



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
AND THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding, initiated between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the District of Columbia Government, is the first of a number of collaborative actions planned to advance the environmental "green" movement in urban communities, and to stimulate economic growth and development in the District of Columbia.

As the first step towards achieving environmental improvements in inner-city wards through community-based organizations, the parties of this agreement commit to coordinating personnel, programs and resources, to empower communities in the areas of environmental policy and regulation, education, training, and development of "green-based" jobs.

BACKGROUND

Recent EPA reports indicate that there is an environmental crisis facing inner-city communities in that adequate problems cannot be separated from issues of economics, race, health and education. Environmental problems such as substandard water and air quality, toxics in the home (i.e., lead, asbestos, and indoor air pollution), and energy conservation are of paramount concern at the community, municipal, state and federal levels. Yet, there is no systematic mechanism to coordinate, develop, and implement environmental activities which would aid in building and sustaining a "green movement" throughout inner-city communities within the District of Columbia and other urban centers.

We the undersigned, recognize that cooperative initiatives between Federal, State and Local Governments can better achieve our mutual goals of empowering urban communities to alleviate environmental problems. Such is a goal supported by the EPA Urban Environmental Risk Initiative. Most importantly, to strengthen urban communities we must recognize the need of working with community-based organizations.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ROLE

1. Educate community residents on urban environmental issues such as solid waste, recycling, Community-Right-To-Know, lead in homes and soils, pesticides, radon, and other indoor air pollutants.
2. Train and certify urban residents such as youth, misplaced veterans, senior citizens, and other adult job seekers (e.g., the homeless) in recycling techniques, radon testing, and lead paint and dust removal. Other training opportunities may be identified, developed, supported, and implemented by the Mayor's Green Advisory Council in targeted urban green zone areas in the wards designated for the zoning and development of sustainable businesses and industries catering to urban environmental needs. Community-based organization could serve as the epi-centers of these "green zones".
3. Support new and ongoing activities targeting the education and recruitment of youth with regard to the green movement in Wards 7 and 8 in order to promote environmental awareness and ownership.
4. Support efforts by EPA to make inner-city areas more livable from an environmental perspective. One such effort is being accomplished through a grant by EPA to "Partners for Livable Places" to address the environmental needs of the Anacostia River Watershed.
5. Engage local academic institutions such as HBCU's in efforts to develop technologies to meet environmental needs of the inner-cities. These technologies could, in turn, be transferred to fledgling community-based businesses/industries to help build their economic base in the community.
6. Engage the support of other Federal Departments (Energy, HUD, Commerce, and Interior) to provide financial support to meet the needs of inner-cities, particularly in Wards 7 and 8 in the District of Columbia.
7. Leverage efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Program to increase the activity of historically under represented groups in the protection of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed which encompasses the Anacostia River Watershed.


**B. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ROLE**

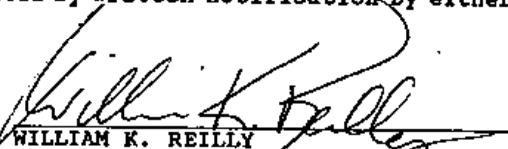
1. Initiate an environmental outreach program which will educate and empower District of Columbia citizens on urban environmental concerns and promote pollution prevention in all areas of the community.
2. Identify a lead agency that will assume overall responsibility for environmental education programs to target residents in all parts of the city, particularly in Wards 7 and 8, including the youth of the city, in order to promote environmental awareness and ownership.
3. Co-sponsor with the EPA an Annual Environmental Conference to be held no later than February of each year for District residents to:
  - a. discuss the process of both federal, state, and local agencies in restoring and protecting the environment, and;
  - b. solicit from the community the concerns and issues which need to be addressed.
4. Work with EPA and a community-base organization in piloting a demonstration program that would train and certify urban residents such as the youth, veterans, and other job seekers (e.g., unemployed and employed) for environmentally-oriented jobs as landscaping, recycling products, lead abatement, radon surveys, environmental cleanup technology, and other environmentally-related businesses that would locate in Wards 7 and 8. Once these businesses are operational, this partnership would expand to other parts of the city.
5. Establish the Mayor's Green Wards Advisory Council to focus on promoting environmental equity, and recommend regulatory and entrepreneurial options to building sustainable economic enterprise zones relating to the environment.
6. Institute a community-base environmental awards program to recognize the "green" contributions made to inner-city areas such as Wards 7 and 8.

**MONITORING**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the District of Columbia Government will jointly monitor the projects initiated under this Memorandum of Understanding to ensure their successful implementations.

This agreement is effective when signed by both entities. It shall remain in effect until terminated by written notification by either party.

  
SHARON PRATT KELLY  
Mayor of the  
District of Columbia

  
WILLIAM K. REILLY  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

10/23/92  
Date

October 23, 1992  
Date