considerations should the District take into account to make workforce development programs successful (*e.g.*, provision of wraparound services)?
- What other challenges exist, and how can the District overcome them?

Members of the public who are not invited to testify orally at the roundtable may provide written testimony, which will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be emailed to the Committee at cote@dccouncil.gov. Please indicate that you are submitting testimony for this roundtable in the subject line of the e-mail. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Friday, July 11, 2023.**