

GREENING EMBASSIES EVENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On January 31, 2012, The Kingdom of The Netherlands Ambassador, Renée Jones-Bos, hosted a special event organized with the Greening Embassies Forum, chaired by the U.S. State Department and the District of Columbia, on the occasion of the Royal Netherlands Embassy's LEED certification. The event, which featured the signing of a Sustainability Pledge by more than 40 Embassies located in the U.S. capital, was preceded by workshop that taught Embassies how to operate in a sustainable way. The workshop was a platform for sustainable embassies to share valuable insight on day-to-day operations, challenges, and successes that are associated with the transition to a Green Embassy. The workshop also allowed members of other embassies to ask the panel questions about the process of transforming into a sustainable embassy.

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries including ambassadors, Washington, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Management, Patrick Kennedy. UNEP RONA Director, Amy Fraenkel, in her closing remarks congratulated the embassies for committing to this initiative, and encouraged them to replicate this initiative in other capitals around the world.