

WASHINGTON, DC

# SMART CITIES & CIVIC SOLUTIONS

**Regulatory simplicity and unparalleled access to policymakers** coupled with technological advances in cloud computing, machine learning, internet of things, and sensor technologies have helped make DC the #6 smartest city in the world.<sup>1</sup> The smart cities and civic solutions sector includes leading companies and entrepreneurs working on infrastructure, energy, mobility, sustainability, municipal service delivery, civic engagement and more.

## WHY SMART CITIES COMPANIES CHOOSE DC

- **Regulatory Simplicity:** DC is a city, county and state government all in one. This single layer of government means the District can be quick and nimble in addressing the policy and regulatory changes that allow for testing smart cities innovations.
- **Proximity to Policymakers:** With unparalleled proximity to federal policymakers, regulatory agencies and thought leaders, DC is an ideal place for companies seeking to influence policy and operate in regulated industries.
- **Robust Infrastructure:** DC has open and unmonitored Wifi that connects more than 15 million users, nearly 5 times the use of other US smart cities.
- **Local Innovation:** DC agencies are pursuing innovation, as demonstrated by the multi-agency Autonomous Vehicle Working Group. Other examples include DDOT, which helped roll out Starship Technologies' food delivery robots, and the Departments of Employment Services and Energy and the Environment, which together launched the SolarWorks DC career pathway program.
- **Commitment to Environmental Sustainability:** In 2016 DC passed the Renewable Portfolio Standard Expansion Act committing DC to sourcing at least 50% of its energy from renewable sources by 2032.
- **Supportive Entrepreneurship Culture:** DC is home to many technology and civic-focused impact incubators and accelerators such as 1776, Halcyon Incubator, SEED SPOT, Center for Green Urbanism, Dcode, and Open Gov Hub to support new smart cities companies.
- **Most Highly Educated Workforce:** According to a 2016 U.S. Census Bureau community survey, Washington, DC is the most educated metropolitan area in the country. DC has one of the most highly educated and competitive workforces of any city in the world, sustaining the competitive edge of the region's knowledge-based economy.

DC was the first city in the world to receive the

## LEED FOR CITIES PLATINUM CERTIFICATION<sup>1</sup>





Washington, DC named

## SMART GIGABIT COMMUNITY

by US Ignite (2017)

### RESOURCES FOR SMART CITIES COMPANIES:

Visit [www.incentives.dc.gov](http://www.incentives.dc.gov), a searchable database of all incentives and other District support programs for companies.

- DC Green Bank (Dept. of Energy and Environment)
- DC BizCAP programs (Dept. of Insurance, Securities and Banking)
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit, On the Job Training, and Apprenticeship hiring programs (Dept. of Employment Services)
- Stormwater & Sustainability tax credits (Dept. of Energy and Environment)
- Industrial Revenue Bond Program (Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development)
- SolarWorks DC solar career pathway program (Depts. of Employment Services and Energy and the Environment)
- Qualified High Technology Company tax incentives (Office of Tax and Revenue)
- Small Business Technical Assistance (Dept. of Small and Local Business Development)
- Opportunity Zones ([oppzones.dc.gov](http://oppzones.dc.gov))
- Learn about Smart Cities plans for Washington, DC:
  - [www.smarter.dc.gov](http://www.smarter.dc.gov) describes more than 25 smart cities initiatives led by DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer
  - Sustainable DC
  - Climate Ready DC

## WASHINGTON, DC NAMED #6 SMARTEST CITY IN THE WORLD<sup>2</sup>

Washington, DC named

## TOP SMART CITY TO WATCH IN 2017

by State Scoop (2017)

### DC's Leadership on Smart Cities

- NIST Global City Team Challenge
- Council of Global CIOs
- Cisco's First Lighthouse City
- 100 Resilient Cities
- Bloomberg Aspen Initiative on Cities and Autonomous Vehicles
- International City Coalition
- Smart City Expo World Congress

1. U.S. Green Building Council, "Washington, DC Name First LEED Platinum City in the World," August 2017

2. IESE, *Cities in Motion Index*, 2017