Atlanta Regional Commission

Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan Stakeholder Update

ARC
Webinar
August 27, 2025

While you wait…

- Check and update your username
- Microphones and cameras have been muted due to the number of participants
- Please write your questions in the Chat and we will address it either in the Q&A portion or post a response on our website after the presentation is done
- To ask a question during the Q&A using the microphone, please raise your hand using the “Raise Hand” function at the top of the screen and we will unmute your mic and call on you
- Today’s slides and links to additional resources will be shared with registrants after the meeting and posted on our CPRG & MACAP Public Input websites

The meeting will start in a few minutes

Please introduce yourself/ your organization in the chat

AGENDA

- Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan Update
  - Where we are in the planning process
  - Final list of measures
  - Co-Benefits highlights
  - Workforce analysis highlights
  - Remaining timeline for the MACAP
- Next Steps
- Q&A

WELCOME

Vision

ONE great REGION

Mission

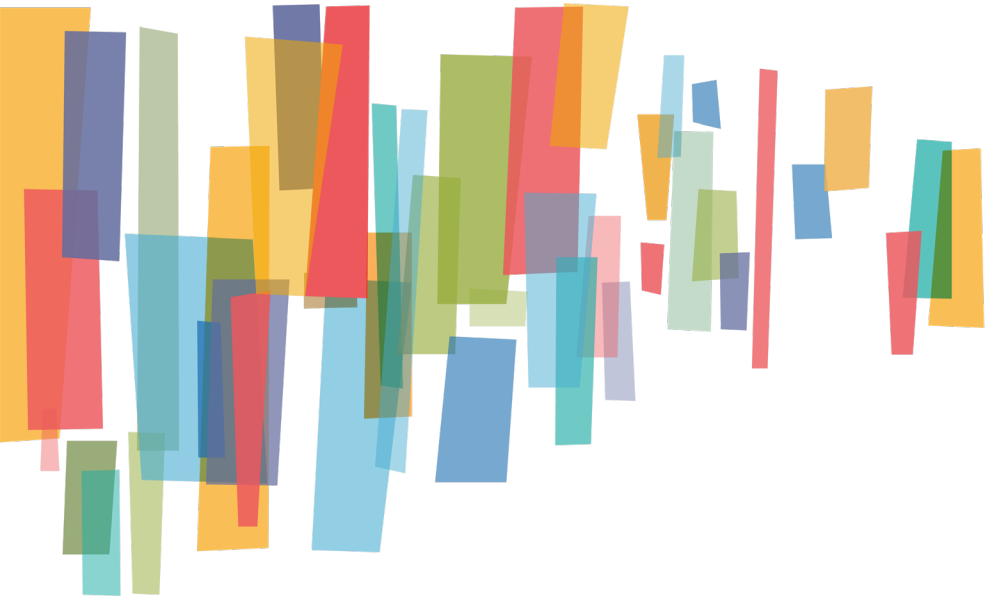
Foster thriving communities for all within the Atlanta region through collaborative, data-informed planning and investments.

Values

Excellence | **Integrity** | **Equity**

Goals

- **Healthy, safe, livable communities** in the Atlanta Metro area.
- **Strategic investments** in people, infrastructure, mobility, and preserving natural resources.
- Regional services delivered with **operational excellence** and **efficiency**.
- **Diverse stakeholders engage** and take a regional approach to solve local issues.
- **A competitive economy** that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient.



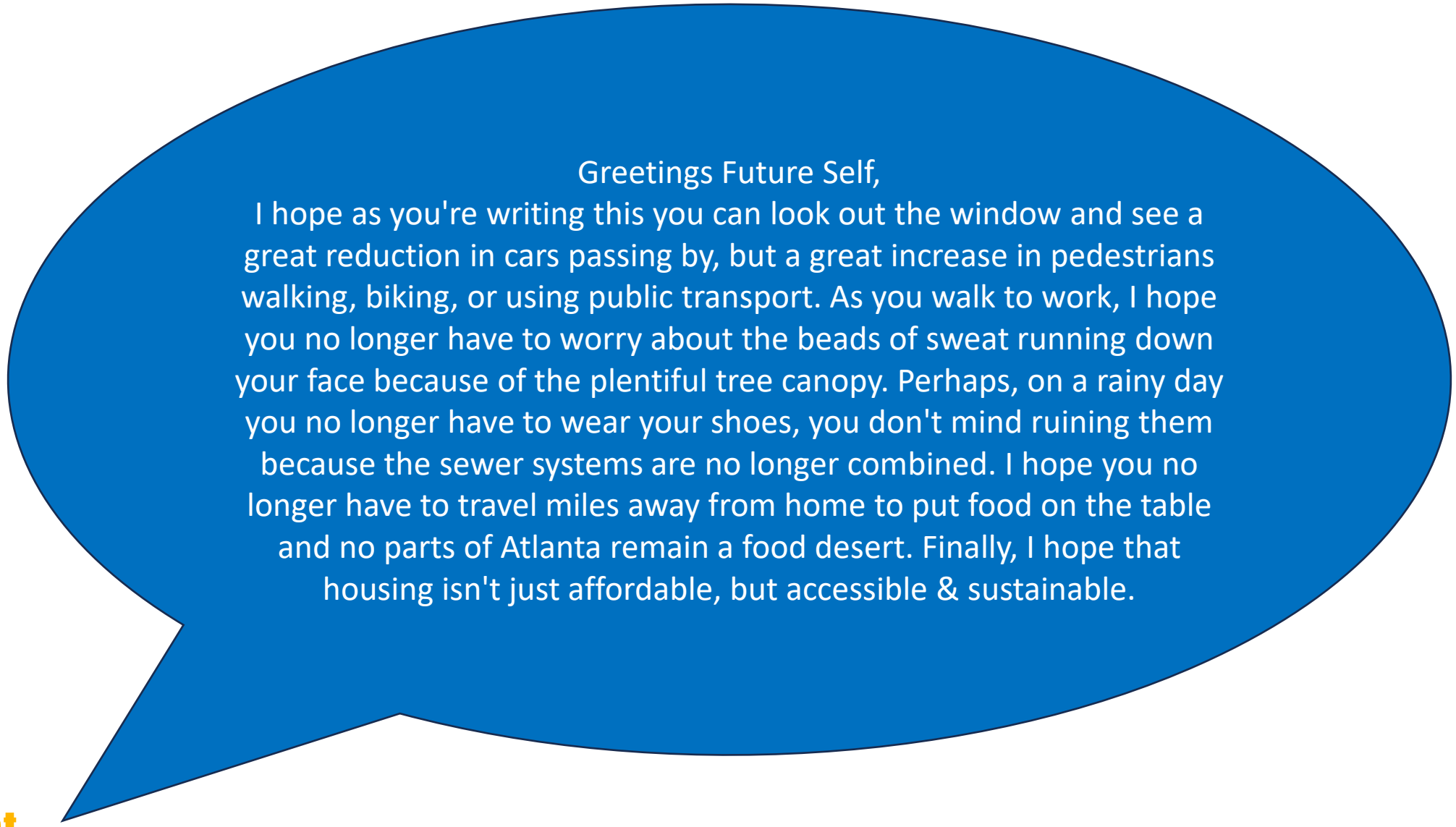
IT STARTS WITH A VISION

"The year is 2050 and metro Atlanta has met its climate goals. **You are writing a postcard from your future self to your current self in 2025.**

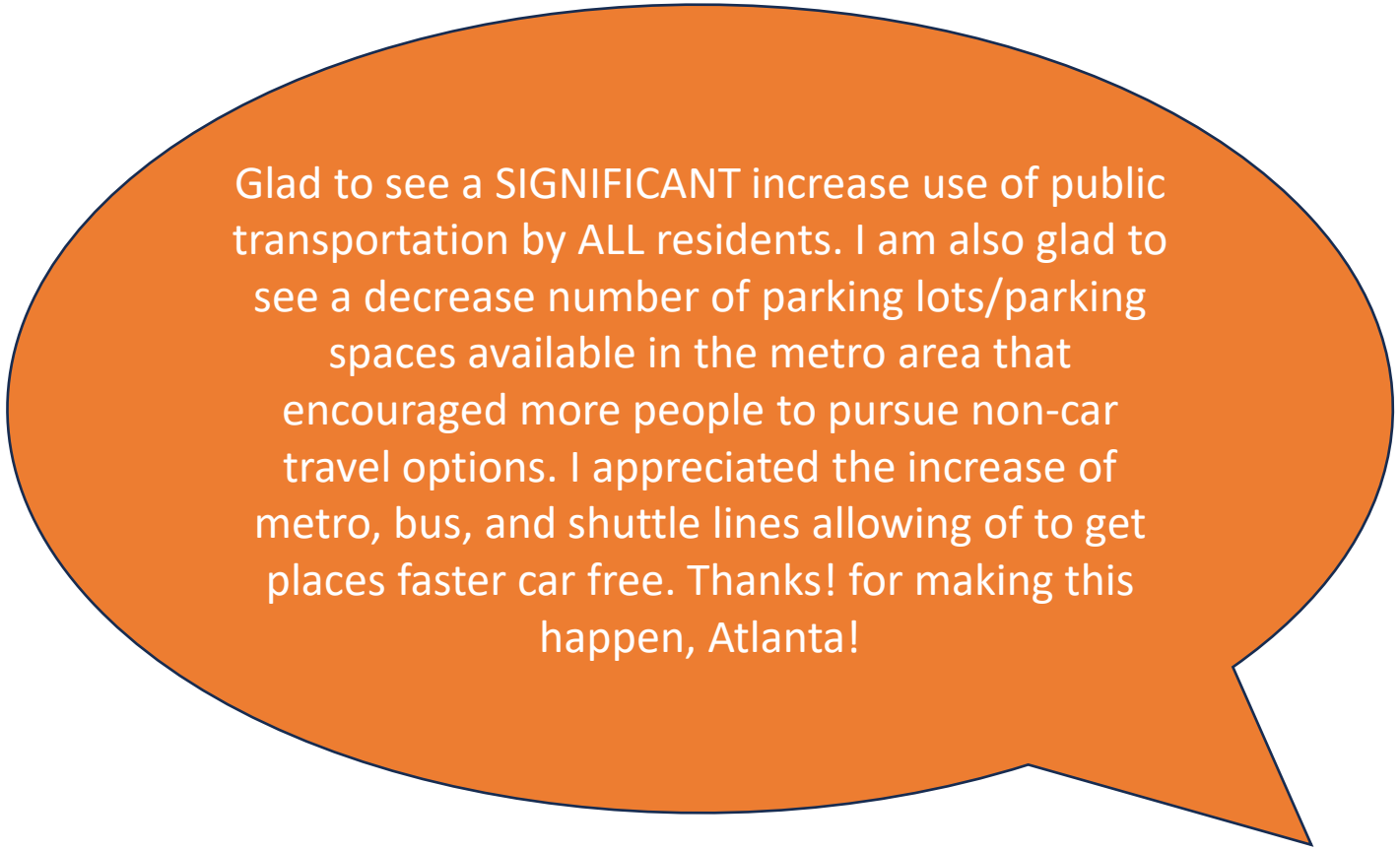
What changes took place to make metro Atlanta a sustainable and climate-resilient community?

What does the region and look like in 2050?"

Climate Visioning Survey – Highlights



Climate Priorities Survey – Concerns



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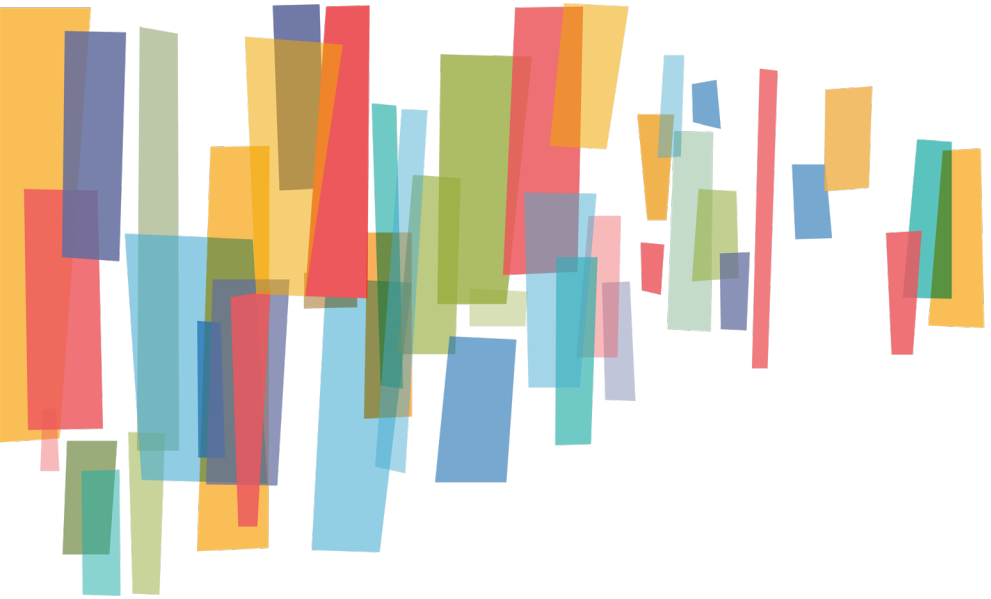


Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan (MACAP) Update

CPRG Planning for the Atlanta MSA

- ARC is lead agency for Atlanta MSA CPRG
  - 29 counties
  - 150 cities

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Planning Grant

1 Priority Climate Action Plan (Atlanta MSA PCAP)

- Near-term, high-priority, implementation-ready measures to reduce GHG emissions
- Submitted to EPA March 1, 2024

2 Implementation Grant Proposals

- Competitive grant proposals for projects intended to implement one or more PCAP measures
- Proposals submitted to EPA April 1, 2024

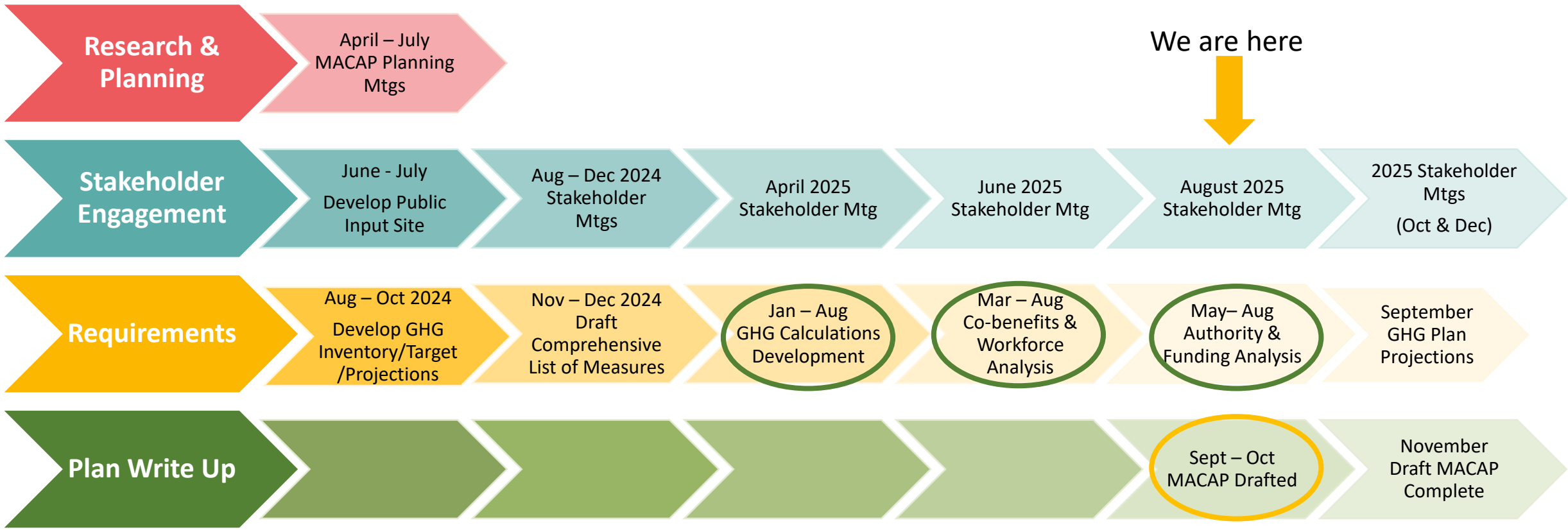
3 Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (Metro Atlanta CAP) 85%

- Near- and long-term GHG emission reduction goals, and prioritized measures to achieve goals
- Due December 1, 2025

4 Status Report

- Implementation status of quantified measures included in the MACAP
- Due at close of grant period late summer 2027

Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan Timeline (Updated)



Final MACAP & Submission to EPA: December 1, 2025
MACAP Adoption by ARC Board: TBD

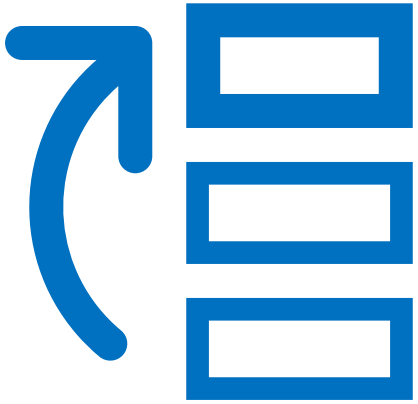
Plan Elements Update – Final GHG Reduction Measures

GHG Reduction Measures– CPRG Requirements

- Focus on measures that achieve the most significant GHG reductions possible to meet reduction targets of:
  - 50 – 55% reduction of GHG by 2035
  - near net zero by 2050
- Inclusive of GHG sources and sinks
- Measures for each sector
  - transportation, buildings (residential & commercial), industry, waste & recycling, working & natural lands, energy, etc.

Climate Priorities Survey Input

- In addition to input from other city/county plans, stakeholder webinars, and community events
- Gather input from all 29 Atlanta MSA counties 💯
- Top Priorities Identified:
  - Improving access to public transportation
  - Access to safe hiking & biking trails
  - Improving energy efficiency of large buildings
  - Using clean energy sources & increasing renewables within communities
  - Requiring materials from buildings be reused or recycled
  - Increase tree canopy coverage



Each GHG Reduction Measure includes the following:

- **Description of the Measure,** including relevant background information and specific actions that local governments, businesses, individuals, and others can take to implement the measure
- **Geographic Scope** of where the measure can be implemented
- **Annual GHG Emissions Reductions in 2035 and 2050** and associated **Annual Co-Pollutant Reductions in 2035 and 2050** that may be achieved through implementing the measure compared to the Business-As-Usual scenario
- **Cost Savings** that may be achieved through implementing the measure
- **Primary Co-Benefits** that may be achieved along with reducing GHG emissions through implementing the measure
- **Implementation Details,** including **Key Implementation Partners**, example **Implementation Milestones and Timelines ,** and potential **Metrics to Track Progress**

Each sector includes the following:

Funding Opportunities examples that may be available to support implementation of the measure.

Technical Assistance & Additional Information available from local and national organizations.

Recommended Policy Actions to help increase the rate of implementation and realization of benefits of the measure.

Examples of Successful Projects and Programs within the Atlanta MSA similar to or related to the measure.

Final GHG Reduction Measures

Buildings – Residential & Commercial	
R1. Home Energy Efficiency	Retrofit existing homes to be more energy efficient through updating HVAC systems, switching to newer lighting and appliances, using cool roofing, sealing air ducts, and other similar methods.
R2. Residential Energy Efficiency Codes & Green Building Standards	Support local governments in adopting more efficient residential energy codes and/or green building standards.
R3. Electrify Homes	Electrify existing homes by encouraging a switch from gas-powered appliances, water heaters, and HVAC systems to electric systems.
C1. Commercial and Multifamily Building Energy Efficiency	Retrofit existing commercial and multifamily buildings to be more energy efficient through updating HVAC systems, using geothermal HVAC, switching to newer lighting and appliances, using cool roofing, sealing air ducts, and other similar methods.
C2. Commercial Energy Efficiency Codes & Green Building Standards	Support local governments in adopting more efficient commercial energy codes and/or green building standards.
C3. Electrify Commercial and Multifamily Buildings	Electrify existing commercial and multifamily buildings by encouraging a switch from gas-powered appliances, water heaters, and HVAC systems to electric systems.

Final GHG Reduction Measures

Transportation	
T1. Light Duty Electric Vehicles, EV Chargers, and Grid Balancing	Encourage a shift to light duty electric vehicles from internal combustion engines, increase the installation of EV charging stations, and use EVs to help balance the electric grid.
T2. Electrify Fleets	Transition medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets to electric vehicles with similar performance capabilities, especially for short-haul and local applications.
T3. Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled	Decrease vehicle miles traveled by enabling greater use of different modes of transportation, such as walking, biking, transit, teleworking, carpooling, and mass transit.

Final GHG Reduction Measures

Industrial	
I1. Industrial Building Energy Efficiency	Retrofit existing industrial buildings to be more energy efficient through updating HVAC systems, using geothermal HVAC, switching to newer lighting, using cool roofing, and other similar methods.
I2. Electrify Industrial Buildings	Electrify existing industrial buildings by encouraging a switch from gas-powered systems and processes to electric systems and processes.
I3. Retrofit industrial processes and equipment	Retrofit existing industrial processes and equipment to more energy efficient processes and systems.
I4. Decrease non-CO2 GHG Emissions	Decrease non-CO2 GHG Emissions through improved industrial processes.
I5. Waste Heat to Energy or HVAC	Capture heat from industrial processes to provide HVAC and/or create electricity.

Final GHG Reduction Measures

Energy	
E1. Urban Scale Solar	Increase usage of “urban-scale” solar by installing solar on landfill and wastewater sites and community solar small-acreage sites.
E2. Rooftop Solar and Battery Systems	Increase installation of rooftop solar and battery storage systems.
E3. Electricity Demand Response	Adopt demand response actions in local government facilities, businesses, and homes by shifting energy use to off-peak times, using power strips, installing smart thermostats, and other similar methods.
E4. Wastewater Gas-to-Energy	Capture biosolids & biogas at wastewater treatment plants for gas- to-energy creation.
E5. Landfill Gas-to-Energy	Capture methane at landfills for gas- to-energy creation.

Final GHG Reduction Measures

Waste & Materials	
WM1. Reduce Construction and Demolition Waste	Reduce construction and demolition waste by designing material-efficient buildings, promoting adaptive reuse of buildings, and deconstructing buildings to reuse and recycle their components rather than sending them to a landfill.
WM2. Increase Composting	Reduce the amount of food, yard, and tree waste that goes into landfills by composting.

Trees & Greenspaces	
TG1. Add Trees and Green Infrastructure	Increase tree canopy and vegetative coverage through afforestation and green infrastructure.
TG2. Restore and Protect Forests	Restore and protect temperate-climate working forests through improved forest management.

Final GHG Reduction Measures

Cross Sector	
CS1. Accelerate Adoption at the Local Level	Provide incentives and technical assistance to increase local government adoption of climate mitigating policies, ordinances, and programs.

On Target for GHG Reduction?

Year	2005 Baseline GHG (MMT CO2e)	Actual Change from 2005 Baseline (MMT CO2e)	Percent Change from 2005 Baseline	Notes
2005	84.75	0	0%	
2022	69.04	-15.71	-19%	
2035	55.52	-29.23	-35%	Below Target
2050	10.69	-74.06	-87%	Above Target

Closing the GHG Gap

- Conservative in our modeling
  - Based the modeling on an assumption of increase in energy demand from data centers & repeal of certain federal policies and funding
  - Modest uptake of these measures over time

- Identified long-term options that may be included in future plans to close the gap:
  - Cool roofs (Buildings)
  - Mass Timber (Buildings & Trees/Greenspace)
  - Carbon Capture & Sequestration (Industrial)
  - Concrete Clinker Substitution (Industrial)
  - Virtual Power Plants (Energy)
  - Carbon Pricing (Cross Sector)

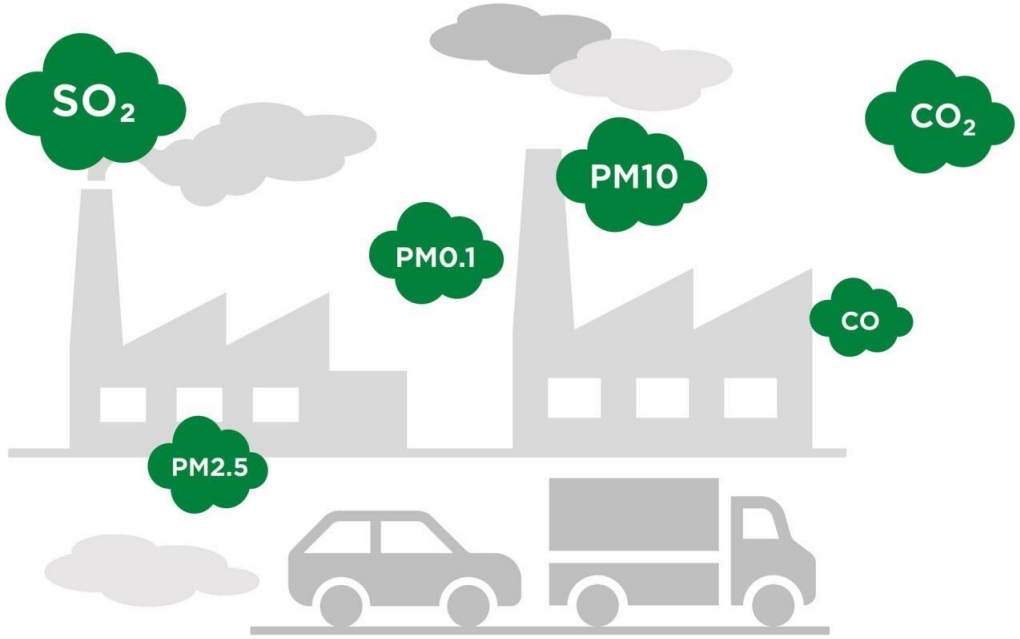
Plan Elements Update – Co-Benefits Analysis

Co-Benefits Analysis – CPRG Requirements

- **Quantified** estimates of **co-pollutant reductions** associated with GHG reduction measures
  - PM2.5, NOx, SO2, VOCs, air toxics, etc.
- Encouraged to assess **additional benefits**
  - Analysis of air quality improvements
  - Improved public health outcomes
  - Economic benefits
  - Increased climate resilience
  - Other environmental benefits
- To extent possible, track any **potential disbenefits** resulting from implementation of GHG reduction measures

Co-Benefits: Co-Pollutants

- Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5)
- Course Particulate Matter (PM 10)
- Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x)
- Sulfur Oxides (SO_x)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)
- Organic Carbon (OC)



Co-Benefit Categories

- Improved Air Quality
- More Transportation Options
- Health & Wellbeing
- Lower Costs
- Safety & Resilience
- Natural Resource Protection
- Strengthening the Local Economy

Co-Benefit Highlights

- Transportation Mode Shift
  - Carbon Monoxide: 28 kt annual reduction by 2050
  - Volatile Organic Compounds: 2 kt annual reduction by 2050
  - Total Net Savings (2025-2050 in 2024 USD): $6.5 billion

- Energy Efficient Codes
  - Fine Particulate Matter: 998 kt annual reduction by 2050
  - Course Particulate Matter: 1,088 kt annual reduction by 2050
  - Total Net Savings (2025-2050 in 2024 USD): $53 billion

- Increase Tree Canopy
  - Nitrogen Oxides: 17 kt annual reduction by 2050
  - Total Net Savings (2025-2050 in 2024 USD): $417 million

Climate Priorities Survey – Concerns

Building political will to take action (the science and solutions are well documented, we just need to do them!) and combating hopelessness.

I worry that initiatives and grant funding are going to the wrong places/projects.

Preserving the way of life that is threatened by climate change so our children can experience it too. River swimming. Picnics. Clean air. Quiet nights.

Climate Priorities Survey – Concerns

- Disproportionate impacts & effects in communities
- Lengthy/difficult applications for grants, rebates, and other financial assistance
- Increase cost of utilities
- Increased cost of living overall

Plan Elements Update – Workforce Analysis

Workforce Analysis – CPRG Requirements

- Analyze anticipated **workforce challenges and opportunities** associated with achieving GHG reduction measures.

- Identify **potential solutions and partners** at the state, regional, and/or local level that are equipped to help address challenges.

- Note **existing funding and/or programs** that can help support the workforce needs of the MACAP.

Workforce Analysis – Existing Reports

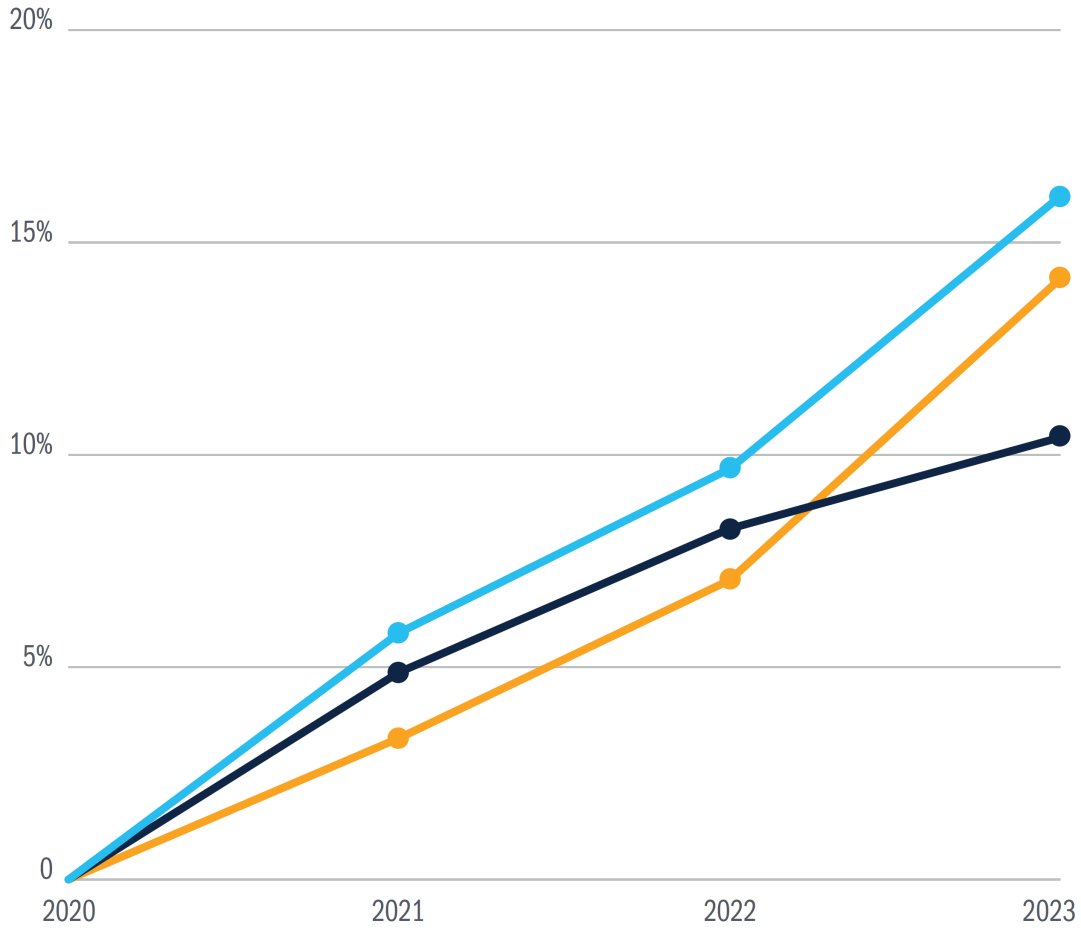
- Used existing reports to determine general workforce trends related to the suite of measures:
  - Solar Energy Industries Association Georgia Solar Report (2025)
  - U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report: Department of Energy (2024)
  - E2: Clean Jobs Georgia Report (2024)
  - Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy: Georgia Reports (2021-2024)
  - Georgia Forestry Labor Study (2023)
  - Economics Benefits of the Georgia Forest Industry (2022)
  - Etc…

Georgia Clean Energy Jobs by Metro Area

Metro Area	Total Clean Energy Jobs	Renewable Generation	Storage/Grid	Clean Fuels	Energy Efficiency	Clean Vehicles
Atlanta MSA	53,145	4,991	2,615	314	41,386	3,839
Athens-Clarke	1,118	316	23	<10	687	85
Augusta	3,541	750	464	<10	2,088	231
Brunswick	448	65	<10	<10	<10	308
Columbus	1,328	96	171	<10	917	142
Dalton	1,450	1,087	18	<10	243	100
Gainesville	1,361	78	28	<10	796	456
Savannah	2,178	152	112	<10	1,699	212

Source: E2 Clean Jobs Georgia 2024 Factsheet

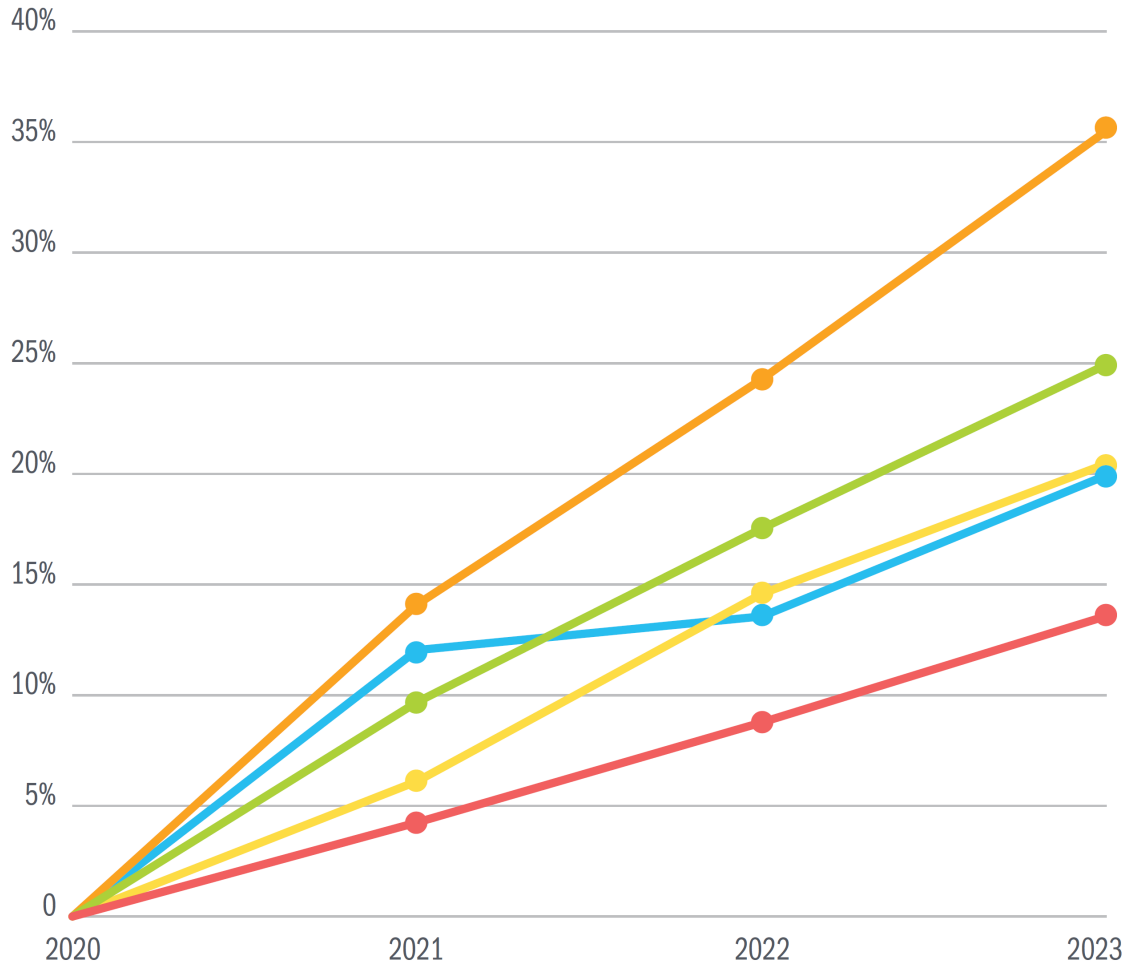
Georgia Energy Employment by Industry Growth



2020	2021	2022	2023
	Georgia Clean Energy Employment		
70,774	74,883	78,354	82,163
	Overall Georgia Employment		
4,407,429	4,622,668	4,804,450	4,866,355
	Overall Georgia Energy Employment		
188,626	194,908	202,929	215,319

Source: E2 Clean Jobs Georgia 2024 Factsheet

Georgia Clean Energy Employment Growth by Sector

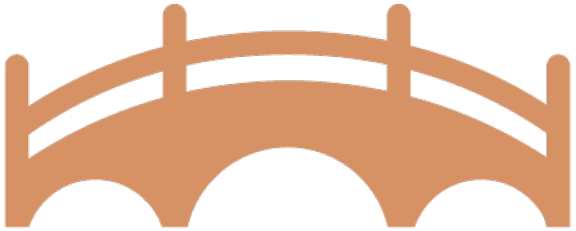


2020	2021	2022	2023
	Energy Efficiency		
51,123	53,294	55,605	58,067
	Renewable Generation		
8,934	9,800	10,500	11,162
	Storage/Grid		
3,813	4,046	4,369	4,593
	Clean Fuels		
383	437	476	519
	Clean Vehicles		
6,521	7,306	7,405	7,821

Source: E2 Clean Jobs Georgia 2024 Factsheet

Workforce Analysis – Green Skills Gaps

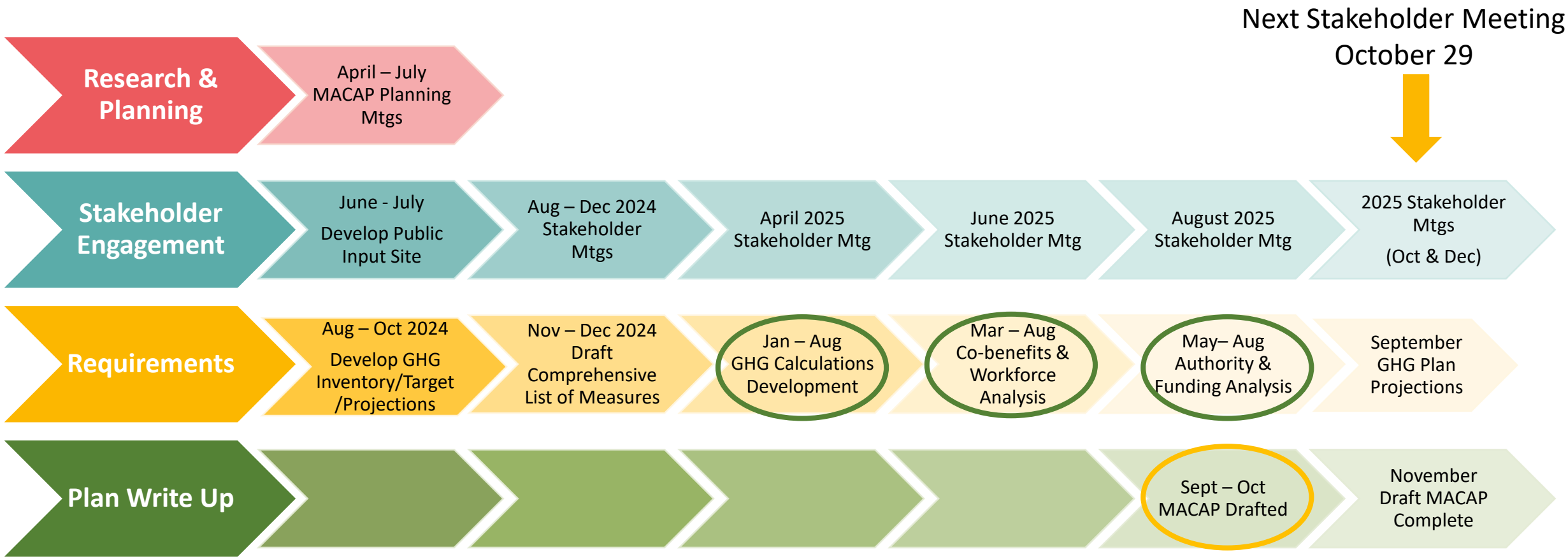
- Types of Jobs
  - Solar Installer
  - Electrician
  - Construction Worker
  - Powerline Installer
  - Energy Efficiency Manager
  - HVAC Technician
  - Certified Arborist
  - Environmental Technician
  - Solar Energy Consultant
  - Sustainability Analyst/Specialist



- Filling the Gaps by:
  - Building awareness of Green/Clean job opportunities from middle school-onwards
  - Investing in & expanding reskilling programs
  - Creating relevant curricula & certifications @ technical colleges & universities
  - Developing more apprenticeship & pre-apprenticeship opportunities
  - Collaborating with businesses and industry organizations to connect workers to jobs

Next Steps

Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan Timeline (Updated)



Final MACAP & Submission to EPA: December 1, 2025

MACAP Adoption by ARC Board: TBD

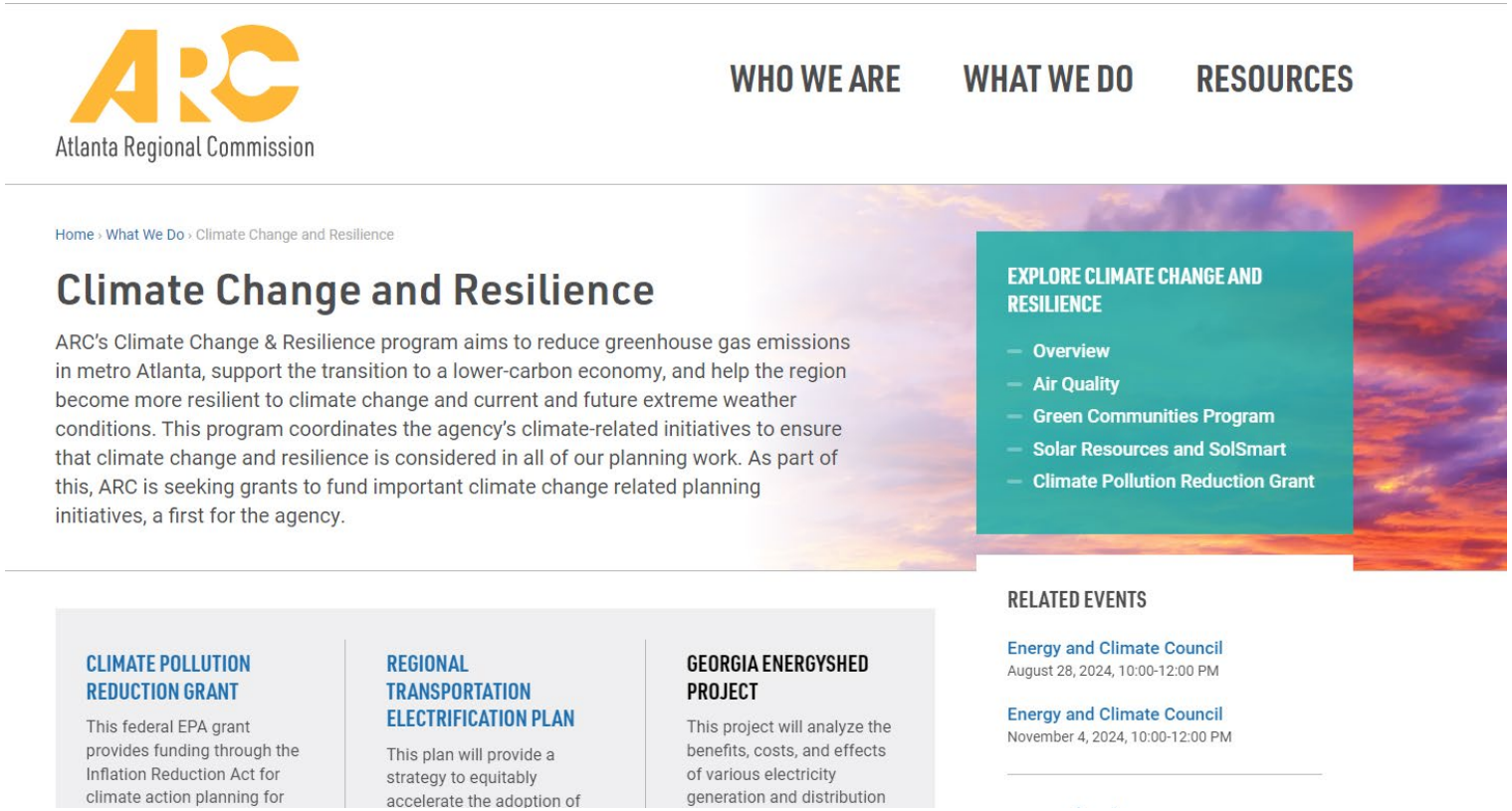
We want to hear from you & your community!

- MACAP Public Input Website
- Community Visioning Survey
- Climate Priorities Survey
- Upcoming Webinars
- Past Presentations
- Sign Up for Updates
- Request a Speaker
- Share with Friends & Family

https://publicinput.com/metroatlantacap

ONE great REGION

Stay Connected to Climate Change & Resilience at ARC



atlantaregional.org/climatechange

Climate@atlantaregional.org

The resiliency of our region—both today and tomorrow—**depends on all of us.**

ONE great REGION

Crystal L Jackson
Planning Manager, Climate + Sustainability
cjackson@atlantaregional.org