

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**



Solid Waste Management Administration

Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP)

The District of Columbia Department of Public Works, in partnership with Howard University, the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Keep America Beautiful, and the Mid-City Business Association, has completed its second year of training young adults to be solid waste management professionals. Chosen through a competitive selection process, the six Howard University enrollees of the 2010 Material Resources Sustainability Internship (MRSI) pursued the following goals:

1. Develop young adults with relevant skills and understanding of environmental management.
2. Increase diversity of voices in environmental management.
3. Develop skills to increase civic participation and community organizing.
4. Add capacity to local school recycling.
5. Work with local businesses and educational institutions to elevate sustainable practices within our community.

During the 7-week program, this ambitious training addressed complex issues such as extraction, manufacturing, marketing, consumption, disposal, remanufacturing, business management and environmental justice. Using a cooperative format, partners adopted one day of the week to offer training in their particular area of expertise. Thus, Mondays were dedicated to visits with national sustainability experts. Tuesdays, the interns toured local facilities. On Wednesdays, the Walter E. Washington Convention Center offered behind-the-scenes participation, expert training and visitor outreach. Thursdays, the interns analyzed the “green” practices of local businesses with Eco-Coach, Inc. Fridays, the team was guided by the Alice Ferguson Foundation to apply their newly-acquired skills in fostering material, social and policy changes -- on campus -- with the generous support of the Howard University administration.

Having completed their summer training, the final phase of their internship will be to develop independent “Venture Projects.” Via the generous sponsorship and co-coordination of Keep America Beautiful, team members will work in local District of Columbia public schools to guide school staff members in organizing a school Green Team, developing collection systems, creating staff and student educational materials and workshops, and establishing program performance measurements. Milestones will include kick-off events, celebration of America Recycles Day, and a presentation before the national chapter conference of Keep America Beautiful in December 2010, in Orlando, Florida.



(From Left) Russell Klein (Program Coordinator), Travis White, Rose Boomsma, Domenio Smith, Illai Kenney, Brian Menifee, Thomya Goode