

Establishment of DeKalb Green New Deal Community Investment Fund Resolution

WHEREAS, climate change poses a significant threat to DeKalb County, Georgia, and the world at large, with impacts such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and resource depletion;

WHEREAS, the Green New Deal is a comprehensive plan that aims to address the dual crises of climate change and economic inequality, with a focus on transitioning to a 100% clean energy economy, creating new jobs, and ensuring equitable access to clean air, clean water, and healthy food;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County community recognizes the urgency of taking action on climate change and is committed to promoting environmental sustainability, economic resilience, and social justice;

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act provides funding to local communities to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and invest in recovery and revitalization efforts;

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has outlined the "Justice 40" initiative in the Inflation Reduction Act federal legislation, which aims to ensure that at least 40% of the benefits of federal investments in climate and clean energy are directed to disadvantaged communities and communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and climate change;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners that a DeKalb Green New Deal Community Investment Fund be established, using \$100,000 of the District 6 American Rescue Plan funding, to support neighborhood and micro environmental projects, with at least 40% of the funds following the "Justice 40" initiative outlined in the Biden Administration Inflation Reduction Act federal legislation.

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of the DeKalb Green New Deal Community Investment Fund is to support local projects that advance the goals and principles of the Green New Deal, including but not limited to:

Promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency: Projects that promote the adoption of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, and enhance energy efficiency in buildings, transportation, and other sectors.

Green infrastructure and natural resource conservation: Projects that promote the development of green spaces, urban forests, parks, and other natural infrastructure that can help mitigate climate change, improve air and water quality, and enhance community resilience.

Environmental justice and equity: Projects that prioritize the needs and voices of disadvantaged communities, including communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and climate change, and promote social equity and inclusion in all aspects of sustainability initiatives.

Economic development and job creation: Projects that create new jobs and economic opportunities, particularly in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and green technology sectors, and promote local economic development and resilience.

Education and outreach: Projects that raise awareness, educate, and engage the community on the importance of environmental sustainability, climate action, and the principles of the Green New Deal.

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SECTION 2: FUNDING

The DeKalb Green New Deal Community Investment Fund shall be funded with \$100,000 from the District 6 American Rescue Plan funding.

SECTION 3: "JUSTICE 40" INITIATIVE

At least 40% of the funds from the DeKalb Green New Deal Community Investment Fund shall be directed to projects that align with the "Justice 40" initiative outlined in the Biden Administration Inflation Reduction Act federal legislation. These projects shall prioritize communities that are disadvantaged, vulnerable, or disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and climate change.

SECTION 4: ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The DeKalb County Board of Commissioners shall oversee the administration of the DeKalb Green New Deal Community Investment Fund and ensure that funds are allocated and used in accordance with the purposes outlined in this resolution.

The Board of Commissioners shall establish a transparent and accountable process for soliciting and evaluating project proposals, selecting projects for funding, and monitoring the progress and outcomes.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2023.

ROBERT PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this ____ day of _____, 2022.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
County Clerk
Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia