

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF DC'S PROGRESSIVE CLEAN ENERGY POLICY



STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES DRIVE GROWTH IN LOCAL SOLAR MARKETS. New Columbia Solar serves as an example of this principle; the company was founded after some of the most progressive clean energy policy in the country was passed in Washington, DC. This assessment demonstrates how the policies in the District have spurred solar industry growth and development, and also, how the progressive local policies have helped to mitigate some of the deleterious impacts from national market downturns, restrictiv policies, and economic disruptions.

While the hard work by environmental advocates, industry, and community groups are not detailed in this analysis, they were the driving force behind each step of the new clean energy policies—demanding the plans, demanding legislation; demanding funding; demanding implementation. We hope that other representatives of the industry, and policymakers from other jurisdictions, view Washington, DC as a successful case study of the beneficial, catalytic impacts of clean energy legislation.

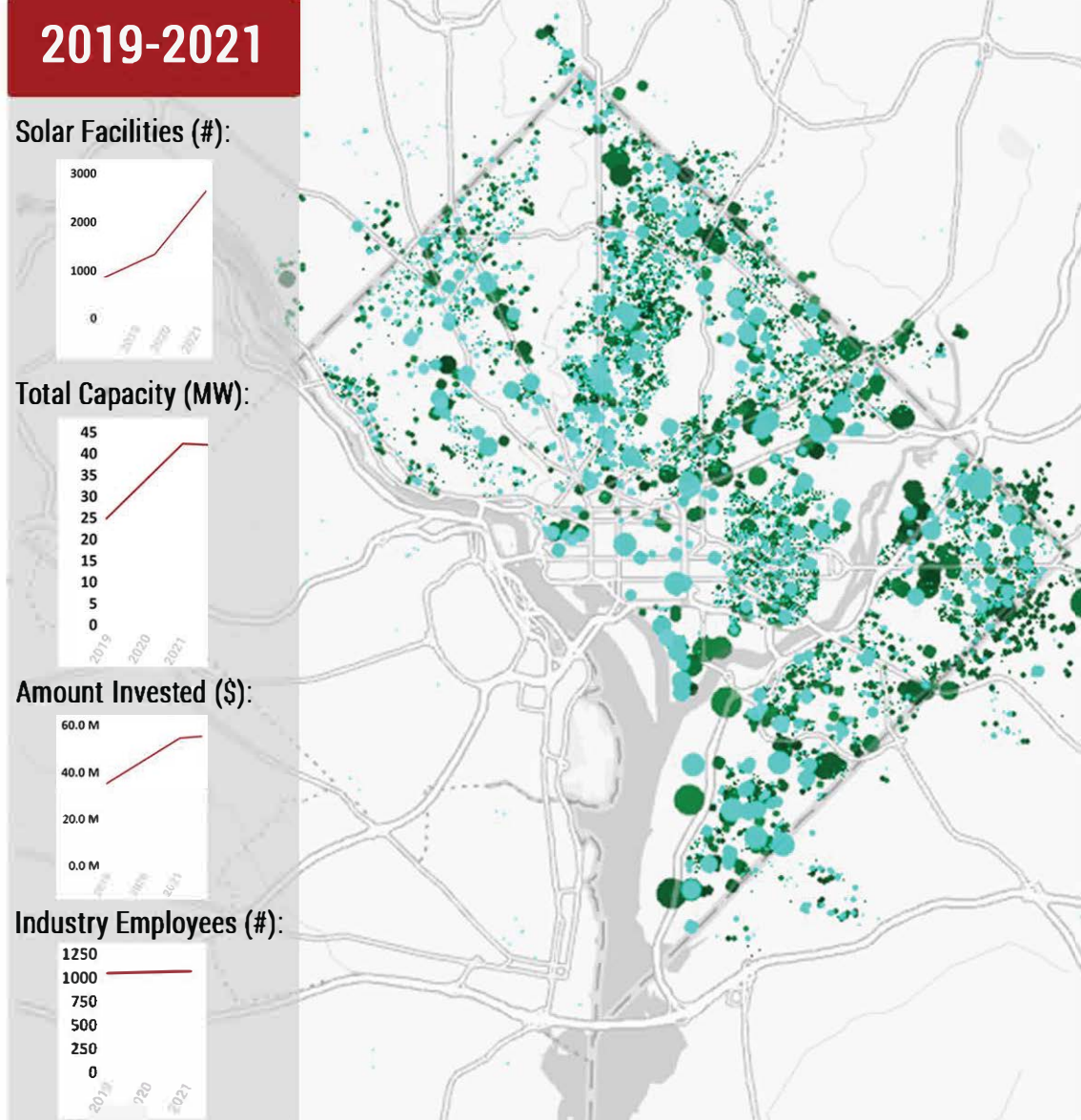
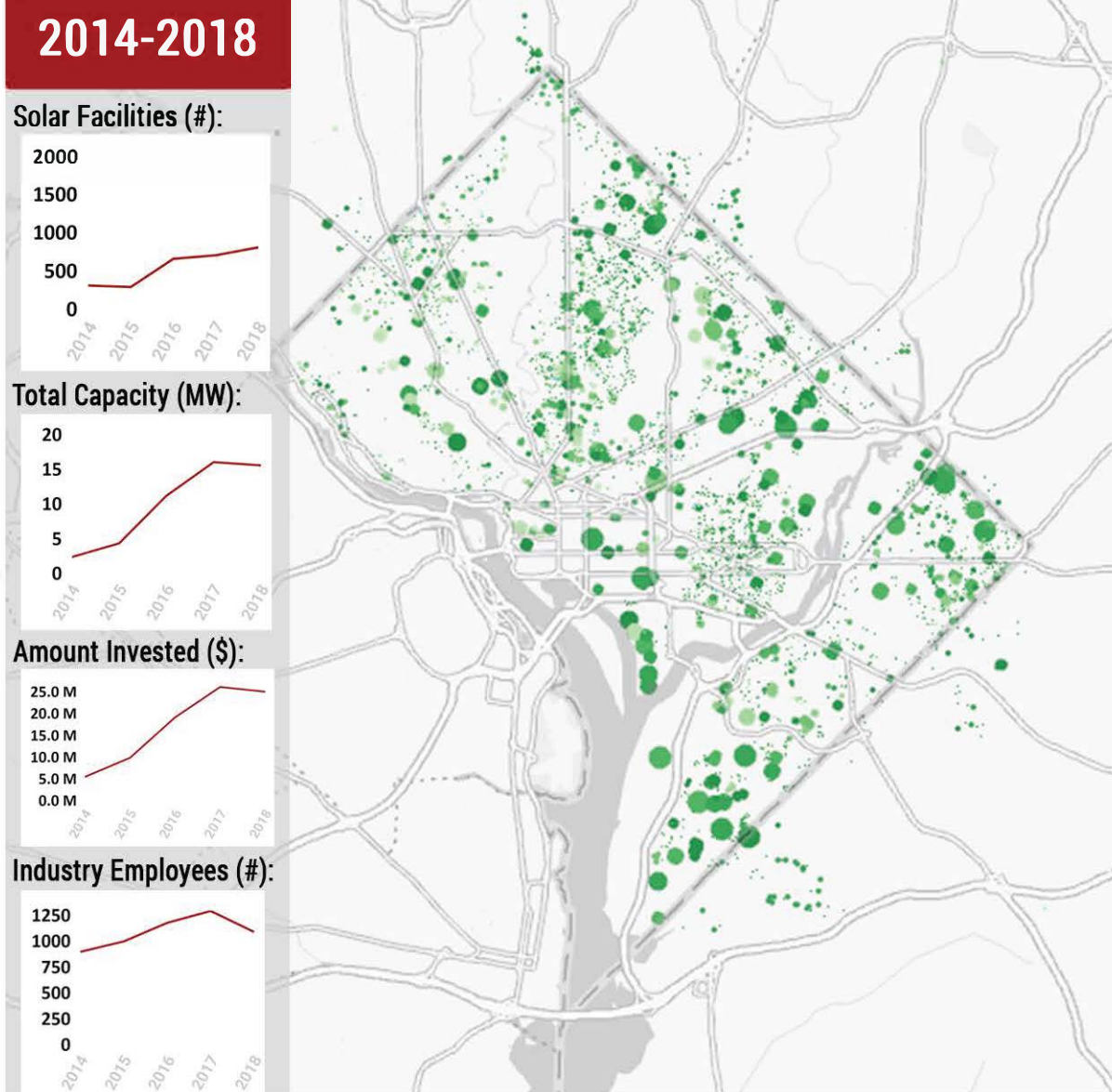
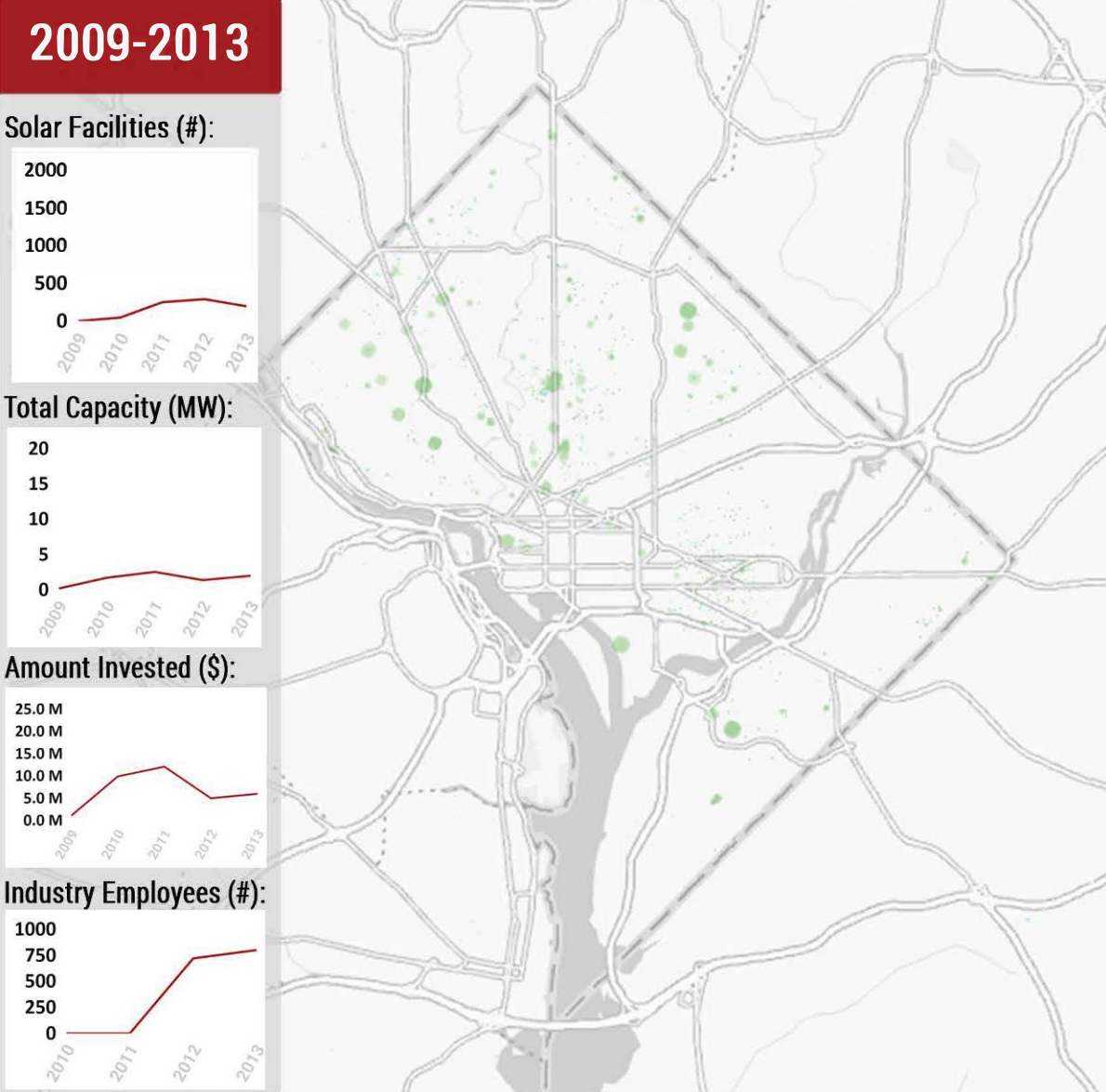
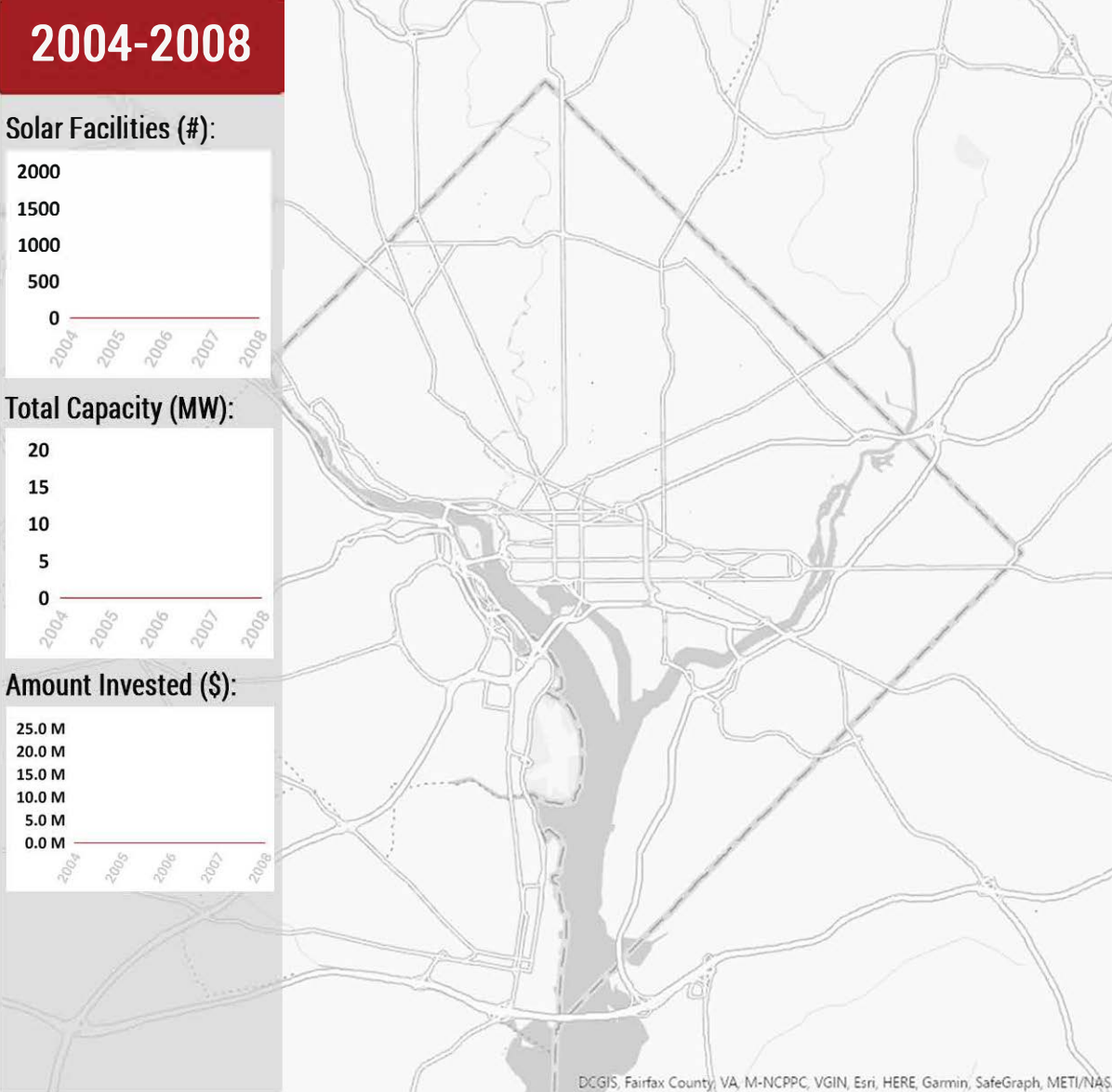
2004 2006 2008 2009 2011 2013 2016 2018

- DC Established the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) at 11% by 2022.**
- The Green Building Act of 2006** required that all non-residential District public buildings meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification standards for environmental performance at the "Silver" level or higher.
- The Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008** increased the RPS to 20% by 2022, required all buildings to benchmark, and established the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU).
- The Renewable Energy Incentive Program (REIP)** began providing up to \$33,000 per site to eligible applicants, for the installation of solar photovoltaic or wind turbine systems. Eligible projects included residential, commercial, and institutional buildings. This policy led to industry growth, though was phased out after subsequent legislation was passed.
- The Distributed Generation Emergency Amendment Act of 2011** made the RPS solar carve-out a local solar carve-out and increased it to 2.5% by 2023.
- The Community Renewable Energy Act of 2013** authorized community renewable energy facilities (CREFs) to allow renters, or other people unable to install solar on their homes, to receive the financial benefits of clean energy.
- The Renewable Portfolio Standard Expansion Amendment Act of 2016** increased the RPS to 50% by 2032 and increased the solar carve out to 5% by 2032; this Act also created the District's Solar for All Program.
- The Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018** increased the RPS to 100% by 2032, and increased the local solar carve out to 10% by 2041; the Act also established the Building Efficiency Performance Standards (BEPS) Program, which requires existing large commercial buildings to progressively improve their energy use intensity scores over 5-year compliance cycles. This Act also funded DC's Green Bank and established zero-emissions transit and reduced transportation emissions requirements by 2045.

LOOKING AHEAD

2022 will likely reflect a short-term dip in the local industry due to national disruptors, which included potentially increased tariffs during the first half of the year and supply chain issues related to global events.

Beyond 2022, growth in the solar industry is forecasted to increase substantially due to both local and national policies. Locally, the DC Green Bank, established in 2019, is expanding programming and will likely become a significant source of funding for clean energy projects. The District also established Building Energy Performance Standards for existing buildings in 2021 and recently passed a law requiring all new commercial structures to be built to a net-zero standard by 2027, both of which should spur local solar development. Nationally, the Inflation Reduction Act and short-term relief from tariffs related to the anti-circumvention investigation will also help spur industry growth.



SOLAR FOR ALL PROGRAM

The Solar for All program is the District's initiative to provide 100,000 low-to-moderate income families with the benefits of locally generated clean energy. This first-of-its-kind program was established in 2016, and is one of the most progressive solar mandates in the US. Currently implemented by the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU), Solar for All provides funding to help build community solar projects, bringing clean energy and reduced electricity bills to income-qualified DC families. Solar for All participants receive at least 50% savings on their electricity bill over 15 years.

Since the program began, more than 6,000 income-qualified households have benefited from their electricity bills being cut in half through Solar for All. The program has also been credited for creating more than 415 jobs in the clean energy industry from 2017 to 2021.

In 2022, the program is expected to provide solar on approximately 100 single-family homes and add approximately 40 community renewable energy facilities to its ranks. This would provide enough solar capacity to serve another 2,600 families through the program.

For more information about the Solar for All program visit <https://www.dcseu.com/solar-for-all>.

