



# DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

## Agenda Item Substitute

**File #:** 2023-0552  
**File Status:** Approval Review

6/27/2023

**Public Hearing:** YES  NO       **Department:** Board of Commissioners - District 6

### **SUBJECT:**

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

Establishment of an RFP for Sustainability Vendor to Support the Development and Implementation of DeKalb County's Climate Action Plan and Address Environmental Justice Issues

**Information Contact:** Commissioner Edward C. "Ted" Terry

**Phone Number:** 404-371-4909

### **PURPOSE:**

This proposed resolution supports establishing an RFP for Sustainability Vendor to Support the Development and Implementation of DeKalb's Climate Action Plan and Address Environmental Justice Issues.

### **NEED/IMPACT:**

DeKalb County Government recognizes the importance of addressing climate change, promoting sustainability, and protecting environmental justice.

This resolution works in concurrence with the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act provisions to address climate change, infrastructure, and create green jobs, at the local level, through federal grant programs. The engagement of a sustainability vendor with expertise in developing climate action plans, sustainability and resilience plans, maximizes the opportunity to best support DeKalb County's goals to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and implement sustainability and resilience measures to mitigate the impact of climate change.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Fiscal impact is not known at this time

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the attached resolution confirming our solidarity to support establishing an RFP for a Sustainability Vendor to support the development and implementation of DeKalb County's Climate Action Plan and authorize the chief executive officer to execute a contract with the selected vendor following a competitive selection process in accordance with the County's procurement policies.

**Resolution to Urge the DeKalb County Administration to Issue a Request for Proposals for a Sustainability Vendor to Support the Development and Implementation of DeKalb's Climate Action Plan and Address Environmental Justice Issues**

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County Government recognizes the importance of addressing climate change, promoting sustainability, and protecting environmental justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Biden administration has implemented the Inflation Reduction Act provisions to address climate change, infrastructure, and create green jobs, at the local level, through federal grant programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the County aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency, and implement sustainability and resilience measures to mitigate the impact of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the County seeks to engage a sustainability vendor with expertise in developing climate action plans, sustainability and resilience plans, and addressing environmental justice issues, and apply for federal grants to support sustainability initiatives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the Administration to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a sustainability vendor to assist with the development of a climate action plan, sustainability and resilience plan, with the foundation of addressing environmental justice issues described in the Biden administration's Justice40 Initiative and which mandates at least 40% of the federal grants to local governments must reach marginalized and impacted communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners urges the Administration to consider including the following requirements in any RFP issued for a sustainability vendor:

1. The vendor must have experience in developing climate action plans, sustainability and resilience plans, and addressing environmental justice issues.
2. The vendor must provide evidence of successful project implementation in similar jurisdictions.
3. The vendor must demonstrate an understanding of local environmental justice issues and provide a plan for addressing them.
4. The vendor must propose a comprehensive approach to community engagement and public input to ensure that the plans reflect the needs and priorities of the County's residents.

5. The vendor must provide a detailed budget and timeline for the project, including milestones and deliverables, and identify federal grant programs that can be applied to support sustainability initiatives.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it is the desire of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to see the selected sustainability vendor work closely with County staff and stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive and actionable climate action plan, sustainability and resilience plan, and an environmental justice strategy, and the plans developed through this collaborative effort be implemented based on the timeline called for in the official Climate Action Plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that it is the desire of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to see the County apply for federal grants, including those proposed by the Biden administration, to support sustainability initiatives and that the sustainability vendor shall assist the County in identifying and applying for these grants.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners urges the Administration to allocate sufficient funds for the implementation of the referenced plans, and that progress on the implementation of the plans and the use of federal grants be reported regularly to the Board of Commissioners and the public.

**ADOPTED** by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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**ROBERT J. PATRICK**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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**BARBARA H. SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC**

County Clerk  
Board of Commissioners and  
Chief Executive Officer

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**

County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia



5. The vendor must provide a detailed budget and timeline for the project, including milestones and deliverables, and identify federal grant programs that can be applied to support sustainability initiatives.

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CEO is authorized to execute a contract with the selected vendor following a competitive selection process in accordance with the County's procurement policies.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the desire of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to see the selected sustainability vendor shall work closely with County staff and stakeholders to develop and implement a comprehensive and actionable climate action plan, sustainability and resilience plan, and an environmental justice strategy, and that the plans developed through this collaborative efforts shall be implemented based on the timeline called for in the official Climate Action Plan for a contract period of no less than two years, with an option for renewal if deemed appropriate.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the desire of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to see that the County shall apply for federal grants, including those proposed by the Biden administration, to support sustainability initiatives and that the sustainability vendor shall assist the County in identifying and applying for these grants.~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners urges the Administration to shall allocate sufficient funds for the implementation of the referenced plans, and that progress on the implementation of the plans and the use of federal grants shall be reported regularly to the Board of Commissioners and the public.~~

~~ADOPTED~~ by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2023.

**ROBERT J. PATRICK**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

~~APPROVED~~ by the Chief Executive Officer, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2023.

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**MICHAEL L. THURMOND**

Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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

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**VIVIANE H. ERNSTES**  
County Attorney  
DeKalb County, Georgia

