



GreaterWashington2050

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**GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 COMPACT:  
Achieving a Vision for the National Capital Region  
In the Middle Twenty-first Century**

*The Greater Washington 2050 Compact sets forth a common vision for the National Capital Region at mid-century and the goals that define that vision.*

*It demonstrates endorsement and support of these goals by the Region's local governments, by major business organizations, and by a number of the Region's civic organizations, through separate, optional, and voluntary Agreements.*

*These Agreements set forth broad strategies that local governments and other regional stakeholders may utilize in furtherance of their commitment to the improvement of the National Capital Region.*

*These Agreements will be used as a guiding tool to make public decisions and set priorities, positioning the region to remain competitive and capitalize on future opportunities.*

*These Agreements will establish where possible quantitative targets to meet our goals and create a process to measure success.*



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**BUSINESS SECTOR COMMITMENT**  
**An Agreement among Business Organizations and Entities**  
**to Implement the Greater Washington 2050 Compact**

**WE, Business Organizations and Entities of the National Capital Region,** are located in a Region endowed with a strong economy, a highly-educated workforce, vigorous institutions, and natural resources and parks that enhance the quality of life of the Region’s residents. Our Members, and other entities doing business here, play a ~~large part~~ significant role in the development and sustaining of this quality of life.

We are at a moment in history, however, when the Region faces major challenges, both in preserving what is best and in continuing its growth. To overcome these challenges the Region’s governments, its businesses, and the public at large must improve transportation, renew our infrastructure, expand the supply of reasonably-priced housing, while we address the causes and effects of climate change and ensure that the benefits of our prosperity reach all of the Region’s residents.

We see these challenges as an opportunity for leadership – in the public, business, and civic sectors of our communities.

We intend that the National Capital Region continue to be an exceptional place to work, play and learn; a welcoming place for a skilled workforce to live, raise families, and enjoy successful careers; and an ideal place to start, run or expand a small or a large business.

68           **WE, Business Organizations and Entities of the National Capital Region,**  
69 share with our governments and citizens a vision of sustainable communities and  
70 sustainable and shared prosperity.

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**GREATER WASHINGTON 2050 COMPACT:  
GOALS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION**

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75 After two years of input from government officials, business executives, civic leaders,  
76 and the public at large, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments distilled  
77 the policy goals of its participating jurisdictions into a concise series of goals that define  
78 a common vision for the Region in 2050.

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**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

81 We seek effective coordination of land use and transportation planning resulting in an  
82 integration of land use, transportation, environmental, and energy decisions.

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**The National Capital Region's Land Use Goals**

- 85       • We seek the enhancement of established neighborhoods of differing densities  
86       with compact, walkable infill development and preservation of open space,  
87       farmland and environmental resource land in rural areas.
- 88       • We seek transit-oriented and mixed-use communities emerging in regional  
89       activity centers that will capture new employment and household growth.

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**The National Capital Region's Transportation Goals**

- 92       • **We seek a broad range of public and private transportation choices for our  
93       Region which maximizes accessibility and affordability to everyone and  
94       minimizes reliance upon single occupancy use of the automobile.**
- 95       • We seek a transportation system that maximizes community connectivity and  
96       walkability, and minimizes ecological harm to the Region and world beyond.

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**The National Capital Region's Environmental Goals**

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- We seek to maximize protection and enhancement of the Region’s environmental resources by meeting and exceeding standards for our air, water, and land.
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- We seek preservation and enhancement of our Region’s open space, green space, and wildlife reserves.
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105 **The National Capital Region’s Climate and Energy Goals**

- We seek a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, with substantial reductions from the built environment and transportation sector.
  - We seek efficient public and private use of energy Region-wide, with reliance upon renewable energy and alternative fuels for buildings, vehicles, and public transportation
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112 **SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

113 We seek a vibrant economy, supporting quality health, education, and social services,  
114 and a stock of varied housing opportunities, distributed equitably throughout our Region.

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116 **The National Capital Region’s Economic Goals**

- We seek a diversified, stable, and competitive economy, with a wide range of employment opportunities and a focus on sustainable economic development.
  - We seek to enhance the economic prosperity of each jurisdiction and the Region as a whole through balanced growth and access to high-quality jobs for everyone.
  - We seek to fully recognize and enhance the benefits that accrue to the region as the seat of the National government and as a world capital.
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124 **The National Capitol Region’s Housing Goals**

- We seek a variety of housing types and choices in diverse, vibrant, safe, healthy, and sustainable neighborhoods, affordable to persons at all income levels.
  - We seek to make the production, preservation, and distribution of affordable housing a priority throughout the Region.
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130 **The National Capital Region’s Health and Human Services Goals**

- 131 • We seek healthy communities with greater access to quality health care and a
- 132 focus on wellness and prevention.
- 133 • We seek to provide access and delivery of quality social services to all residents.

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135 **The National Capital Region’s Education Goals**

- 136 • We seek to provide greater access to the best education at all levels, from pre-
- 137 kindergarten to graduate school.
- 138 • We seek to make our Region a pre-eminent knowledge hub, through educational
- 139 venues, workforce development, and institutional collaboration.

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141 **The National Capital Region’s Public Safety Goals**

- 142 • We seek safe communities for residents and visitors
- 143 • We seek partnerships that manage emergencies, protect the public health, safety,
- 144 welfare, and preserve the lives, property and economic well-being of the region
- 145 and its residents.

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147 The language of goals addressing each area is rooted and reflected in the

148 comprehensive plans of the Region’s jurisdictions, in the current and historic policy

149 documents of the regional organizations which have studied ongoing challenges and

150 possible solutions, and in surveys and community recommendations addressing the

151 Region’s needs. COG has delineated these common goals as the Greater Washington

152 2050 Compact. The Compact defines the ongoing nature and purposes of governmental

153 decisions over the next four decades necessary to achieve this vision.

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155 **WE, Business Organizations and Entities of the National Capital Region,** hereby

156 adopt the Greater Washington 2050 Compact, and endorse the goals therein as policies

157 to inform and impact the public actions and decisions of the Region’s local

158 governments.

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160 **GREATER WASHINGTON 2050:**

**BUSINESS ORGANIZATION STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

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The Greater Washington 2050 Compact Goals are supported by broad strategies, which in turn can be implemented by our local governments. The success of actions implementing many of these strategies can be determined by specific indicators, some narrative and subjective, others numerical and objective. Periodic review of these indicators will validate regional actions taken or will focus public attention on goals yet to be reached.

**WE, Business Organizations and Entities of the National Capital Region,** have limited impact upon the decisions and actions taken by the Region’s local governments. As representatives of the business sector and as spokespersons for our members, we have a ~~legal and practical~~ responsibility to be aware of decisions and actions proposed by local governments. We have a responsibility to review those proposed decisions and actions to ascertain whether they advance the goals set forth in the Greater Washington 2050 Compact. Further, we have the ~~legal and practical~~ ability to be heard on such questions, to encourage public decisions and actions in support of those goals and to object to public decisions and actions which would negate those goals.

**WE, Business Organizations and Entities of the National Capital Region,** recognize that our members, in locating, developing, and operating within the Region, will themselves have the opportunity to further ~~compliance or enhancement~~ the attainment of the goals of the Greater Washington 2050 Compact. We have the ability and responsibility to encourage our members to further these regional goals by using them, in addition to standard location and relocation criteria, in siting decisions.

**INVITATION TO OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS**

As additional political jurisdictions become Parties to the Compact, we invite their business organizations and entities to endorse the Region’s goals and become parties to this Commitment.

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**OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES**

The Business Organizations and entities that execute this Commitment endorse the goals herein. ~~Our leaders will strive to realize our common vision for the Region.~~ While we agree to the Compact's goals, the methods of ensuring the vision they espouse will differ from entity to entity based upon charter, history of development, demographics, and economic capability. We will consider the strategies and, where consistent with our authorities and capabilities, will utilize them to guide our decisions. We pledge to use our best efforts within our own ~~legal, political, and financial~~ organizational structure to advance the Compact.

**WE, Business Organizations and Entities of the National Capital Region,** commit to this Compact not because its actions are required, or may well become required by any regulatory mandate but because they will enhance our region's quality of life, be good for every resident, and be good for our businesses and their employees. We make this commitment because business as usual on our part will not be enough to achieve these goals.