

# Environmental Protection

Element Summary: 6-E

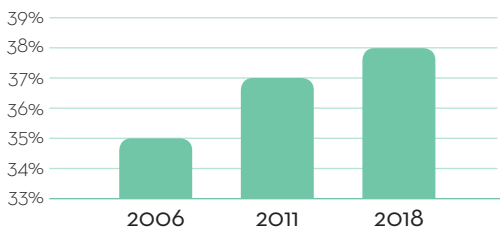
## GOAL

Protect, restore, and enhance the natural and man-made environment in Washington, DC, taking steps to improve environmental quality and resilience, adapt to and mitigate climate change, prevent and reduce pollution, improve human health, increase access to clean and renewable energy, conserve the values and functions of Washington, DC's natural resources and ecosystems, and educate the public on ways to secure a sustainable future.

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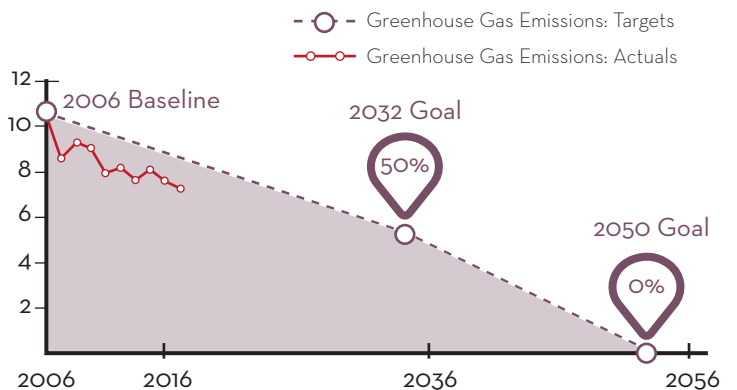
- **E-1 Adapting to and Mitigating Climate Change:** describes how long-term shifts in climate result in tidal flooding, extreme heat, and heavier rainstorms. This section describes the District's mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- **E-2 Protecting Natural and Green Areas:** describes policies and actions designed to protect Washington, DC's natural landscape, which is characterized by two tidal rivers; complex networks of parkland, streams, and valleys; and undulating hills and terraces.
- **E-3 Conserving Natural Resources:** addresses the conservation of water and energy resources and the reduction of solid waste.
- **E-4 Promoting Environmental Sustainability:** discusses managing resources so that they are not permanently depleted or lost for future generations.
- **E-5 Reducing Environmental Hazards:** describes a variety of sudden shocks and chronic stressors related to land use. The Element includes policies and actions intended to minimize the potential for damage, disease, and injury.
- **E-6 Environment, Education, and the Economy:** presents policies and actions that connect environmental quality to strategic decisions about government operations, economic growth, and education, and recognizes the link between environmental quality and the broader goals set by the "Vision for Growing an Inclusive City."

### District Tree Canopy Coverage



Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) is the layer of tree leaves and stems that cover the city's surfaces. It assumes a bird's eye perspective, and assesses the percentage of the city actually covered by trees.

### Citywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Targets



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## SUMMARY OF MAJOR POLICY THEMES

### Adapting to and Mitigating Climate Change

- Acknowledge how greenhouse gases from human activities, particularly heating and cooling buildings and transportation, are the most significant driver of observed climate change. Washington, DC's strategy to address climate change focuses on mitigation and adaptation.

### Balancing Growth with Environmental Protection and Conservation

- Balance Washington DC's environmental protection goals with the need to manage growth and change, as prioritized in the Framework Element. Promote conservation to maintain or reduce consumption of resources, including energy and water, even with a growing population and economy.

### Integrating Sustainable DC 2.0

- Integrate policies and actions from the Sustainable DC plan and Comprehensive Plan's in several overlapping subject matter areas, including health, food, nature, water, waste, transportation, climate, built environment, energy, and governance.
- Integrate targets and actions from Climate Ready DC and Clean Energy DC into both the Comprehensive Plan and Sustainable DC 2.0.

### Promoting Land Use and Sustainability

- Emphasize that a forward-thinking approach to sustainability supports environmental concerns, such as ecosystem protection, while simultaneously addressing the needs of a growing city. Implement sustainable approaches to land use and urban form to help lower vehicle emissions even as the city's population continues to grow. Acknowledge that flooding and other climate change risks should be balanced with other land use priorities, such as housing and economic development.

### Implementing Anacostia Waterfront Improvements

- Sustain the momentum of the turnaround of the Anacostia waterfront, a national model for urban rivers in terms of environmental restoration, public access, economic development, and inclusive growth.

### Addressing Environmental Justice

- Acknowledge how the policies and actions found throughout the Comprehensive Plan, particularly those focused on improving equity and resilience, comprise a forward-looking approach to environmental justice. The Element emphasizes the District government's charge to improve vulnerable communities that continue to face significant barriers to overall health, livelihood, and sustainability.