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## Washington, D.C.

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Washington, D.C., is now home to one of the most advanced green building laws in the country. The law covers both public and private construction, and encompasses a growing collaboration between design and construction professionals, environmental and community advocates, nonprofit organizations, and public and private leaders. Together, they are transforming the affordable housing market into an arena where green building practices are standard and every project delivers healthy, high-performing homes for families and individuals. As leading members of this movement, the D.C. Green Communities Initiative is helping to break old habits, teach new approaches, nurture market demand and cultivate green champions who will effectively promote green building's viability.

### D.C. Green Building Act of 2006

Under the District of Columbia Green Building Act of 2006, most publicly financed affordable housing developments must meet green building standards beginning in October 2008. The new green legislation has catapulted the nation's capital to the forefront of the U.S. green building movement. With strong public support and timely preparation, this legislation will create homes and neighborhoods that are healthier, less costly to maintain, and protect the environment for all Washington, D.C., families.

### About the Initiative

A law is only as successful as its implementation. Toward these ends, Enterprise and GreenHOME launched the D.C. Green Communities Initiative. The four-year program aims to invest more than \$60 million to build at least 400 sustainable, affordable homes. To meet these goals, D.C. Green Communities will:

- Provide expert training and technical assistance for affordable housing development teams
- Train government staff to quickly learn and oversee new standards and practices
- Provide select developments with green planning grants of \$30,000 each
- Provide capital improvement grants totaling up to \$100,000 each for select developments
- Work with elected officials, government agencies and community leaders to shape the political and regulatory terrain

### Green Communities

Our Washington, D.C., work is led by the Enterprise local office and GreenHOME. In the District alone, Enterprise has invested more than \$7.8 million to develop 619 green affordable homes. GreenHOME has played a critical and pivotal role in building the partnerships and providing the direct support, policy expertise and advocacy necessary to ensure that the affordable housing sector builds green housing and sustainable neighborhoods. Nationally, efforts to develop affordable, sustainable communities are gaining momentum. Enterprise is at the forefront of this movement with Green Communities, a national five-year \$555 million initiative to create 8,500 affordable homes.

## What You Can Do

Enterprise and GreenHOME announced the D.C. Green Communities initiative in spring 2007. Already, it has raised more than \$400,000 of an estimated \$3.2 million needed to successfully implement the legislation. Time is short. In the absence of adequate, timely training and well-designed regulations, implementation will prove slower and more costly. In addition, risking negative initial impressions of “building green” could impede the planned expansion of green legislation to other projects as well as its adoption in other jurisdictions. A diverse, highly skilled group of organizations, government agencies and private institutions actively participate in and support D.C. Green Communities. We urge others to join us.



In July 2007, the Moore family joined fellow residents of Galen Terrace apartments to celebrate the completion of their newly rehabilitated Green Communities homes in D.C.'s Anacostia neighborhood.

## D.C. Green Communities Initiative

The Center for American Progress  
Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development  
Countrywide Bank  
D.C. Department of the Environment  
D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development  
The Jair Lynch Companies  
JBG Companies  
Living Cities: The National Community Development Initiative, Inc.  
The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation  
National Center for Healthy Housing  
PNC  
Robert Stewart Family Foundation  
Wachovia Bank

The Washington, D.C. Green Communities initiative is actively seeking financial partners so that we can fully implement an ambitious training and technical assistance series. For more information, please contact:

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Enterprise is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For 25 years, Enterprise has pioneered neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested \$8 billion in equity, grants and loans and is currently investing in communities at a rate of \$1 billion a year. Visit [www.enterprisecommunity.org](http://www.enterprisecommunity.org) and [www.enterprisecommunity.com](http://www.enterprisecommunity.com) to learn more about Enterprise's efforts to build communities and opportunity, and to meet some of the half a million people we have helped.

GreenHOME demonstrates and promotes affordable, sustainable design, construction, and landscape practices for homes and communities throughout the Washington, DC area. Through efforts of dedicated volunteers and benefactors, we are demonstrating that “green” housing is for everyone! GreenHOME is also committed to expanding awareness of green practices beyond its buildings, into the community of homeowners, home renters, home builders, and the general public.