

WASHINGTON, DC

# SMART CITIES & CIVIC SOLUTIONS

**Regulatory simplicity and unparalleled access to policymakers** coupled with avid technological advances in cloud computing, machine learning, internet of things, and sensor technologies have helped shape DC into the #6 smartest city in the world.<sup>1</sup> The smart cities and civic solutions industry area 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 unitary structure means DC 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 U.S. smart cities.
- **Local Innovation:** DC Government is an active partner to innovators, and government agencies are hungry to innovate. The Office of the Chief Technology Officer is spearheading Pennsylvania 2040, a public-private partnership to create a smart city proof of concept. DC's Department of Transportation helped roll out Starship Technologies' food delivery robots. The Department of Employment Services and the Department of Energy and the Environment 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 2023.
- **Supportive Entrepreneurship Culture:** DC is home to many technology and civic-focused impact incubators and accelerators, such as 1776, Halcyon House, SEED SPOT, Impact Hub, Center for Green Urbanism, DCode42, Open Gov Hub that support new smart cities companies.
- **Most Highly Educated Workforce:** According to a 2016 U.S. Census Bureau community survey, Washington, DC has the most educated metropolitan area in the country. As one of the most competitive workforces of any city in the world, DC sustains a competitive edge in smart cities innovation.

DC is the first city in the world to receive the

## LEED FOR CITIES PLATINUM CERTIFICATION<sup>2</sup>





Washington, DC named

## TOP 5 SMART GIGABIT COMMUNITY

by U.S. Ignite

### RESOURCES FOR SMART CITIES COMPANIES:

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

- DC Biz Cap programs (Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking)
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), On the Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs (Department of Employment Services)
- Stormwater & Sustainability Tax-Credits (DOEE)
- Industrial Revenue Bond Program (Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development)
- DC Green Bank (Department of Energy and Environment)
- SolarWorks DC solar career pathway program (Departments of Employment Services and Energy and the Environment)
- Qualified High Technology Company tax incentives (Office of the Chief Financial Officer)
- Small Business Technical Assistance (Department of Small and Local Business Development)
- 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

Source: IESE (2017)

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

<sup>1</sup> [www.forbes.com/sites/iese/2017/05/31/the-smartest-cities-in-the-world-for-2017/#3e7baf3b5c4c](http://www.forbes.com/sites/iese/2017/05/31/the-smartest-cities-in-the-world-for-2017/#3e7baf3b5c4c)

<sup>2</sup> <http://newsroom.usgbc.org/washington-dc-named-first-lead-platinum-city-in-the-world/>