

A Resolution to Approve the Continuation of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to Intervene in Georgia Power's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), as a Member of the "Local Government Coalition."

WHEREAS, an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is submitted by an electric utility to the Georgia Public Service Commission at least every three years and outlines a "twenty-year forecast period". In accordance with the Georgia State law: "The plan will contain the utility's electricity demand forecasts, analysis of all capacity resource options, analysis of alternative system configurations, list of assumptions, and supporting data and information.;" and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners passed a "Resolution of the DeKalb County Governing Authority to adopt a Vision and Transition Plan of 100% Clean Energy and Clean Transportation powering the County's needs by 2050" and established renewable energy goals for both County-run facilities and for the County at large; and

WHEREAS, a part of the 2021 Clean Energy Resolution, DeKalb County's Governing Authority resolved to participate in related regulatory proceedings and State legislation to advocate for rules and policies that support DeKalb County's energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the 100% Clean Energy and Transportation Transition Plan, created by the Southface Institute to serve as a guide on how the County may transition to 100% clean energy while also addressing equity issues, was most recently presented to the Board of Commissioners' March 18, 2025 Operations Committee for consideration. This plan outlines the IRP process and how these decisions will influence the "carbon intensity of the electricity that DeKalb consumes;" and

WHEREAS, the "Local Government Coalition" consists of local governments in Georgia with interests in renewable energy, energy affordability, alleviation of energy burdens, climate resiliency, and robust demand-side management or energy efficiency programs that will be affected by the IRP process; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted to approve DeKalb County's participation in the Local Government Coalition in 2023 to "Intervene in Georgia Power's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update Process" and in 2022 to "Intervene in the 2022 Public Service Commission Rate Case."

NOW, THEREFORE, DeKalb County approves the continuation of the Governing Authority of DeKalb County to Intervene in Georgia Power's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), as a member of the "Local Government Coalition."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DeKalb County affirms the Coalition's goals of supporting clean energy and energy efficiency as well as requests that staff actively participate fully throughout the entire IRP and Rate case process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DeKalb County specifically aligns with the Coalition's goals discussed during December 2024 and January 2025 meetings and as outlined in the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County Commission Agenda Item "ACCGov Actions as a Coalition of Local Government Intervener in the Georgia Power IRP and Rate Cases", Facts and Issues #12:

1. **Establishing Distributed Energy Resource programs** such as Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) and residential battery storage, as well as distributed energy resources (DERs), appliances, vehicles, and other energy efficiency and storage solutions. Georgia local governments

expressed their support of the VPP program during the last IRP process and remain interested in seeing that program expanded to Georgia Power customers to increase system resiliency, reduce energy burden, and help manage demand on the system.

2. **Increased access to renewable energy** achieved through additional clean energy procurement mechanisms that are flexible and promote cost effective access to renewable energy. This supports local government renewable energy goals, building performance standards (BPS), resilience, and emissions reduction targets.
3. **Energy efficiency and demand-side management (DSM) programs** consisting of practices, incentives, and other strategies to help reduce the load on the utility system, yield energy savings for customers, and reduce the need for electricity generation. Georgia local governments are interested in utility-offered Energy Efficiency and DSM programs that reduce energy burden for community members, reduce peak demand, enable effective energy management of local government facilities, and otherwise support residential and commercial customer efforts to reduce energy consumption and costs.
4. **Energy affordability**, reducing energy burden to community members with a focus on low-income and venerable populations (note: this generally a focus/goal of the Rate Case)
5. **Expanding Community Solar** which is defined under Georgia law as a small solar array (up to 6 mega-watts on 30 acres or less) and gives nearby residents, businesses, and nonprofits the option to receive savings on their energy bill. Supporting the development of Community Solar can support cost effective access to renewable energy for Georgia Power customers, particularly customers that cannot directly benefit from residential rooftop solar bill savings due to constraints such as lack of home ownership (e.g., renters), excessive shade, or insufficient roof space. Community solar has also been heavily discussed by the Georgia House of Representatives House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Ad Hoc Committee.
6. **Adequate and transparent data access** enables effective energy management of local government facilities, facilitates accurate greenhouse gas emissions tracking for local government operations, and allows local governments to make financially prudent decisions about facility upgrades (including adding onsite renewable energy or investing in DSM measures). Data access is also important for federal grant reporting and future funding applications; local governments need access to energy usage data to meet federal reporting requirements and ensure that programs funded by grant dollars are effectively implemented.
7. **Deployment-ready clean energy solutions and a climate resilient grid**, promoting local microgrids as well as grid development capable of adapting to changing climate conditions and minimizes power outages caused by extreme weather.
8. **Opposing the expansion of polluting fossil fuel resources** like coal, oil, and gas particularly as a default to meet data center and AI energy demands.
9. **Other opportunities** that may arise and which support local clean energy goals and/or lowers energy burden.”

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution is effective immediately upon approval.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

MICHELLE LONG SPEARS

Presiding Officer

Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ____ day of _____, 2025.

LORAIN COCHRAN-JOHNSON

Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and

Chief Executive Officer

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ZACHARY WILLIAMS

Chief Operating Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

MATTHEW C. WELCH

Interim County Attorney

DeKalb County, Georgia