

**Resolution: Establishment of RFP for 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 Government hereby establishes 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. The mandates at least 40% of the federal grants to local governments must reach marginalized and impacted communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RFP shall include the following requirements:

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 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 the 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 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 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 County shall allocate sufficient funds for the implementation of the 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.

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**ROBERT 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