

Celebrating the District on Earth Day 2015

The District has many reasons to be proud of its leadership in sustainability— in just one year, the District moved up nine places in overall rankings in the 2014 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), and the District now leads the nation with the most ENERGY STAR® certified buildings in the country.

This Earth Day, more DC residents and businesses than ever before are working with the DCSEU to reduce energy use, minimize their carbon footprint, and build a more sustainable and livable DC.

Helping DC Residents Save Energy and Money

Last year, more than 47,000 District households took advantage of the DCSEU's energy efficiency services—from purchasing reduced price energy-efficient lighting products in more than 50 retailers in the City to taking advantage of rebates for whole-home energy solutions including insulation, air sealing, and HVAC upgrades. In fact, residents purchased more than 414,000 efficient light bulbs and appliances at DCSEU participating retailers in 2014. The DCSEU now offers more rebates for a wider variety of high-efficiency lighting, appliances, and heating and cooling equipment than ever. With more opportunities to save energy and money, District residents are finding it easier than ever to reduce energy costs.

Energy Solutions for Small Business

The District is home to more than 60,000 independent businesses. To serve this important pillar of the District's economy, the DCSEU offers rebates to business owners to reduce the upfront costs of energy-efficient equipment. From lighting and HVAC to refrigeration and restaurant equipment, more than 500 businesses and institutions saved millions of dollars on their energy bills last year. This year, the DCSEU is offering up to \$80,000 in rebates per business location for energy-efficient equipment to help owners save money for years to come.

Economic Opportunity and Green Jobs

When it comes to the DCSEU's work, participating Contractors do more than just carry out energy efficiency projects. They increase the number of green collar jobs in the District, spread awareness of DCSEU offerings to potential customers, and train entry-level professionals for work in a more sustainable DC. Last year, the DCSEU invested more than \$4 million with local businesses. District residents worked more than 159,000 hours of work in support of DCSEU services.

Power isn't everything; it's how you use it that makes a difference. Energy efficiency empowers the District by stabilizing energy costs, creating jobs, stimulating economic growth, and reducing carbon emissions. Since 2011, all of this work has culminated in the prevention of 45,110 tons CO2 from entering the atmosphere—equivalent to the energy used by more than 3,700 homes in one year. The DCSEU is honored to represent DC.