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ARC

Atlanta Regional Commission

Regional Clean Electricity Plan

for Local Governments in Metro Atlanta

Workshop 3 | September 3, 2026





Agenda

8 mins	• Ice Breaker: Sit with New People
8 mins	• Welcome & Project Overview
20 mins	• Initial Recommendations from RCEP
8 mins	• Q & A
30 mins	• Interactive Activity
10 mins	• Q & A, Share Out
6 mins	• Closing & Next Steps

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Ice Breaker - 8 mins

Sit next to somebody you don’t know

Find someone new and introduce yourself: Name, what brings you here, and briefly share some of your community's clean energy priorities or key partners on your clean energy projects

Save the Date!

Workshop IV: Designing My Clean Energy Initiatives

12/9/2026 | 1-2:30pm ET

Johns Creek Environmental Campus Meeting Room
8100 Holcomb Bridge Rd. Alpharetta, GA 30022



Atlanta Regional Commission

Regional Clean Electricity Plan Overview

Jon Philipsborn, *Climate and Resilience Manager at ARC*
jphilipsborn@atlantaregional.org | 470-378-1613

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Local Governments

11 counties and 75 cities across the Metro Atlanta Region.

Project Team

- Atlanta Regional Commission
- Greenlink Analytics
- 2KB Energy Services
- JLL

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Why is energy important to the Region?

- Energy Availability
  - Increasing energy demands
  - Where does electricity currently come from?
  - Where will future electricity come from, and how quickly?
- Energy Affordability:
  - Rising utility bills in GA
  - Heavy dependency on natural gas for electricity generation
- Community Well-Being:
  - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
  - Indoor & Outdoor Air Quality
  - Ecological Health (Water & Land Use)

Variability across the region

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ONE great REGION

A Regional Approach to Climate Action

The **climate is changing**, leading to higher temperatures and an increase in extreme weather events. At the same time, the Atlanta region is undergoing an **energy transition** to an increasingly **electric** future.

ARC is **working strategically** to help the Atlanta region prepare for these challenges and embrace new opportunities as we work to **foster thriving communities** for all.



Energy Transition

Advancing the transition to carbon-free energy available for everyone

Georgia Energyshed

Developing an integrated model of metro Atlanta's energyshed that includes technical, social, and community inputs. Simulations will be conducted to assess the impacts of potential energy futures within the ARC energyshed.

Status: Paused – Completed Year 2 of 3; Project ends May 2026.

Regional Clean Electricity Plan (RCEP)

This plan, funded by a U.S. Department of Energy grant, will help local governments save money by making their buildings and operations more energy efficient, while also providing alternative energy options.

Status: Ongoing – Project ends June 2027.

Clean Tech Academy

ARC has received a 5-year, $2 million federal grant that will enable Goodwill of North Georgia to train 250 people to become EV technicians.

Status: The first cohort completed training in August 2024; the second cohort will start in October 2025. Five additional cohorts were completed, including the introduction of a heat pump cohort. Additional cohorts of both will continue throughout 2025 and 2026.

Charging & Fueling Infrastructure (CFI)

ARC will partner with the private sector to expand the availability of Level 2 EV chargers, with a focus on underserved communities.

Status: Ongoing – Contract development with FHWA and GDOT underway.

Regional Medium & Heavy-Duty Alternative Fuels Plan

This plan will assess the current and future state of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Atlanta region for medium and heavy-duty vehicles, identifying infrastructure needs, exploring associated costs and deployment trends, and identifying opportunities for implementation.

Status: Ongoing – contract procurement expected in Q4 of 2025.

Resilience

Enhancing the resilience of our communities, infrastructure, and natural systems to climate change and extreme weather events

Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan

Through an FHWA PROTECT grant, ARC will create a tool to identify transportation infrastructure at risk to current and future flood and extreme heat events, develop resilience measures, and inform transportation planning and policies.

Status: Upcoming – anticipated to begin 2025 Q3; 18 month project.

City of Decatur Heat Mitigation Plan

Through ARC's Community Development Assistance Program, the City of Decatur will receive support to develop strategies to mitigate the city's urban heat island effect. Strategies will guide short-term actions and long-term improvements through updated city development codes and support the necessary policy changes to combat the urban heat experienced within city limits.

Status: Selected Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies in May 2025; Plan expected to kick off 2025 Q3.

Resilient Water Utilities Report

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District will leverage current local climate data and recent experience with extreme weather events to update the 2015 Utility Climate Resiliency Study. The report will provide water utilities with adaptive strategies for planning their systems for future resilience.

Status: Ongoing – stakeholder engagement starting June, final report expected in Q4 2025.

Metro Atlanta Bicycle Network Plan

This initiative aims to create a connected bicycle network across metro Atlanta serving both recreational and commute purposes.

Status: Upcoming - anticipated kickoff 2025 Q4; 18 month project.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reductions

Setting the region on a path towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions

Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan

This plan is a roadmap to create a sustainable and resilient future for all, while highlighting steps to transition to near net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Status: Ongoing – Plan kicked off August 2024. Planning will take place through Fall 2025 with submittal to EPA by December 1, 2025.

Atlanta Regional Transportation Carbon Reduction Plan

This project will examine local and regional strategies to support the reduction of transportation- related greenhouse gas emissions.

Status: Ongoing – work began in 2025 Q1; 18 month project.

Georgia Commute Options

Managed by ARC and funded by the Georgia DOT, Georgia Commute Options works with employers, commuters, and schools to reduce single-occupancy vehicles and improve air quality in metro Atlanta.

Status: Ongoing.

E-Bike Rebate Program

ARC partnered with the City of Atlanta to provide rebates for the purchase of e-bikes to provide affordable, clean transportation options for moderate and low-income individuals.

Status: Ongoing – the Atlanta City Council introduced legislation in May 2025 to renew funding after ARC administered the inaugural program on behalf of the City of Atlanta.

Green Communities

This voluntary sustainability certification and technical assistance program helps local governments reduce their environmental impact through actionable measures. Currently, 15 cities and six counties are certified Green Communities.

Status: Ongoing.

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Regional Clean Electricity Plan (RCEP)

Purpose: Support Local Governments and Increase Carbon-Free Electricity
Key Stakeholder: City and County Governments in the 11-County Region

Key Objectives:

1: Improve energy efficiency
2: Increase energy options and availability
3: Save money!

Funding Source: Department of Energy (via FY23 Congressional Directed Spending)
Amount: $937,000 (20% ARC Match)
Schedule: 07/24 – 07/27
Status: Ongoing; Consultant team led by Greenlink Analytics

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Cont.

Key Tasks:

1. Inventory and Baseline
2. Energy Efficiency, Management, and On-site Generation Opportunities
3. Evaluate Energy Offsets and Other Ways to Procure Electricity
4. Complete Economic Analysis to Determine Benefits
5. Prioritize Projects with Higher Return on Investment; Identify Funding
6. Workshops with Local Governments*
7. Develop Roadmap Document

5 Workshops across the Region, open to all Local Governments, beginning Q1 2026

The Project Team is currently conducting the analysis in Task 3. Today's content is focused on Task 2 initial findings

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Why does ARC do this work?

- Builds Upon Our Existing Work
  - Metro Atlanta Climate Action Plan
- Produces Cost-Savings for Local Governments
- Creates Positive Co-Benefits for Local Governments and the Communities They Serve
  - Improved health outcomes
- Investing in the Future

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.

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Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Today	12/9/2026	Q1 2027
Workshop 1	***Workshop 2***	***Workshop 3***	***Workshop 4***	***Workshop 5***
Intro to RCEP	Initial Data Collection Findings		Economic Impact	Designing Clean Energy Initiatives

Initial Energy Saving Recommendations

Fleet management, building operations improvements, and on-site generation

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Atlanta Regional Commission

Regional Clean Electricity Plan
Initial Energy Saving Recommendations:
Fleet management, building energy efficiency, and on-site generation

Matt Cox, CEO, Greenlink Analytics

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Fleet Management
Initial Recommendations
Additional Considerations



Buildings
Energy Efficiency
On-Site Generation



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Fleet Findings: Fuel Costs a Truckload

Gas prices are up 45%; Diesel is up 55% in 2026 (Jan-Aug comparison)

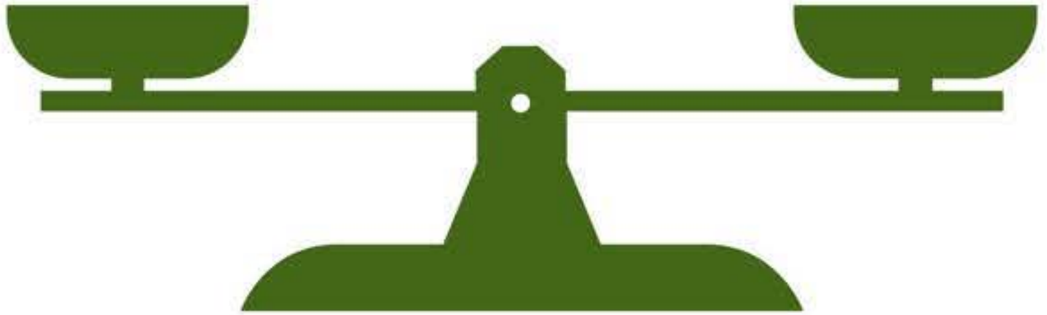
When Considering Light Duty Vehicles Today

Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

If you're prioritizing TCO, Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) will deliver the strongest economics

Reducing Emissions

If you're prioritizing emission reductions, battery electric vehicles (BEVs) are the best option



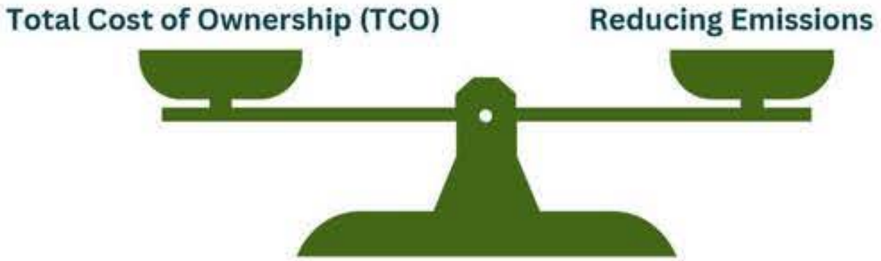
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Converting Fleets: YMMV

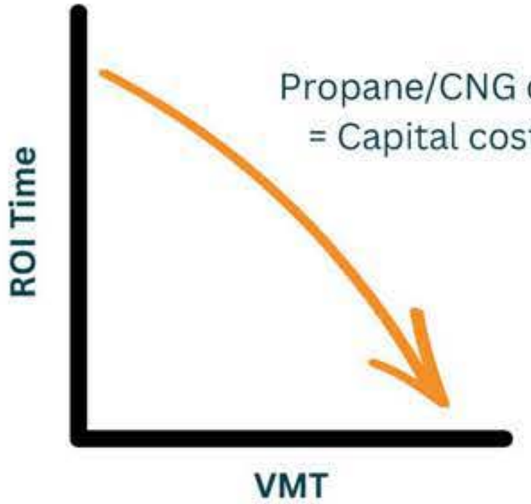
Each class of vehicle (light, medium, heavy) has its own approach that will need to be thought through. In today's environment:

Light Duty Vehicles



HEVs = 5% lower cost per mile than ICE vehicles

Medium Duty Vehicles



Propane/CNG over 60,000 annual miles = Capital costs paid back in 3-4 years



Heavy Duty Vehicles

Prioritize operational readiness over alternative fuel adoption

- Require vendor proof points to ensure performance

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Converting Fleets: Transition Pilots

Utilize smaller transition pilot programs with 5-10 vehicles to validate operational performance and demonstrate real-world cost of ownership

Example: *Is charging time a real-world deterrent if charging timing is optimized, compared to unexpected stops in the middle of work trips?*



Additional Considerations

- Non-Financial Benefits (i.e., emission reductions)
- Operational Cost Certainty
  - Fossil fuel markets are more volatile than alternative fuels
- Operational Constraints
  - Range
  - Recharging times
  - Payload capacity

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Initial Recommendations
Additional Considerations



Buildings
Energy Efficiency
On-Site Generation



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Transitioning to More Efficient Buildings

Make a retrofit decision informed by your situation:

Starters	Light Retrofit (0-12 months)	Medium Retrofit (12-24 months)	Deep Retrofit (2-5+ years)
Begin with benchmarking and energy audits	**When:** budget-constrained; need quick wins	**When:** equipment at end-of-life; planned renovation	**When:** major capital available; strategic sustainability goals
	Examples: retro-commissioning, LED upgrades, controls optimization	**Examples:** HVAC replacement, building automation, pool dehumidification	**Examples:** fuel switching (gas→electric), major system conversions
	Disruption: minimal	**Disruption:** scheduled/manageable	**Disruption:** considerable

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Buildings: Energy Efficiency

For buildings, energy efficiency doesn't have to begin with massive overhauls.
Recommendations cover a range of budgets and timelines

Light: 0-12 Month Projects



<1-8% energy savings
Retro-commissioning, LED lighting upgrades, occupancy sensors, destratification fans, outdoor lighting controls

Medium: 12-24 Month Projects



2%-13% energy savings
Replacing gas heaters, old rooftop units, oversized CAVs, etc.

Deeper: 2-5+ Year Projects



1%-50% energy savings
CAVs → VAV systems (particularly schools), upgrading aeration systems for water treatment facilities

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Buildings: Considerations

There are some considerations that need to be laid out when looking at implementing energy efficiency measures

Budget Reality



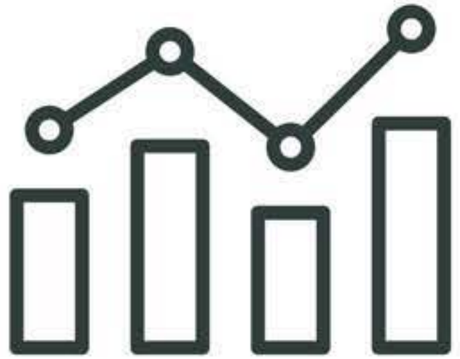
Easy wins can generate immediate savings to support bigger projects

Staffing Limitations



Utilizing external retro-commissioning providers

Performance Tracking



Submetering can provide baseline data to justify future investments

Split Incentives



Energy projects don't just cut energy bills, benefitting operations and capital budgets

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Buildings: On-site Generation Recommendations

Pairing on-site generation with improved energy efficiency can snowball positive impacts. Here are some on-site recommendations:

Gather Facility Data

Develop a comprehensive inventory of facility data

Determine Strategic Priorities

Establish clear, uniform priorities in a quantifiable way across departments

Technical & Financial Assessments

Conduct detailed studies of site feasibility and goal alignment

Ownership Structures

Evaluate options and select the project ownership structure to inform a go/no-go decision

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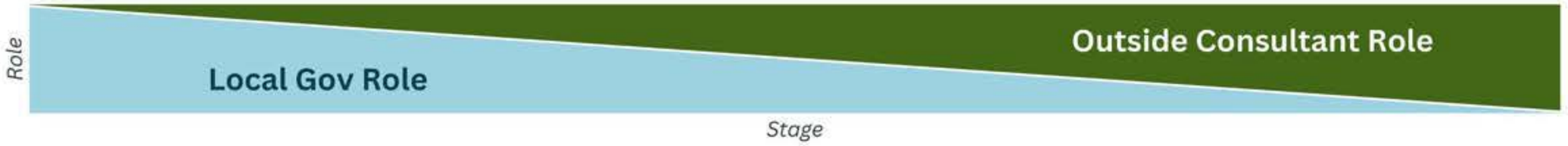


Buildings: On-Site Feasibility / Prioritization

Building portfolios can be evaluated via a 3-step feasibility assessment:

Stage 1 Portfolio-level Screening	Stage 2 Technical Assessment	Stage 3 Financial Assessment
What: Utilize portfolio-wide data to ID the most promising candidates for on-site renewable generation	**What:** Conduct detailed site-specific evaluations of shortlisted facilities	**What:** Explores the economics of renewable energy generation projects
Local Gov Role: Data collection, outlining priorities, early candidate screening	**Local Gov Role:** Enable consultants to access data and buildings to complete technical assessments	**Local Gov Role:** Provide financial data, goals, barriers, and funding context as needed to the consultant
Outside Consultant: Guides the local government on what data is necessary and can supplement data gaps	**Outside Consultant:** Completes technical assessment and provides prioritized recommendations	**Outside Consultant:** Conducts an economic impact analysis to ID projects with good ROI

As you move through the stages the feasibility assessment, the role of an outside consultant likely increases





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Q&A
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Collaborative Planning Exercise

Prompt: It's the year 2040, and your government has successfully implemented many of these recommendations and strategies to increase clean energy and cut costs meaningfully. Write to your 2026 self about the key steps and partners that made you successful. The letter's title is:

How We Did It

1. Designate a scribe for each group.
2. Use the last page of the slide deck handout to take notes.
3. Then submit these notes to Heather from Greenlink when the exercise is complete.

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Key Takeaways

1. Reducing cost and reducing emissions often go hand in hand
2. Evaluating and applying your government's priorities will become the foundation of your decision-making framework
3. Use these frameworks and your data to prioritize the biggest impact opportunities and strategically focus implementation efforts

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Next Steps

- Workshop IV: Designing My Clean Energy Initiatives
  - At: Johns Creek Environmental Campus
  - On: December 9th, 2026, from 1 to 2:30 pm
- Workshops Schedule (Quarterly)
  - Financing options
  - Regulatory environment
  - ...and more
- Resources
- ARC RCEP Website

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Thank you for Attending!

Please fill out this short feedback survey that will inform future workshops

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Collaborative Planning Exercise

How We Did It

Collaborative Planning Exercise

How We Did It