Impact Report 2025
ECC DMV Region



Powering an Equitable Future

Driving Opportunity and Resilience Across the DMV Clean Energy Economy

Emerald Cities
COLLABORATIVE
America empowered.

Impact Report 2025

ECC DMV Region





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A Letter from the Regional Director

Expanding Our Impact



Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As I reflect on the past year, I am incredibly proud of what Emerald Cities Collaborative DMV has accomplished alongside our partners, communities, and supporters. Together, we have continued to demonstrate that climate action and economic opportunity are most impactful when they are rooted in equity, collaboration, and community leadership. We have laid a stronger foundation for the future by expanding our programs, strengthening our operations, and positioning the DMV region to respond to the rapidly evolving and unpredictable clean energy economy. While the policy and funding landscape continues to shift—particularly at the federal and local levels, we remain focused on identifying new opportunities, diversifying resources, and building stove-ready partnerships needed to sustain our work for years to come.

Our commitment extends beyond implementing programs to investing in residents and businesses that have historically been excluded from economic opportunities. We are building the capacity of entrepreneurs—particularly women and Black and Brown entrepreneurs—to enter, grow, and thrive in the construction and clean energy industries.

Over the past year, we have deepened our collaborations with government agencies, utilities, industry leaders, educational institutions, philanthropic partners, and community-based organizations. These partnerships enable us to deliver innovative workforce development programs, strengthen the capacity of local contractors, and advance the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Looking ahead, we are equally excited about expanding our reach beyond the DMV. By cultivating regional and international partnerships, we are creating new opportunities to share best practices, learn from national leaders, and bring innovative solutions back to our communities. Climate challenges are interconnected, and we believe our work is strongest when we collaborate across regions and sectors.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, board, partners, funders, and the communities that place their trust in us. Thank you for believing in our mission and for joining us in building a cleaner, more resilient, and more “high road” future.

Tabaris D. Smith
Regional Director, Emerald Cities Collaborative – DMV Region

About Us

Our History in the DMV Region

Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) DMV advances a people-centered clean energy transition by designing and delivering programs that strengthen local businesses, expand workforce pathways, and support communities most impacted by climate change. We work at the intersection of climate action and economic opportunity, partnering with government agencies, utilities, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and industry leaders to create equitable and lasting solutions.



Building the Foundation

Our regional work began by providing technical assistance to government agencies and nonprofit organizations on economic inclusion strategies within climate action initiatives. In 2020, ECC partnered with the Building Innovation Hub and the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to support the development and launch of the "How to Find a Qualified Vendor in DC" resource, helping building owners and operators identify qualified contractors to comply with the District's Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS).

Expanding Our Programs and Reach

Building on this foundation, ECC expanded its work beyond technical assistance to develop comprehensive contractor development, workforce development, and business capacity-building programs. Today, our initiatives help minority, women, veteran, and disadvantaged-owned businesses, workers and communities access opportunities in energy efficiency, building decarbonization, and climate resilience while preparing local workers for high-quality careers in the clean energy economy.

As our impact has grown, so has our geographic reach. Through strategic partnerships and intentional expansion, ECC has broadened its work across the Greater Washington region while launching new initiatives throughout the DMV. This growth has enabled us to connect communities, employers, contractors, and public agencies around a shared vision of an equitable clean energy future.

Creating Lasting Regional Impact

ECC's ripple effect extends far beyond individual projects. By strengthening businesses, supporting workers, building community resilience, and transforming local markets, we are helping create a more resilient, inclusive, and equitable economy that benefits current and future generations.

Our Impact Through the Years

ECC DMV Regional Milestones*

2020

- Partnered with the Building Innovation Hub and the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE).



- Supported the development and launch of the "How to Find a Qualified Vendor in DC" resource.



2021

- Formed an advisory committee of local and community stakeholders to help shape an emerging ECC region.



- Focused on creating opportunities and solutions for disadvantaged small businesses and contractors in the clean energy sector.



2023

- Officially launched the ECC DMV Region, with operations across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Emerald Cities COLLABORATIVE

- Began leading efforts to integrate environment, equity, and economy and advance sustainable development and energy efficiency initiatives.



- Launched the region's first program, the DC Contractor Incubator (DCI).



- Designed DCI as a multi-week training program supporting small, minority- and women-owned construction firms in the building decarbonization economy a focus on Wards 5, 7, and 8.

2024

- Transitioned the former advisory committee into the Green Economy Round Up (GERU).



- Grew GERU into a peer learning and collaboration network of 30+ workforce, community-based organization, and industry partners.



- Continued working collectively to build equity, inclusion, and economic opportunity in the District's green building sector.



2025

- Launched Women Build DC, a tailored accelerator for women entrepreneurs in construction.
- Provided one-on-one coaching, access to industry experts, and leadership development opportunities.
- Addressed gender barriers in the industry by helping participants build networks, strengthen business skills, and foster collaboration among women-owned firms.



- Received the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' 2025 Climate & Energy Leadership Award for the DC Contractor Incubator.



- Recognized for implementing climate solutions and contributing to the region's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.



*Note, 2022 is not applicable to this timeline

About Us

Meet the Team



Tabaris Smith, PhD
Regional Director



Mandy Lee
Senior Program Manager



Justyce Watson
Economic Inclusion Manager



Page Clay
Program Coordinator

Our Mission

Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC) is committed to breaking down barriers for historically underrepresented communities—creating places where opportunity, belonging, and sustainability thrive. We champion equal access and lasting resilience by advancing equity in both communities and ecosystems. Through bold, replicable strategies in community and worker power building, fair participation in the economy, and just implementation, we're building a future that works for everyone.

Our Vision

We envision healthy, sustainable, powerful, and thriving communities.



Tabaris Smith speaking at an ECC Contractor Incubator Graduation and Networking Event

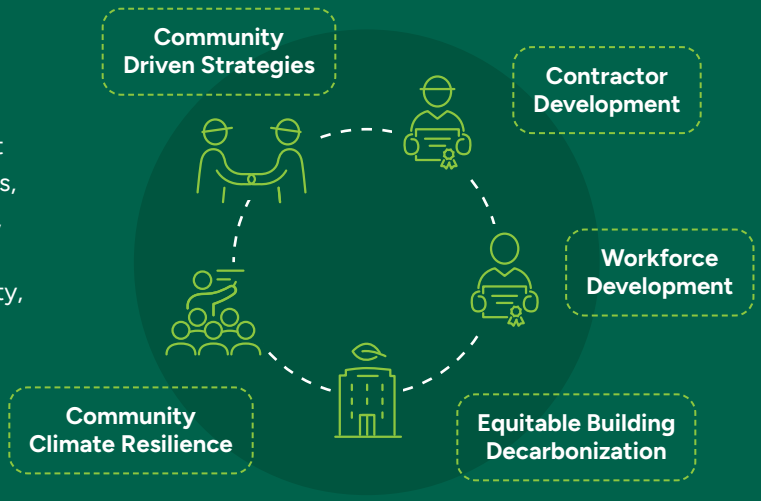
DMV Regional Theory of Change

Our Approach

ECC DMV envisions a region where every community benefits from the clean energy transition through **quality jobs, thriving local businesses, healthier buildings, and resilient neighborhoods.** We believe climate action and economic opportunity must advance together, ensuring that historically underserved communities are leaders and beneficiaries of a more sustainable future.

Our Region's Vision and Pathway for a Just and Sustainable Future

Our region transforms complex climate, workforce, and economic challenges into community-driven solutions that create lasting systems change. By partnering with residents, businesses, government agencies, educational institutions, labor organizations, and community-based organizations, we strengthen local capacity, expand economic opportunity, and accelerate equitable building decarbonization across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.



Community-Driven Strategies

Contractor Development

- Strengthen small, minority-, women-, veteran-, and disadvantaged-owned businesses through technical assistance, coaching, capital access, and procurement support.
- Build contractor capacity and competitiveness to secure contracts, create jobs, and build wealth.
- Expand participation of local businesses in the clean energy economy

Equitable Building Decarbonization

- Support healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient residential, commercial, institutional, and affordable housing buildings.
- Combine technical assistance, contractor development, workforce training, and community engagement to reduce emissions and operating costs.
- Expand economic opportunities for local businesses and workers.

Workforce Development

- Prepare residents for high-quality careers in energy efficiency, building performance, electrification, climate resilience, and sustainable construction.
- Provide industry-recognized training, work-based learning, certifications, employer connections, and career navigation.
- Create equitable pathways to family-sustaining careers while building the skilled workforce needed for a low-carbon economy.

Community-Driven Strategies

- Bring together residents, businesses, public agencies, utilities, educational institutions, philanthropy, and community organizations to co-design solutions.
- Align programs with local needs and measurable outcomes through collaboration and shared leadership.
- Integrate climate action, workforce development, contractor capacity-building, and community resilience to create lasting systems change.

Community Climate Resilience

- Partner with communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts.
- Advance community-led planning, education, neighborhood partnerships, and equitable climate investments.
- Equip residents with the knowledge, resources, and leadership opportunities to shape solutions that improve environmental, economic, and public health outcomes.



2025 in Review

Driving Lasting Economic Growth

Each year, ECC DMV measures its impact by the strength of the partnerships we build, the work forces we support, and the tools and strategies we develop to grow the local clean energy economy. Our work is grounded in the belief that a just and sustainable future depends on strong, diverse workers and employers who have the training, resources, and opportunities needed to reinvest in their communities and drive lasting economic growth.

Creating Impact

ECC DMV Impact Numbers



71
small and minority-owned construction businesses participated in contractor development programs

32%
of reporting contractors secured major contracting opportunities

59
training sessions, workshops, and learning engagements were delivered across the DMV region

400+
hours of one-on-one technical assistance were provided to Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs)

50%
of entrepreneurs engaged through the DMV Builders Brew Network were women-owned businesses energy

23
contractors earned industry-recognized certifications or strengthened their technical credentials

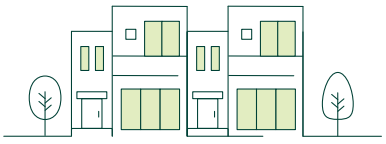
27
clean energy employers were engaged in the development of workforce programs

$75K
invested in community-based organizations

$281K
in resources leveraged to expand community impact and climate equity initiatives

$600K
raised to advance equitable, clean energy career pathways and contractor capacity-building

400+
hours of targeted technical assistance through Energy Communities Capacity Building DC program



Expanding Contractor Pathways Through Training and Connection

In 2025, ECC DMV strengthened its contractor support model by introducing targeted program improvements that expanded opportunities for contractors to deepen technical knowledge, strengthen financial readiness, and build meaningful industry connections.

Energy Series Workshop

Launched the Energy Series, an intimate workshop focused on sustainability, green building opportunities, workforce pathways, and business growth in the clean energy economy.

- **5 sessions offered once per month to contractors, workers, and community members**

> **"DC has an opportunity to show the country what it looks like when a city builds its green economy from the inside out—led by the contractors, workers, and communities who know these buildings, these neighborhoods, and this city best."**
>
> ***DC Economic Empowerment Playbook, ECC DMV***

Estimating Cohort

Estimating Academy is a self-paced estimating training for contractors led by American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE) Estimating Academy (ASPE), designed to strengthen bidding, pricing, and proposal development skills.

- **10 local contractors received funding from the DMV region to enroll in ASPE.**

Cohort takeaways:

- **Hands-on workshops**
- **Peer learning**
- **Real-world simulations to improve competitiveness and increase confidence in pursuing green building opportunities**



Participant from DC Contractor Incubator



Participant from Contractor Development efforts

Expanding Contractor Pathways Through Training and Connection

Capital Readiness Cohort

ECC DMV launched the Capital Readiness Cohort as an advanced program for returning DCI participants, focused on strengthening financial foundations and preparing for green capital opportunities across the District.

The cohort curriculum focused on providing students with:

- LEDC-led Financial Stress Test*
- Financial training
- Advanced capital curriculum covering cash flow management, capital stacking, and investor readiness.
- Ongoing one-on-one technical assistance to support loan packaging, capital sourcing, and long-term financial sustainability.

80% of cohort participants completed the Financial Stress Test and left with a better understanding of what their finances say about their business.

3 contractors received lines of credit following the cohort.

Monthly Builder's Brew

ECC DMV's Monthly Builders Brew is a powerful series of networking events stemming from Women Build DC, designed to meet contractors, specifically women in construction, where they are, while supporting sustainable business growth and increased access to opportunity. This informal space is utilized to grow connections, share lessons learned, and form valuable partnerships with other women entrepreneurs in construction.

37 women entrepreneurs served through this network

> **"The women build cohort helped give me confidence—it allowed me to do a pitch deck contest, which I received an award for, and has given me the confidence entering the sustainability and green energy sector of my work."**
>
> ***Ashante' Yussuf, CEO, Prive' Demure Inc.***



DC Contractor Incubator Graduation event



Monthly Women Builders Brew Event

Expanding Contractor Pathways Through Training and Connection

Contractor of the Month

ECC DMV concluded its Contractor of the Month digital series designed to intentionally recognize women and minority-owned businesses that are making a difference across the DMV and have participated in the DC Contractor Incubator (DCI). The chosen contractors all represented excellence in the green construction, energy, and infrastructure sectors while demonstrating the transformative impact of investing in local communities.

Contractors recognized through the Contractor of the Month series included:



Valerie A. Sanderlin
Founder and CEO
FocusWorks



Rosa Ramirez
Operations Manager
New America Restoration



Nicole Whalen
CEO, Green Compass



Wen Yong
CEO, Greenergy Electric



ECC DMV Receives Leadership Award

In October 2025, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) presented ECC DMV with the esteemed 2025 Climate & Energy Leadership Award for the DC Contractor Incubator. The 2025 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards recognize organizations that have implemented a broad range of climate solutions and contributed to the regional goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

> *COG regional goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and supporting environmental efforts to advance equity in traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods.*
>
> Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Above: (Left to right) Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria Vice Mayor, Energy; Rodney Lusk, Fairfax County Supervisor and COG Board Chair; Justyce Watson, Tabaris Smith, and Paige Clay.

Education Highlight "Word of the Month" Series

Powering an equitable future and strengthening communities to compete in the green economy starts with education—giving workers and community members the resources to understand industry language and terms. Our Word of the Month YouTube series supports that goal by translating technical terms related to energy, building performance, climate, and economic inclusion into clear, applicable language.

Through short, engaging videos hosted by DMV staff, the series explains clean energy topics in approachable ways, helping workers, contractors, partners, and community members build familiarity with the ideas shaping the region's transition to healthier, more efficient buildings. One short reel and one term at a time, the region is making clean energy knowledge accessible to everyone—not just industry experts.



Our Programs and Partners

Impact Through Partnership

Partnership is at the heart of how ECC DMV creates lasting impact. Across the region, we bring together community-based organizations, government agencies, funders, businesses, educators, and industry partners to connect resources, expertise, and opportunity. These collaborations allow us to design programs that respond to local needs while strengthening the people and organizations already working to create change in their communities.

The following spotlights demonstrate what this approach looks like in action—from building the capacity of local contractors and community organizations to advancing energy democracy and creating more equitable pathways into the clean energy economy.

Program Spotlights

DC Contractor Incubator (DCI)

Building Capacity in Green Construction

The DC Contractor Incubator (DCI) equips small, minority, and women-owned construction firms across Washington, D.C. with the tools, resources, mentorship, and technical assistance needed to compete in the region's growing building decarbonization economy, with a specific focus on Wards 5, 7, and 8.

Programming Built to Meet Contractor Needs

Certified Business Enterprise including construction firms in Washington, D.C. face persistent barriers to scaling their businesses. Despite growing opportunities in clean energy and infrastructure, contractors are often excluded from capital access, technical training, and large-scale procurement opportunities. DCI uses a cohort-based program model designed to meet contractors where they are. Each contractor completes an assessment to identify needs and is matched to the appropriate tier of support.

E-Contractor Academy by the Numbers

71
minority and women-owned construction businesses (40 from Wards 5,7, and 8)

300+
hours of technical assistance via one-on-one coaching, workshops, and audits

32%
businesses secured major contracting opportunities after participation

75%
of participants improved office systems (accounting, compliance, and bonding)





DCI cohort participants

DC Contractor Incubator

E-CONTRACTOR
Energy • Environment • Economy

Core Offerings At-a-Glance

- **Green Building Certifications – (GPRO, LEED, EPA 608)**
- **Cohort-based business education (5–8 weeks)**
- **One-on-one coaching for up to 2 years**
- **Back-office audits + technical assistance (e.g., financial, bonding, compliance)**
- **Access to capital preparation**
- **Networking and matchmaking with project developers**
- **Educational workshops throughout the year**

Tiers of Support Offered

Foundation Cohorts (Introductory Support)
Focused on introductory-level green building and construction knowledge, business fundamentals, compliance, and back-office organization.

Focus Cohorts (Need-Specific Support)
Targeted interventions such as estimating, access to capital, or bonding.

Scale Cohorts (Advanced Support & Technical Assistance)
In-depth technical assistance, intensive coaching, and advanced training for contractors ready to pursue larger contracts & investment opportunities.



DC Contractor Incubator graduation



DCI Participant Spotlight

Valerie Sanderlin

When Valerie Sanderlin founded FocusWorks Construction & Development LLC, nearly 20 years ago, she set out to create quality housing and strengthen communities throughout the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) region. Over time, that vision has evolved into a thriving construction business focused on residential and small commercial renovations, multifamily rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and sustainable construction practices, helping deliver healthier and more resilient living environments while reducing long-term operating costs.

Despite its success, FocusWorks faced significant barriers to growth common to small contractors, including limited access to financing, certifications, workforce development, and larger procurement opportunities. As a woman-owned business operating in a highly competitive industry, Valerie knew that expanding her company would require stronger systems, strategic guidance, and access to new professional networks. That opportunity came when she joined the first DC Contractor Incubator (DCI) cohort in 2023.

Through DCI, Valerie gained practical tools to strengthen business operations and improve competitiveness. Equally important, she joined a community of mentors, industry professionals, and fellow contractors who continue to share opportunities, resources, and expertise.

According to DCI Instructor Lisa Anderson, Valerie's commitment to learning and applying new skills set her apart. Anderson also noted that Valerie's active participation extended beyond the classroom, creating other growth opportunities. "Valerie and other members have collaborated together. They bid on opportunities together. They are mentoring each other. There's a community that is being built here," Anderson added.

Since completing the program, FocusWorks has grown significantly with annual revenue increasing from six figures to over one million dollars in two years. The company has strengthened its operational foundation, expanded its capacity to pursue larger projects, and increased its ability to create jobs and deliver high-quality sustainable construction projects throughout the DMV region.

Importantly, the value of DCI did not end when the cohort concluded. Valerie remains engaged through workshops, sustainability training, networking events, coaching, newsletters, and technical assistance opportunities. These ongoing resources help her stay informed about funding opportunities, certifications, workforce programs, and emerging industry trends, while the relationships formed through the program continue to generate new partnerships and business opportunities.

> **"The DC Contractor Incubator introduced me to valuable relationships, educational resources, and technical assistance that strengthened every aspect of my business."**
>
> ***Valerie Sanderlin, DCI Participant***

Program Spotlights

DCI Presents Women Build DC

Accelerated Program for Women Entrepreneurs in Construction

DC Contractor Incubator (DCI) launched Women Build DC, an accelerated 5-week, no-cost program for women entrepreneurs in construction to secure clean energy projects, offering 14 workshops on topics like green codes, climate strategies, securing investments, bonding, and more. The program intentionally operated in virtual format, recognizing that minority women often serve as the anchors of their families and may not always have the flexibility to attend in-person programming.

E-Contractor Academy by the Numbers

13
graduates

300+
hours of technical assistance via one-on-one coaching, workshops, and audits

85%
participants received GRPO Fundamentals of Building Green certificates



Women Build DC's curriculum:

- Green construction and sustainability
- Business strategy and leadership training
- Access to capital
- Bonding education
- One-on-one business coaching
- Women in leadership session
- Exposure to industry experts and networking opportunities



Women Build DC

Congratulations
to Our Award Recipients!

Funded by our partners at Washington Area Community Investment Fund (WACIF)

Women Entrepreneurs Compete for $25,000 in Funding

As a complement to the WBDC cohort, we hosted a pitch deck competition designed to help participants navigate policy and regulatory challenges, strengthen their business development skills, and gain practical experience engaging with investors and partners.

Twelve entrepreneurs pitched their businesses to a panel of expert judges representing ECC partner organizations, and evaluated presenters based on the following criteria:

- Business model and value proposition
- Financial viability and potential for profitability
- Clean energy and sustainability impact
- Presentation skills and overall pitch effectiveness
- Ability to respond to investor questions during the Q&A session



First Place ($12,000)
Nicole Allen, President of Operations, Allen-Norris Permitting & Inspections





Second Place ($7,500):
Ashante' Yussuf
CEO, Prive' Demure Inc.



Third Place ($6,000):
Susan Webster
CEO, Sterling LLC



Susan Webster accepting her graduation certificate from Tabaris Smith, ECC DMV Regional Director

DCI Participant

In Memoriam: Susan Webster

With heavy hearts, we honor and remember Susan Webster, CEO of Sterling LLC and a cherished participant in the Women Build DC Cohort (WBDC). We were honored to know, serve, and train Susan as she worked tirelessly to build and scale her business. It was a privilege to witness her brilliance, determination, and business acumen shine—from earning third place in our WBDC pitch deck competition to proudly accepting her graduation certificate with a smile that lit up the room. Susan's legacy continues to inspire us, and we remain committed to carrying her memory forward as we empower the next generation of women entrepreneurs and contractors.



DCI Instructor Spotlight

Lisa Anderson

Lisa Anderson is the founder of Anavo Transformation Solutions, a strategic advisory and compliance company committed to empowering small, minority, and women-owned businesses in the government contracting community. Lisa's mission is to help business owners create the systems and build financial discipline needed to restructure and scale with confidence.

As a certified public accountant and a certified government contracts compliance professional, Lisa brings a wealth of experience to her teaching. She's not just an instructor; she's a small business owner who has navigated the same challenges her students face.

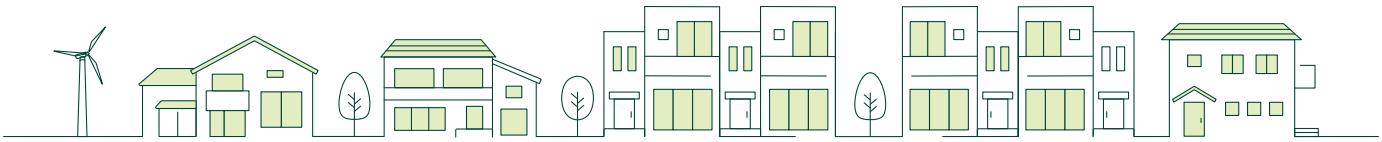
"My goal is to help participants build businesses that are ready for larger contracts and long-term success," Lisa shares that participants will leave with increased business skills and a deeper understanding of:

- Strategic planning
- Workforce planning
- Portfolio diversification
- Licensing, certifications, and insurance required to bid and compete for large-scale projects
- Organizational development and scalable solutions for back-office challenges

Her journey as an Instructor with the Emerald Cities Collaborative since October 2024 has been nothing short of impactful. "What I love about Emerald Cities is how they are intentional in thinking about ways to connect businesses to community resources and opportunities that exist," says Lisa. Her role in supporting programs like the DC Contractor Incubator and Women Build DC showcases her commitment to fostering growth and sustainability.

- **60+ contractors trained across DMV programs**
- **10+ businesses supported with hands-on organizational restructuring**
- **3 cohorts supported across two programs**

> **Through my work with ECC, I have seen business owners take a hard look at where their companies need to become stronger, from building teams and strengthening back-office operations to creating systems that reduce the business's dependence on the owner."**
>
> ***Lisa Anderson, ECC Instructor and founder of Anavo Transformation Solutions***



Program Spotlights

Energy Communities Capacity Building (ECCB)



Building Community Power Through Energy Democracy

ECC DMV proudly launched the Energy Communities Capacity Building (ECCB) DC Program as part of our ongoing commitment to climate resiliency and equitable community development. We developed the first place-based ECCB Tier 1 cohort to build shared language and analysis of the energy system and chart a community-driven pathway to energy democracy in Washington, DC.

Five organizations participating in the Tier 1 cohort received:

- Grant funding
- Bi-monthly in-person workshops
- Bi-monthly one-on-one virtual technical assistance on how to deepen their energy democracy work



Above and inset: ECCB DC Workshop

Tier 1 Cohort Benefits from Our Partners

Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) strengthened organizational communications and storytelling through an internal strategy session that helped more clearly integrate energy democracy into outreach.

Young, Gifted, and Green (YGG) expanded its Youth Energy Audit program to incorporate energy democracy and build facilitation and leadership capacity through engagement in the Co-Governance Pillar, increasing confidence in policy and budget participation.

Green New Deal (GND) received support on Public Service Commission engagement, including research that helped communities prepare for rate hike public comment processes.

Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) strengthened campaign and regulatory strategy, including Beyond Gas and Healthy Homes advocacy, contributing to expanded organizing capacity and a $91,750 Community Climate Shift grant.

Dreaming Out Loud (DOL) benefited from shared learning and a cohort listserv that supported resource-sharing and funding opportunities.

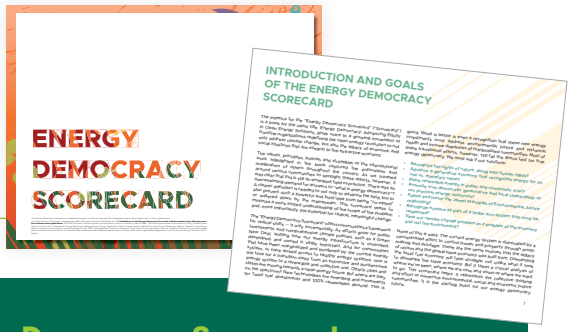
"I feel [a] real sense of ownership of the work. It reflected our sessions really well."

ECCB DC Cohort Participant



Program Spotlights

Energy Communities Capacity Building (ECCB)



ECCB by the Numbers

$75K
in grants awarded to community-driven clean energy organizations

400+
hours of targeted technical assistance grounded in energy democracy

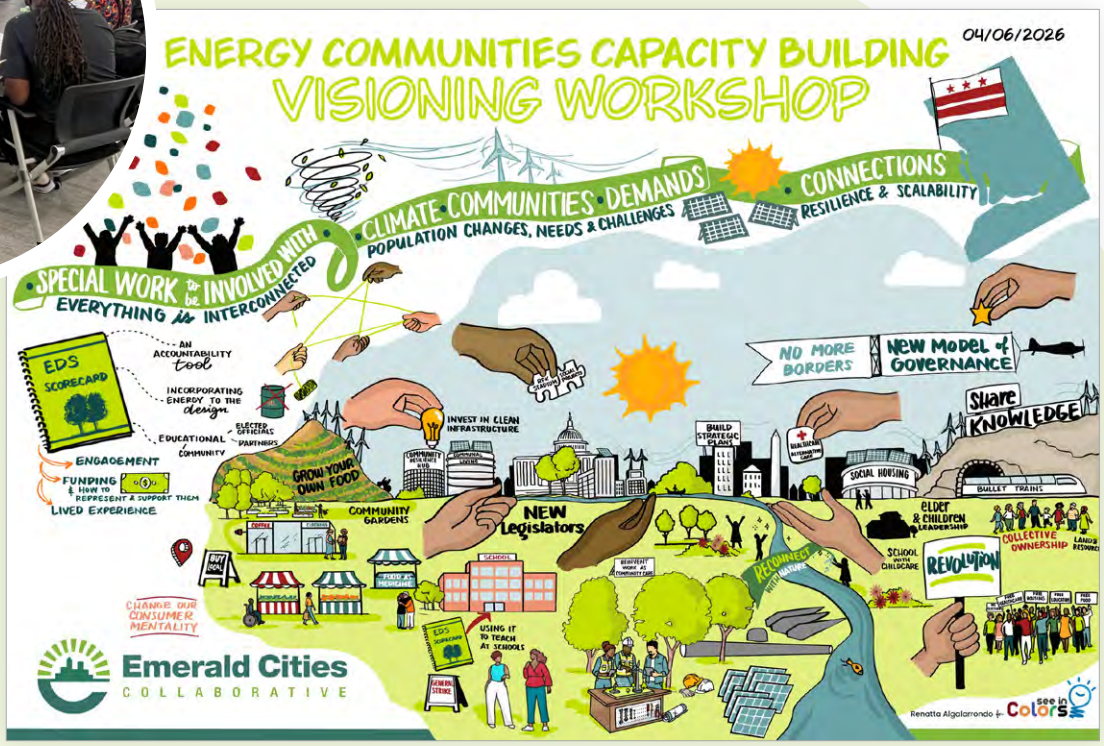
$216K
in additional funding secured post-cohort to advance energy democracy work



Energy Democracy Scorecard

The Energy Communities Capacity Building (ECCB) project began in 2022 as a national, virtual cohort of ten organizations using an Energy Democracy Scorecard (EDS) to build capacity to integrate energy democracy frameworks. EDS is a dense booklet with nearly a dozen questions organized around four pillars: social justice, moral economy, regenerative energy, and co-governance. Communities identify where their community lands along the "energy economy spectrum" concerning each question (extractive to energy democracy).





A visual reflection of ECC's Energy Communities Capacity Building Visioning Workshop, capturing participants' ideas for a more just, resilient, and community-powered energy future in Washington, DC, and beyond. Artist: Renatta Algalarrondo
Inset: ECCB participants exploring the role of storytelling in the regenerative energy pillar workshop.

Funder Spotlight

Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

Advancing an Equitable Clean Energy Economy

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) is leading on energy and environmental issues within the District of Columbia. Upholding an intimate relationship between the natural environment and the built environment of Washington, DC, DOEE acknowledges the complex history of the land upon which it sits. Through its unique position as a public agency, DOEE uses public dollars and resources to advance a clean and equitable economy, expand green infrastructure, and improve public and environmental health across all Wards. In its commitment to advancing a more sustainable and just District, DOEE recognized ECC's unique ability to convene stakeholders, connect communities and businesses, and develop solutions that support complex economic, workforce, and climate goals.

> **"We were truly impressed with ECC's ability to convene such a diverse group of stakeholders and facilitate productive conversations aimed at co-developing practical solutions together."**
>
> ***Mark Bryan, Program Analyst, Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)***

Connecting Policy to Local Opportunity

As a trusted advisor and partner, DOEE provided insight into the District's decarbonization policies and energy efficiency priorities while helping identify the challenges local contractors and small businesses face in accessing quality, sustainable work. Their guidance helped shape programs such as the DC Contractor Incubator, ensuring they respond to both industry demand and community needs.

> **"Ensuring District small businesses have access to those opportunities and are competitive with regional or national firms has been an ongoing challenge. The DC Contractor Incubator was important in mapping these challenges and demonstrating viable solutions that integrate with other existing programs in the District."**
>
> ***Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)***

ECC DMV continues to serve as a connector between policy, businesses, workers, and communities. Together, DOEE and ECC DMV are helping create pathways for local contractors to participate in building decarbonization efforts, strengthening economic inclusion, and ensuring the benefits of the clean energy transition reach the communities and businesses that have historically been left out.



Looking Ahead

Building What Comes Next

The work ahead is rooted in our continued commitment to expanding opportunity, strengthening communities, and preparing the DMV for an equitable clean energy future.

Expanding Opportunity and Community Impact

ECC DMV remains committed to advancing solutions that lower energy costs, expand pathways to quality jobs and business growth, support healthier and more efficient homes and buildings, and accelerate equitable climate action. We will continue serving as a trusted connector of resources, bringing together community members, contractors, employers, housing partners, public agencies, and philanthropic organizations to create opportunities that strengthen both people and place.

Ensuring Clean Energy Investments Deliver Equitable Benefits for All

Our goal is to ensure that every investment in the clean energy economy also improves affordability, expands economic mobility, addresses the region's growing housing needs, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

We are grateful to our partners, funders, and collaborators whose continued support transforms ideas into measurable impact. Together, we are building stronger communities, healthier buildings, and a more equitable and sustainable future for the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Launching ReTune DC

In 2026, we are launching ReTune DC to strengthen the workforce ecosystem in the built environment in partnership with Steven Winter Associates (SWA) and funded by the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), ReTune DC is a free training series designed to equip professionals and small business owners with the knowledge, hands-on experience, and connections needed to access career and project opportunities in building retuning. The program cohort will begin in August 2026 and include in-person and virtual sessions with daytime, evening, and weekend training options to accommodate working professionals and business owners.



Energy Communities Capacity Building (ECCB) DC cohort session



“An aligned ecosystem does more than reduce carbon emissions. It builds ownership, resilience, and generational wealth in the communities most impacted by environmental and economic injustice.”

DC Economic Empowerment Playbook, ECC DMV

Impact Report 2025
ECC DMV Region

Thank You, Partners and Funders!

Community & Advocacy Partners

Anacostia Economic Development Corp

Beloved Community Incubator

Congress Heights Training & Development Corp

DC Fiscal Policy Institute (DCFPI)

Dreaming Out Loud

Greater Washington Regional Clean Cities Coalition

Green New Deal (GND)

Institute for Market Transformation's Building Innovation Hub

Interfaith, Power, & Light DMV

Marshall Heights Community Development Org

NAPE Educational Foundation (NAPEEF)

Rebuilding Together DC

The Arc DC

The Coalition (Formerly CNHED)

United Planning Organization

Facilitators & Consultants

2BeGreener LLC

Anavo Transformation Solutions, LLC

Brown Investment Group, LLC

BT2 Energy

First Matter Inc.

JSSB Consulting

Riveo Creative LLC

Financial Institutions & CDFIs

City First

DC Green Bank

Industrial Bank Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC)

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC)

PNC Bank

Government Partners

DC Housing Authority (DCHA)

Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)

Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD)

District of Columbia Sustainability Energy Utility (DCSEU)

Industry Partners

American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE)

Bozzuto

Clark Construction

Daikin, US

DC Metro Hispanic Contractors Association

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 51

Howard University

MCN Build

Steamfitters UA Local 602

Steven Winters Associates

Turner Construction

Urban Green Council

Washington Area Community Investment Fund (Wacif)

Small Business Resource Transportation Center

Social Impact Now

Visionary Leadership

Funders

Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)

Greater Washington Community Foundation

Green and Healthy Home Initiative – Thriving communities

PNC

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