

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

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

B26-0065, the “Solar Shade Expansion Amendment Act of 2025”

and

**B26-0066, the “Youth Advisory Council on Climate Change and
Environmental Conservation Establishment Act of 2025”**

**Monday, March 31, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Hybrid Hearing in Room 412 (Track B) and via Zoom
To Watch Live:**

<https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>
<http://video.oct.dc.gov/DCC/jw.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen>

On Monday, March 31, 2025, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will convene a public hearing to consider Bill 26-0065, the “Solar Shade Expansion Amendment Act of 2025” and Bill 26-0066, the “Youth Advisory Council on Climate Change and Environmental Conservation Establishment Act of 2025.” This is a hybrid format hearing, with witnesses appearing virtually via the Zoom platform or in person in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The stated purpose of B26-0065, the “Solar Shade Expansion Amendment Act of 2025,” is to require that the Department of Energy and Environment (“DOEE”) identify suitable locations for solar canopy installations throughout the District. Solar canopies are structures that elevate solar panels above the ground, generating clean and renewable energy while providing much-needed shade. Specifically, B26-0065 would require that DOEE publish a study on the feasibility of installing solar canopies at 20 sites across the District—including playgrounds, parks, sidewalks, bike lanes, and roads. The study would recommend five specific locations where solar canopy installations should be piloted, and the District’s Capital Improvement Plan (“CIP”) must include sufficient funding to install solar canopies at those locations. DOEE would then update its initial report to examine the success of the solar canopies at the five piloted locations. Finally, the bill requires that each new capital project in the CIP include enough funding to support the installation of solar canopies where technically feasible. The updated report would also discuss any financial

incentives that could facilitate the installation of solar canopies, as well as any legal or regulatory barriers that could thwart new installations.

The stated purpose of Bill 26-0066, the “Youth Advisory Council on Climate Change and Environmental Conservation Establishment Act of 2025,” is to establish a Youth Advisory Council on Climate Change and Environmental Conservation (“Youth Climate Council”). The Youth Climate Council would serve as an advisory body to the Mayor and Council, providing young people’s perspective and input on legislation and programs related to mitigating the impacts of climate change, preserving natural resources, and protecting the environment. The bill recognizes that our youth will be the people most impacted by the long-term effects of climate change and environmental degradation, and will ensure that their perspectives are not only heard, but actively integrated into our climate strategies.

The Committee invites the public to provide live and written testimony. The Committee hopes to receive testimony regarding solar canopies and their ability to generate renewable energy while providing relief from the heat and other ancillary benefits. The Committee also welcomes testimony regarding the importance of empowering youth voices in conversations regarding climate change mitigation and environmental conservation. Public witnesses seeking to provide testimony at the Committee’s hearing must thoroughly review the following instructions:

- If you would like to provide live testimony during the hearing or submit written testimony for the record, please use the Council’s Hearing Management System at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings/>. HMS is a universal, centralized way to find out about upcoming hearings, register to testify, submit testimony, download testimony, and see how many witnesses have registered. **The deadline to register to provide testimony through HMS is Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The hearing record closes on Tuesday, April 15, at 5:00 p.m., after which you will be unable to submit written testimony.**
- Once you have identified the hearing at which you want to testify on the Hearing Management System, read the Hearing Notice at the bottom of the page for additional details on the hearing. The hearing page also shows how many witnesses have already registered under the “Witnesses” heading.
- Click the “Register to Testify” button at the upper right of the page to register to testify at the hearing. If the deadline to sign up for a hearing has already passed, or if there is no public testimony at the hearing, the button will not be available.
- If there are multiple topics to be considered at a hearing, select which one you would like to speak to by placing a checkmark next to the relevant topic or legislation. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization, select “Organization” and include your title and the organization’s name. If you are testifying on your own behalf, select “Individual.” There may be additional fields included by the Committee to gather further details.
- Select “Live Testimony” or “Record Testimony.” Select “Live Testimony” if you previously registered to testify at the hearing. If your testimony is only for the written record, choose “Record Testimony.” Please use the same name, organization information, and email address that you used if you registered to testify.

- If you are trying to submit testimony, click the “Submit Testimony” button in the upper right on the hearing page. If the deadline to submit testimony for a hearing has already passed, the button will not be available.
- You can upload testimony in either Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, Apple Pages, or a plain text file by clicking “Upload My Testimony.” You can also type your testimony from this page by selecting “I will type my testimony here.”
- After completing the web form, you should receive a confirmation email from noreply@dccouncil.gov. Prior to the hearing, you will receive an email from noreply@dccouncil.gov from the Committee with additional details on testifying, including the access link.
- The Committees will approve witnesses’ registrations based on the total time allotted for public testimony. The Committees will also determine the order of witnesses’ testimony.
- ANC Commissioners and representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. If more than one witness is testifying on behalf of the same organization, only one witness will have five minutes, and all other witnesses from the same organization will have three minutes. To accommodate additional public witnesses, the Committee may reduce witnesses’ allotted time for testimony but will inform witnesses if it plans to do so.
- Witnesses are not permitted to yield their time to or substitute their testimony for the testimony of another individual or organization.
- **Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation, including ASL interpretation, should inform the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than five business days before the hearing.** Please include this request in the additional field for this purpose when you register to testify. The Committee will make every effort to fulfill timely requests; however, requests received fewer than five business days before the hearing may not be fulfilled.