

How ThinkBox saved the D.C. Housing Authority **\$200M+** through sustainable infrastructure

PROJECT HOST

The District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) is a government agency that provides affordable housing to low and moderate-income households, supports communities, and develops opportunities for their residents to improve their lives.

THINKBOX

ThinkBox specializes in Sustainability as a Service® – an innovative approach that empowers businesses, governments, and non-profits to save money, reduce their environmental impact, and benefit local communities.

ThinkBox's world-class team develops and executes sustainable projects that focus on fixing critical aging infrastructure.

CHALLENGE

The largest energy and water consumer in Washington, D.C., the DCHA provides quality housing for 20K residents and manages \$500M in assets.

Their aging, inefficient utility infrastructure led to a \$34 million annual utility bill, which was steadily increasing 3% each year. They were also facing \$1B in deferred maintenance.

Updating their utility infrastructure would significantly decrease their spending. However, the DCHA lacked the capital and experience to pull off a project of this magnitude. Complex federal regulations, a newly deregulated market, complicated financial structures, numerous contractors, and internal challenges kept these changes just out of reach for the DCHA.

THINKBOX APPROACH

Discover

ThinkBox analyzed DCHA's utility infrastructure and uncovered massive potential for financial and energy savings.

Develop

ThinkBox raised the \$150M capital needed to update their infrastructure with no upfront cost and developed the plan for implementation.

Execute

ThinkBox provided complete project management with a dedicated team and milestones to ensure a successful project.

Support

ThinkBox collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to provide ongoing sustainable operations support.

I wanted to take a moment to thank ThinkBox for supporting the sustainability goals of the DCHA since 1997. We look forward to working with strong, outcome-driven partners, like ThinkBox, in developing and implementing groundbreaking projects that reduce cost, build underserved communities, and positively impact the environment.

- Adrienne Todman, DCHA Executive Director

RESULTS



\$200+ million savings

The DCHA achieved an immediate savings of \$10M the first year after updating their utility infrastructure, is on track to realize \$200M, and will keep \$60M for discretionary spending.



67K tons of CO2 removed from the atmosphere

The upgraded utilities improved air quality, saved over 24.9M kilowatt hours, and saved 3.5B gallons of water.



\$20 million to underserved contractors

The project benefited the local community in many ways. 300+ jobs were created, \$385K went to fund community projects, and underserved contractors were hired.