The Sustainable DC Act of 2014

The seven subtitles that make up the Sustainable DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014 will help achieve the vision to make the District of Columbia, in one generation, the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the United States. Coupled with an omnibus Mayor’s Order, this legislation will ensure the District moves further, faster on the path to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for all District residents. The components of this legislation work together to address challenges laid out in the Sustainable DC Plan: growing jobs and the economy, improving health and wellness, ensuring equity and diversity, and protecting our climate and the environment.

JOBS & ECONOMY
“Aggregate Benchmarking Data Access” and “Benchmarking Data Transfer Improvement” will support the District’s cutting-edge building benchmarking program by making data on energy and water use more accessible to building owners through direct electronic reporting by utilities. They further require transfer of utility records when a property changes ownership to ensure the new owner can track the building’s performance and make informed decisions about the cost of operating a building in addition to the price of the building.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
“Radon Contractor Proficiency” will ensure, through new DDOE regulations, that contractors performing radon mitigation services meet professional certification standards to preserve the health and safety of homes in the District.

EQUITY & DIVERSITY
“Transit Benefits Requirement” will reduce the cost of transit for employees across the city by requiring District employers – in medium and larger businesses – to provide access to transit benefit programs, such as a pre-tax payroll deduction.

“Environmental Literacy Plan Adoption” creates a new program and staff within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to further develop and implement the Environmental Literacy Plan first developed under the Healthy Schools Act. The Environmental Literacy Plan will bring environmental education, including meaningful outdoor experiences, to District youth.

CLIMATE & THE ENVIRONMENT
“Anacostia Pollution Prevention” prohibits the sale, use, or provision of polystyrene containers for food services and encourages the use of compostable or recyclable containers after January 1, 2016. This provision also requires food service providers to use compostable or recyclable food service products after January 1, 2017. Through regulation, the Mayor would define the range of compostable and recyclable materials that could be used for food services. Reducing the use of polystyrene, which cannot be recycled or composted, will help clean the Anacostia and other waterways of polystyrene trash.

“Sustainable Urban Agriculture Agriculture” will allow the Mayor to define through regulations, rather than statute, standards for beekeeping in the District to reflect the needs of local beekeepers and an effective level of agency oversight.

“Urban Forest Protection” will increase the quality of the District’s tree canopy by requiring payment to immediately offset the destruction or removal of a tree. This change will allow the District Government to plant replacement trees on public space throughout the city to more rapidly replace lost trees and help achieve the citywide 40% tree canopy goal.