



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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CIVIC SECTOR COMMITMENT
An Agreement among Civic Sector Organizations and Entities
to Implement the Greater Washington 2050 Compact

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WE, Civic Organizations and Entities supporting environmental, housing, human services, health, education, and other public activities in the National Capital Region, populate 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 persons advocating in the public interest, play a significant role in the development and maintenance of this quality of life.

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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.

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

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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

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71 enjoy successful careers; and an ideal place to start, run or expand a small or a large
72 business.

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74 **WE, Civic Organizations and Entities supporting environmental, housing,**
75 **human services, health, education, and other public activities in the National**
76 **Capital Region** share with our governments and businesses a vision of sustainable
77 communities and shared prosperity.

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

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

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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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

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The National Capital Region's Land Use Goals

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

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The National Capital Region's Transportation Goals

- 99 • We seek a broad range of public and private transportation choices for our
100 Region which maximizes accessibility and affordability to everyone and
101 minimizes reliance upon single occupancy use of the automobile.

- 102 • We seek a transportation system that maximizes community connectivity and
103 walkability, and minimizes ecological harm to the Region and world beyond.

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105 **The National Capital Region’s Environmental Goals**

- 106 • We seek to maximize protection and enhancement of the Region’s
107 environmental resources by meeting and exceeding standards for our air, water,
108 and land.

- 109 • We seek preservation and enhancement of our Region’s open space, green
110 space, and wildlife preserves.

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112 **The National Capital Region’s Climate and Energy Goals**

- 113 • We seek a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, with substantial
114 reductions from the built environment and transportation sector.

- 115 • We seek efficient public and private use of energy Region-wide, with reliance
116 upon renewable energy and alternative fuels for buildings, vehicles, and public
117 transportation

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119 **SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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

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

- 124 • We seek a diversified, stable, and competitive economy, with a wide range of
125 employment opportunities and a focus on sustainable economic development.

- 126 • We seek to enhance the economic prosperity of each jurisdiction and the Region
127 as a whole through balanced growth and access to high-quality jobs for everyone.

- 128 • We seek to fully recognize and enhance the benefits that accrue to the region as
129 the seat of the National government and as a world capital.

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131 **The National Capitol Region’s Housing Goals**

- 132 • We seek a variety of housing types and choices in diverse, vibrant, safe, healthy,
133 and sustainable neighborhoods, affordable to persons at all income levels.
134 • We seek to make the production, preservation, and distribution of affordable
135 housing a priority throughout the Region.

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137 **The National Capital Region’s Health and Human Services Goals**

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

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

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

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

- 149 • We seek safe communities for residents and visitors
150 • We seek partnerships that manage emergencies, protect the public health, safety,
151 welfare, and preserve the lives, property and economic well-being of the region
152 and its residents.

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154 The language of goals addressing each area is rooted and reflected in the
155 comprehensive plans of the Region’s jurisdictions, in the current and historic policy
156 documents of the regional organizations which have studied ongoing challenges and
157 possible solutions, and in surveys and community recommendations addressing the
158 Region’s needs. COG has delineated these common goals as the Greater Washington
159 2050 Compact. The Compact defines the ongoing nature and purposes of governmental
160 decisions over the next four decades necessary to achieve this vision.

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162 **WE, Civic Organizations and Entities supporting environmental, housing, human**
163 **services, health, education, and other public activities in the National Capital**
164 **Region**, hereby adopt the Greater Washington 2050 Compact, and endorse the goals
165 therein as policies to inform and impact the public actions and decisions of the Region's
166 local governments.

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GREATER WASHINGTON 2050:

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CIVIC ORGANIZATION STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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

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178 **WE, Civic Organizations and Entities supporting environmental, housing, human**
179 **services, health, education, and other public activities in the National Capital**
180 **Region**, have the ability to influence public decisions through an open and transparent
181 public process. As representatives of the civic sector and as spokespersons for our
182 members, we have a responsibility to be aware of decisions and actions proposed by
183 local governments. We have a responsibility to review public decisions and actions and
184 ascertain whether they advance the goals set forth in the Greater Washington 2050
185 Compact. Further, we have the ability to be heard on such questions, to encourage
186 public decisions and actions in support of those goals and to object to public decisions
187 and actions which would negate the goals.

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INVITATION TO OTHER CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

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191 As additional political jurisdictions become Parties to the Compact, we invite their civic
192 organizations and entities to endorse the Region's goals and become parties to this
193 Commitment.

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OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

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197 The Civic Organizations and Entities that execute this Commitment endorse the goals
198 herein. While we agree to the Compact's goals, the methods of ensuring the vision they
199 espouse will differ from entity to entity based upon charter, history of development,
200 demographics, and economic capability. We will consider the strategies herein and
201 where consistent with our authorities and capabilities, utilize them to guide our
202 decisions. We pledge to use our best efforts within our own capacity and organizational
203 structure to advance the Compact.

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205 **WE, Civic Organizations and Entities supporting environmental, housing, human**
206 **services, health, education, and other public activities in the National Capital**
207 **Region**, commit to this Compact not because its actions are required, or may well
208 become required by any regulatory mandate but because they will enhance our region's
209 quality of life, be good for every resident, and be good for our businesses and their
210 employees. We make this commitment because business as usual on our part will not
211 be enough to achieve these goals.

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214 **Signatures**

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