District of Columbia Energy Justice Snapshot

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program

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Summary

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of a fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to the clean energy economy.

This Snapshot profiles District of Columbia's energy portfolio, evaluates key state energy policies, documents state utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy. While the city has made great strides in encouraging solar production, especiallyby setting a 50% renewable energy goal by 2032, D.C. is considered an energy consumer not a producer.

With this in mind, it is critically important that NAACP leaders actively engage in these debates to ensure that the community's needs motivate just energy policies. This snapshot provides information that will inform NAACP members on avenues for engagement.

Energy Portfolio[1]

District of Columbia does not have an extensive energy generation profile. Electricity is predominately generated from natural gas, petroleum, and solar photovoltaic. While the city consumes a small amount of coal, the only utility-owned coal-fired power plant was retired in 2012. The city's only two utility-owned petroleum electricity generating facilities were closed in 2012. Two, small petroleum-fired power plants remain, but they are used for electricity generation in periods of high demand. Otherwise,

petroleum is delivered by truck to D.C. from Virginia or Maryland.

Natural gas is used to provide heat and cooling for Federal buildings. Natural gas is supplied to the District by one natural gas distribution utility that services the city and some surrounding suburbs in Maryland and Virginia. D.C. has future plans to build two natural gas-fired cogeneration units.

Solar energy is the primary renewable resource in D.C. To encourage solar production, the District Department of the Environment introduced the Renewable Energy Incentive Program, which offers financial incentives to residents and businesses to encourage solar generation. By the end of 2015, more than 2100 solar energy systems were installed in the city. One of the largest solar energy installations in D.C. is located on the roof of the U.S. Department of Energy's Forrestal Headquarters. It generates 230 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

The District has set a Renewable Portfolio Standard of 50% renewable sources by 2032, including at least 5% from solar energy. District of Columbia leads all U.S. cities in the number of Energy Star Certified buildings, bypassing Los Angeles in 2014.

Additional Resources

Renewable Energy in District of Columbia
http://www.acore.org/files/pdfs/states/DC.pdf

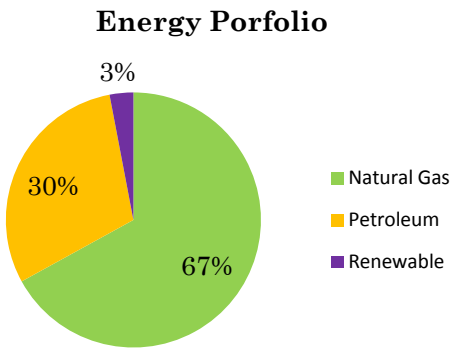


Figure 1. D.C.'s Energy Consumption Profile

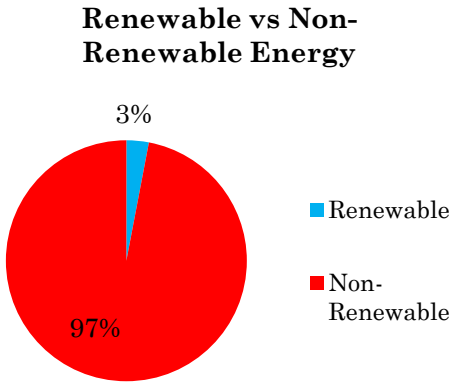


Figure 2. D.C.'s Renewable vs. Non Renewable Energy consumption

For more detailed information and data on District of Columbia's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage,

https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=DC

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity, 2013
Solar PV 7 MW

D.C. Energy Policies		
Policy Type	**NAACP Recommended Policy Standards**	**District of Columbia Policy Details**
Net Metering	Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer. **Capacity Limit Recommendation:** 2,000 kW (minimally), per system **Mandatory/Voluntary:** Mandatory	The District of Columbia has net metering standards that allow ratepayers with systems up to 1,000 kW capacity to participate.
Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)	A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum among of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources. **Recommended Standard:** Minimally 25% renewable by 2025 **Mandatory/Voluntary:** Mandatory **Allowable Sources:** Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy	The District of Columbia has a mandatory renewable portfolio standard of 50% renewable energy by 2032.
Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)	A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program. **Recommended Standard:** Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year's retail electricity sales. **Mandatory/Voluntary:** Mandatory	The District of Columbia lacks energy efficiency resource standards.
Local Hire Provision	• Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content • Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state • Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plate located in-state • Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally • Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts	The District has a general local hire provision. The First Source Program established in Washington in 1984 requires that 51% of all new jobs created on all government assisted construction projects, and 70% or more of all "common laborer" hours are filled by District residents.
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise	• Provide training opportunities • Notify DBEs of state business opportunities • Set-aside funds for DBEs	The District's Department of Transportation certifies disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) for federally assisted transportation contracts. The certification process targets minority entrepreneurs, businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged persons, and women-owned businesses.

Utility Disconnection Policies

Notice	Notice must be mailed fifteen days before the scheduled disconnection. Utility must attempt two notifications by phone or in person prior to day of disconnection. Employee must make one attempt to personally notify the customer at time of disconnection for gas or electricity. If no contact is made in these three additional attempts, the disconnection of electricity or gas will be postponed.
Date Based Protection	None.
Temperature Based Protection	Yes. No disconnection on days below 32ºF, or on days preceding a legal holiday or weekend with a forecasted temperature below 32ºF.
Payment Plan	Yes.
Reconnection Fee	Yes.
Disconnection Limitations	No disconnections between 5:00pm Thursday and 8:00am Monday. No disconnections on a legal holidays or any other day when the utility is closed to the public.
Other Protections	Postponement of disconnection for up to twenty-one days with medical certification and entry into a payment plan. Certification may be renewed for an additional twenty-one days.

Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the **NAACP report**, *"Lights Out in the Cold" for more information.*

Access to energy is not a luxury, it's a necessity. With exposure to both extreme heat and extreme cold, folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection (As outlined to the left). However, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

More disconnection policy details are available at the ***Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Disconnection Policies*** *webpage:* https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm

Action steps: Meet with the Public Utilities Commission or your local utility company to advocate for the adoption of the following:

- Date-based protections
- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Stronger limitations on disconnections during specific periods
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations

Energy Developments

Increase in City's Renewable Energy Goals: Mayor Muriel Bowser signed legislation to increase the renewable energy goal to 50% within the next 15 years. The legislation will serve 100,000 low-income residents with solar energy by 2032 and reduce their energy bills by 50%. Additionally, D.C. young adults will receive paid training in solar installation, energy efficiency, safety, and construction skills.[2]

Establishment of D.C. Green Bank: In March 2017, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced the introduction of legislation to make D.C. the first city in the United States to establish a Green Bank. Green Banks are capitalized with public funds which are then used to offer loans, leases, credit enhancements, and other financing services to close funding gaps for clean energy projects. The introduction of a Green Bank would offer new clean energy market opportunities as well as create green jobs.[3]

DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

The NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy in order to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

Overall, African Americans and Latinos suffer from higher unemployment and poverty rates. According to the 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national rate of unemployment for African Americans was 9.6%. The unemployment rate in D.C. for African American in 2015 was 13.3%.[4]

African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. The green economy offers an opportunity for communities of color to join a career-level field with opportunities for upward mobility. The green job market is diverse with 45% of all green jobs in the United States being held by workers with a high school diploma or less. It is the goal of the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to: naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

District of Columbia has an average concentration of energy employment with 4,504 traditional energy workers citywide. This percentage accounts for 0.6% of total state employment, compared to the 2.4% national employment average. However, D.C. has an additional 11,982 jobs in Energy Efficiency, which accounts for 0.5% of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.[5]

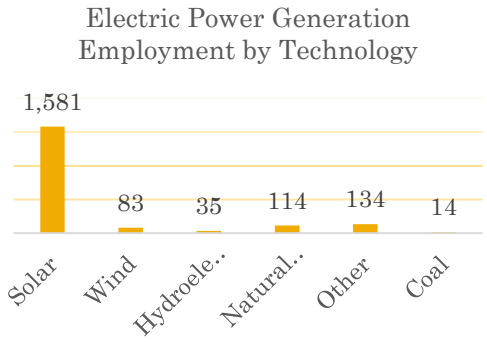


Figure 3. Electric Generation Employment in Pennsylvania

In D.C., the electric power generation segment employs 1,962 workers with solar making up the largest segment with 1,581 jobs, followed by traditional fossil fuel generation jobs. In 2015, the Solar Foundation reported that thirty-three states, including D.C. saw a positive growth in solar jobs.[6]

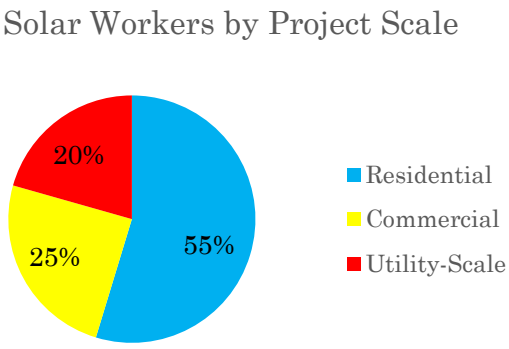


Figure 4. Source: Solar Energy Industries Association

In 2016, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) reported that recent solar capacity additions in the United States have been predominately commercial and utility-scale projects. However, in 2016 over half of the nation's solar workers were at work on residential solar projects. This imbalance is attributed to the fact that utility-scale generation typically produces more megawatts per labor unit installed compared to distributed generation.[7]

Investing in wind adds jobs in operations, maintenance, construction, manufacturing and support sectors. In 2016, the wind industry added 1,000 to 2,000 direct and indirect jobs to the energy job sector.[8]

TAKE ACTION!

Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable

- The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
- To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project

- Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
- There are several rebates and incentives available to residents interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.

Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign

- Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
- Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
- Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives.
- Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media

- Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
- Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
- Be quoted in a local newspaper
- Post an article or blog to an online platform

CLOSING

With the repeal of several federal environmental laws, it has become imperative to make a just transition to clean renewable energy. The District of Columbia has become a leader in energy transition and demonstrate that our energy systems can be both clean and just.

Embracing a transition to clean, renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for the District of Columbia, but will also diversify and strengthen the city's renewable energy economy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and Net Metering standards. In addition, D.C. should ensure that policies are in place to ensure equity in energy enterprise such as local hire provisions and disadvantaged business enterprises.

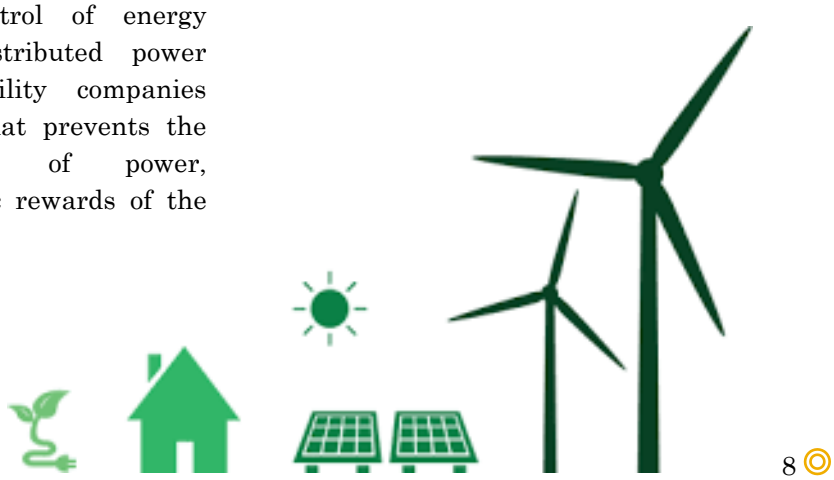
Although there is a little debate as to whether or not D.C. should transition to a clean energy economy, the path to 100% renewable is still being paved. The District of Columbia has made some major strides in renewable energy generation, the state still faces decisions that will determine how and if it can meet this goal. At stake is the fundamental question of whether power should be generated from the top-down or bottom-up. Will customers be able to seize control of energy generation through distributed power generation or will utility companies maintain a monopoly that prevents the equitable distribution of power, ownership, and economic rewards of the electricity system?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

U.S. Green Building Council
http://www.usgbc.org/

American Council on Renewable Energy
http://www.acore.org/

Interfaith Power and Light
http://ipldmv.org/



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[1] "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." District of Columbia - State Energy Profile Overview - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). June 15, 2017.

[2] Director, Kelly Trout Communications. "D.C. Council Unanimously Approves 50% Renewable Energy Target." Chesapeake Climate Action Network. June 28, 2016. http://chesapeakeclimate.org/press-releases/dc-council-approves-50-renewable-energy-target/.

[3] "Document.write(document.getElementById("site-slogan").innerHTML);." Mayor Bowser Announces Plan to Establish DC Green Bank | ddoe. March 15, 2017. https://doee.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-announces-plan-establish-dc-green-bank.

[4] "Unemployment rates for African Americans by state in 2015 : The Economics Daily." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 04, 2016. https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/unemployment-rates-for-african-americans-by-state-in-2015.htm.

[5] The U.S. Energy Employment Report (2017) U.S. Energy Information Administration, November 2016 Monthly Energy Review. https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/us_energy_jobs_2017_final.pdf

[6] *The Solar Foundation's National Solar Jobs Census 2015*. Publication. The Solar Foundation. 2016. 1-65.

[7]"Solar Market Insight Report 2016 Year In Review." Solar Energy Industries Association. 2016. http://www.seia.org/research-resources/solar-market-insight-report-2016-year-review.

[8] "State Fact Sheets." AWEA - American Wind Energy Association. 2017. http://www.awea.org/state-fact-sheets.