

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE DEKALB COUNTY 100% CLEAN ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION TRANSITION PLAN AND REQUESTING THE DEKALB COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE THE PLAN

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus that Earth’s climate is changing as a result of fossil fuel and carbon emissions. The effects of climate change have impacted DeKalb County residents, with extreme heat, flooding, and natural disasters resulting in property damage and disruption to essential services; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognizes as a County that provides services to over 760,000 residents, it has its own large carbon footprint. Further, DeKalb County is committed to joining the global effort to reduce carbon emissions and be a part of the global goal in securing carbon neutrality by 2050 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, thereby decreasing the likelihood of catastrophic change undermining economic, natural, and social systems; 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

WHEREAS, DeKalb County has established renewable energy goals for both County-run facilities and for the County at large. These goals include: 100% renewable energy for County electricity use by 2035, including at least 50% renewable energy by 2025, 100% renewable energy for DeKalb County community-wide electricity supply by 2045, and 100% renewable energy in all energy use sectors, including transportation by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Southface Institute, alongside Energetics, IB Environmental, Cherry Street Energy, and Clean Cities Georgia, submitted a proposal to DeKalb County’s Request for Proposal in 2022, was awarded the contract, and have been developing the 100% Clean Energy and Transportation Transition Plan (the Plan) since 2023 to serve as a guide on how the County may transition to 100% clean energy while also addressing equity issues; and

WHEREAS, the Southface Institute conducted a series of in-person community events throughout the process of developing the 100% Clean Energy and Transportation Transition Plan. These community events allowed residents to learn more about sustainability and the Plan while also allowing the consultant team to learn the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Plan assesses equity within the County and maps energy burden hotspots outlining areas in the County that have been historically disinvested in and overlooked and that would benefit from “overall higher levels of clean energy investment”; and

WHEREAS, the Plan identifies the most carbon intensive sectors through a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and outlines clear benchmarks and milestones for the County to transition and reach 100% clean and renewable energy and transportation; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures have proven to provide energy cost savings. By implementing these measures and investing in clean energy solutions, DeKalb County is being fiscally responsible and may be able to reinvest these cost savings into furthering clean energy projects; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners recognized in 2021 and reaffirms that “renewable energy represents an enormous economic opportunity for DeKalb County to create jobs in an ever-emerging industry, increase economic security and expand prosperity for local residents, reduce air pollution and associated public health risks, reduce the strain on water resources, and save consumers money”; and

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners recognized in 2021 and reaffirms that “a renewable energy transition is an opportunity to redress historical inequities in our community and must be just. This means, in part, prioritizing the resources to train and hire people from within communities of color and women that have traditionally been underrepresented in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the workforce needed to implement a successful renewable energy transition.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, Georgia adopt the 100% Clean Energy and Transportation Transition Plan and requests the Administration to execute the Plan to ensure DeKalb County’s clean energy goals established in 2021 are met.

Specifically, the Plan outlines the following key recommendations for the Governing Authority to consider:

- 1) Invest in Community
 - a. Provide funding opportunities and incentives to residents for clean energy improvements, leveraging programs like Solarization, PACE, and weatherization, and utilizing energy cost savings.
- 2) Sustain Sustainability
 - a. Create a dedicated Sustainability Office, led by a Sustainability Officer, to ensure long-term implementation and integration of the clean energy plan across County operations.
- 3) Manage Energy
 - a. Appoint an Energy Manager to monitor and reduce energy consumption in County facilities, generating cost savings for reinvestment in community clean energy initiatives.
- 4) Lead by Example
 - a. Implement ambitious short-term goals, including establishing the Sustainability Office by 2026, achieving a 30% reduction in County building energy consumption by 2030, and installing EV chargers at all planned locations by 2026, and secure IRA funding by 2025.
- 5) Data, Data, Data
 - a. Implement robust data tracking and management systems, such as ICLEI and Energy Star Portfolio Manager, to ensure accurate monitoring, measurement, and reporting of clean energy progress.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 20__ by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners.

Michelle Long Spears

Presiding Officer

Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this _____ day of _____, 20__

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Barbara Sanders

County Clerk

Board of Commissioners and

Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Welch

Acting County Attorney

DeKalb County, Georgia