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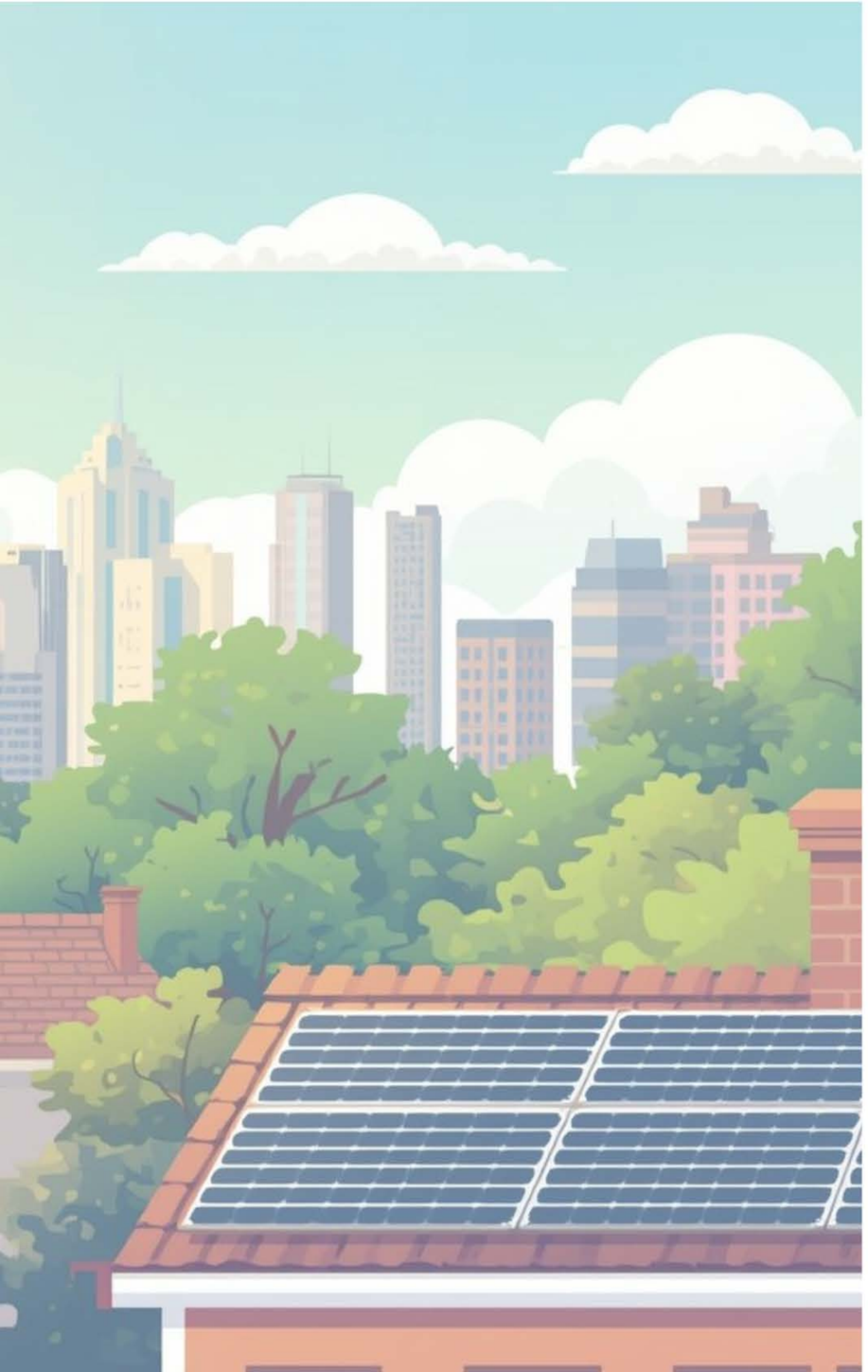
ARC

Atlanta Regional Commission

Regional Clean Electricity Plan

for Local Governments in Metro Atlanta

Workshop 1 | March 25, 2026



Agenda

10 mins	• Settle In & Welcome
10 mins	• RCEP Project Overview
25 mins	• Interactive Exercise
25 mins	• Regional Electricity Plan
15 mins	• Q & A
5 mins	• Close & Next Steps

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Regional Clean Electricity Plan Overview

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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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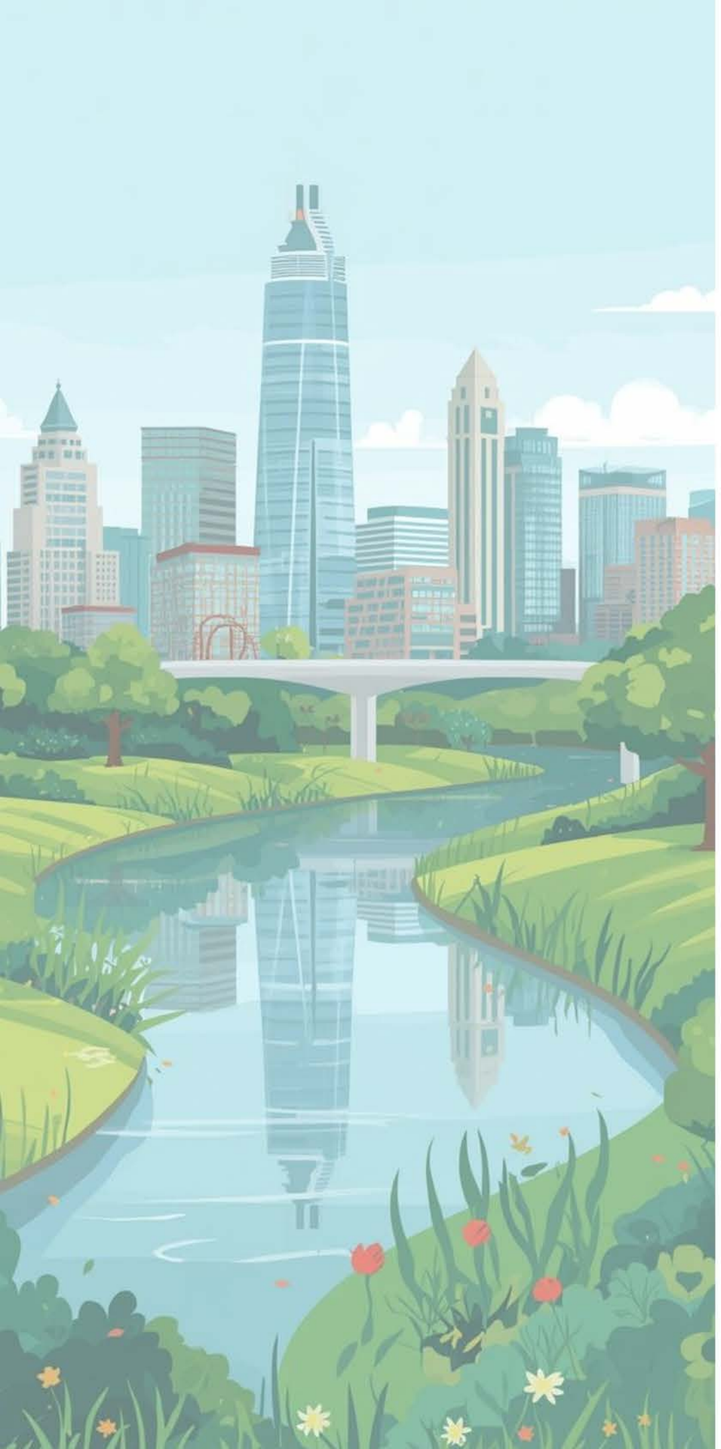

Why is energy important to the Region?

- 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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our vision 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'senergyshed 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.

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. First in Q1 2026

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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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Interactive Exercise

1) Write one question you have about clean energy, energy efficiency, or anything related to the Regional Clean Electricity Plan.

2) Walk around the room and find someone you've never talked to before.

3) Introduce yourself, and share and process your questions with each other.

4) When you're done, trade question cards and find someone new.

What are we talking about?*

Climate Action encompasses strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from operations.

Energy Efficiency is an essential component of climate action; it reduces on-site energy use and lowers emissions

Energy Efficiency
Improving operations to reduce on-site energy use

Electrification
Transitioning from fossil-fuel systems to electric alternatives

Carbon Offsets
Balancing remaining emissions through certified offset projects

Renewable Energy
Generating or sourcing clean energy

Energy Efficiency
reduces energy use while maintaining performance. It provides cost savings and covers strategies such as:

- Optimizing existing systems and controls
- Upgrading equipment
- Implementing capital retrofits

*These descriptions are generalities and may not be accurate in all cases.

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What is “clean” electricity?

Energy Efficiency
Improving operations to reduce on-site energy use

Electrification
Transitioning from fossil-fuel systems to electric alternatives

Carbon Offsets
Balancing remaining emissions through certified offset projects

Renewable Energy
Generating or sourcing clean energy

Clean Electricity
is generated from energy sources that produce no greenhouse gases during operation. Includes:

- Solar
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Hydropower
- Nuclear

Impact for Local Governments:

- Hedge against increasing and volatile electricity and fuel costs
- Less air pollution in communities
- Battery storage paired with solar can provide resilience for critical facilities
- Achieving applicable sustainability goals
- Opportunity for storytelling and setting an example

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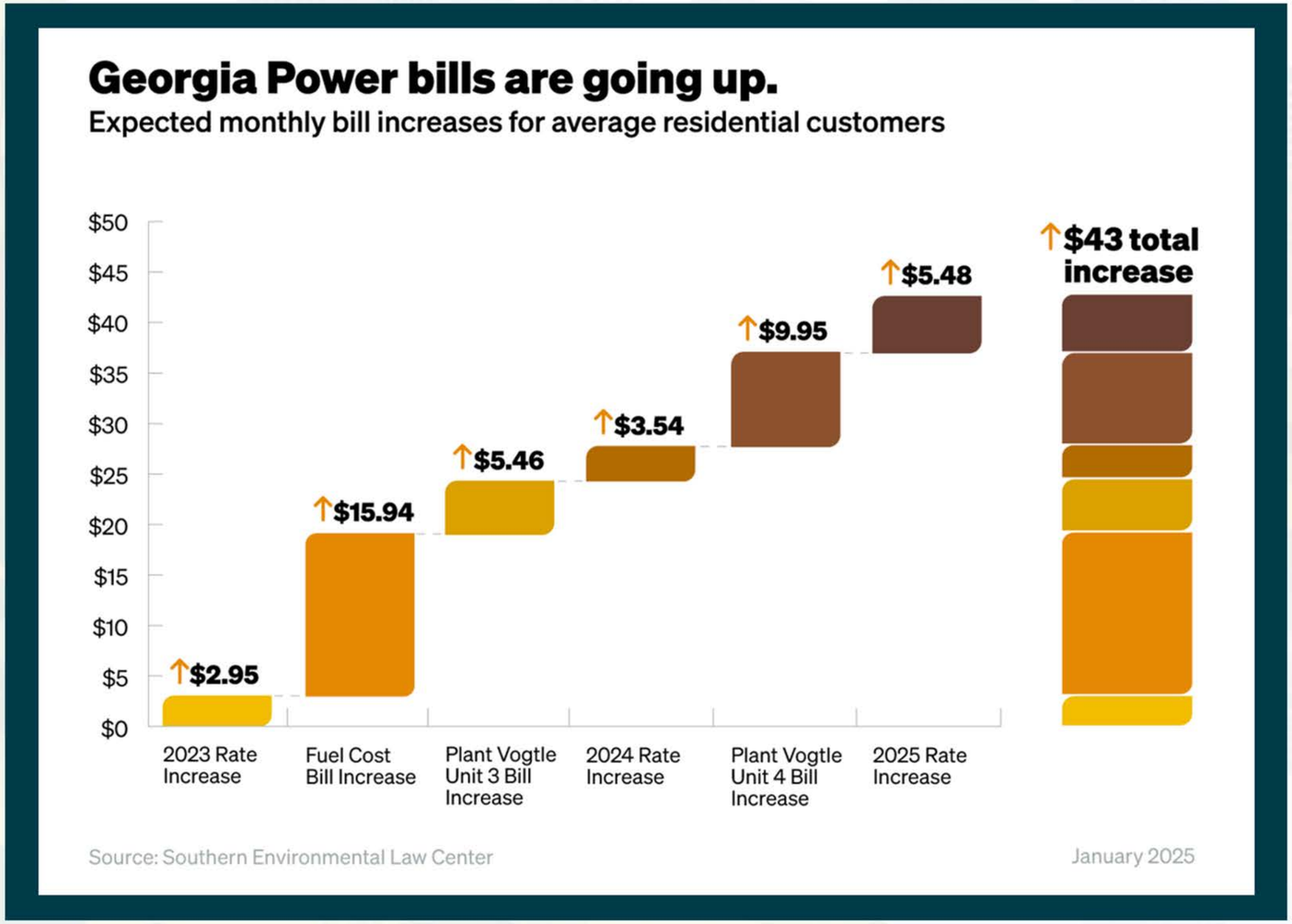
Understanding Electricity Costs

Comparing 2021 to 2025, electric bills for Georgia Power commercial customers increased 30%; rates rose 20%, and hotter weather drove 10% more electricity use, according to US EIA sales data and Energy Star weather normalization. Non-GPC customers have experienced a 5% increase in rates over the same timeframe.



Drivers for recent rate hikes:

- Cost overruns from constructing nuclear reactors
- Spikes in natural gas prices
- Costs and emissions may continue to increase as Georgia Power plans to grow its natural gas fleet

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Cutting Consumption, Effectively

- Energy efficiency reduces emissions and bills
- Technologies and techniques to achieve the same service with less
- Upfront costs offset by longer-term savings; rebates and financing can accelerate timelines

Source: US Department of Energy

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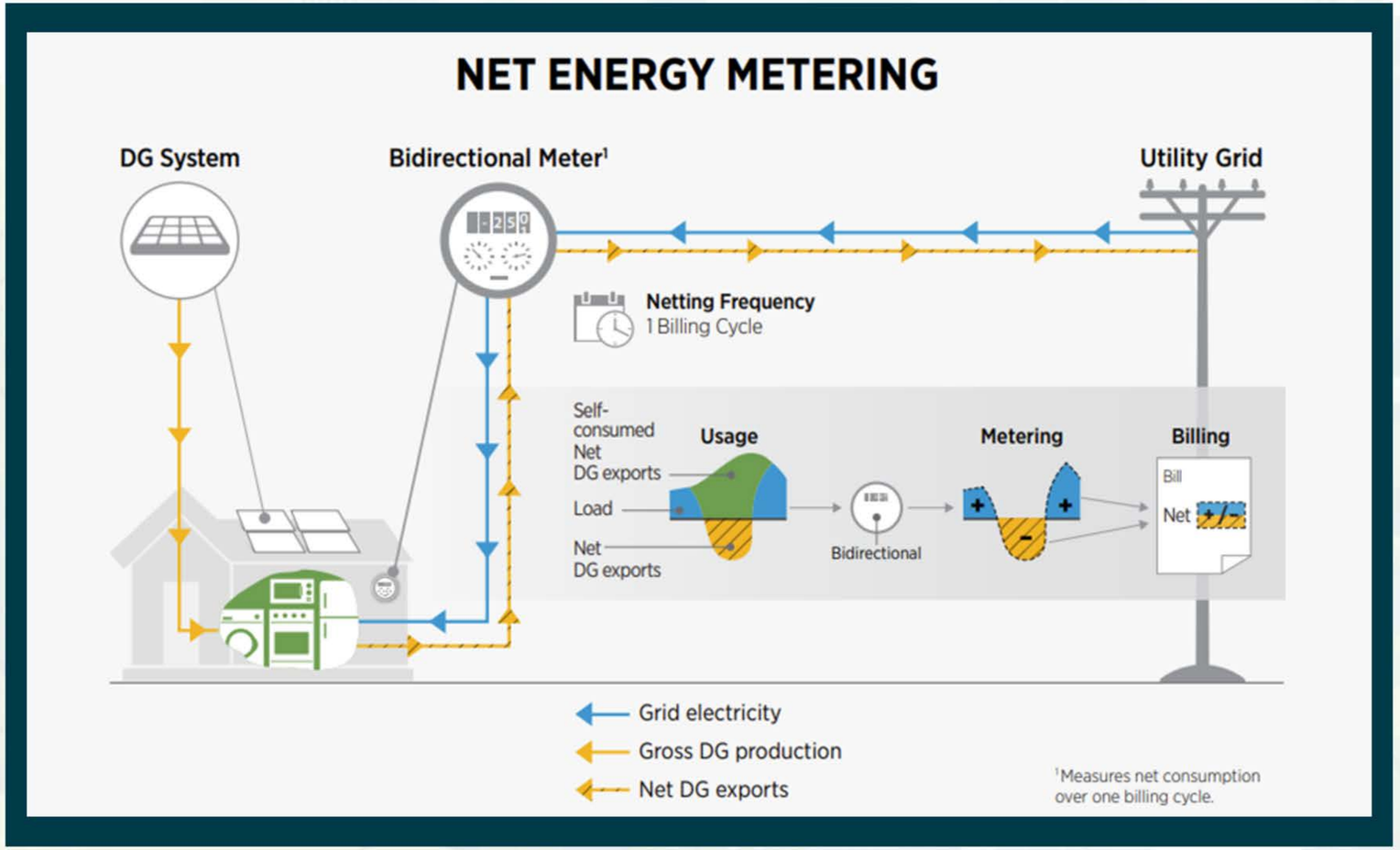
Displacing Carbon, Effectively



- On-site solar and battery storage systems can reduce electricity costs
- Solar and battery storage consumed on-site avoids grid purchases
- Excess generation is sent to the grid, and $/kWh credits are sent to the customer

Source: National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)

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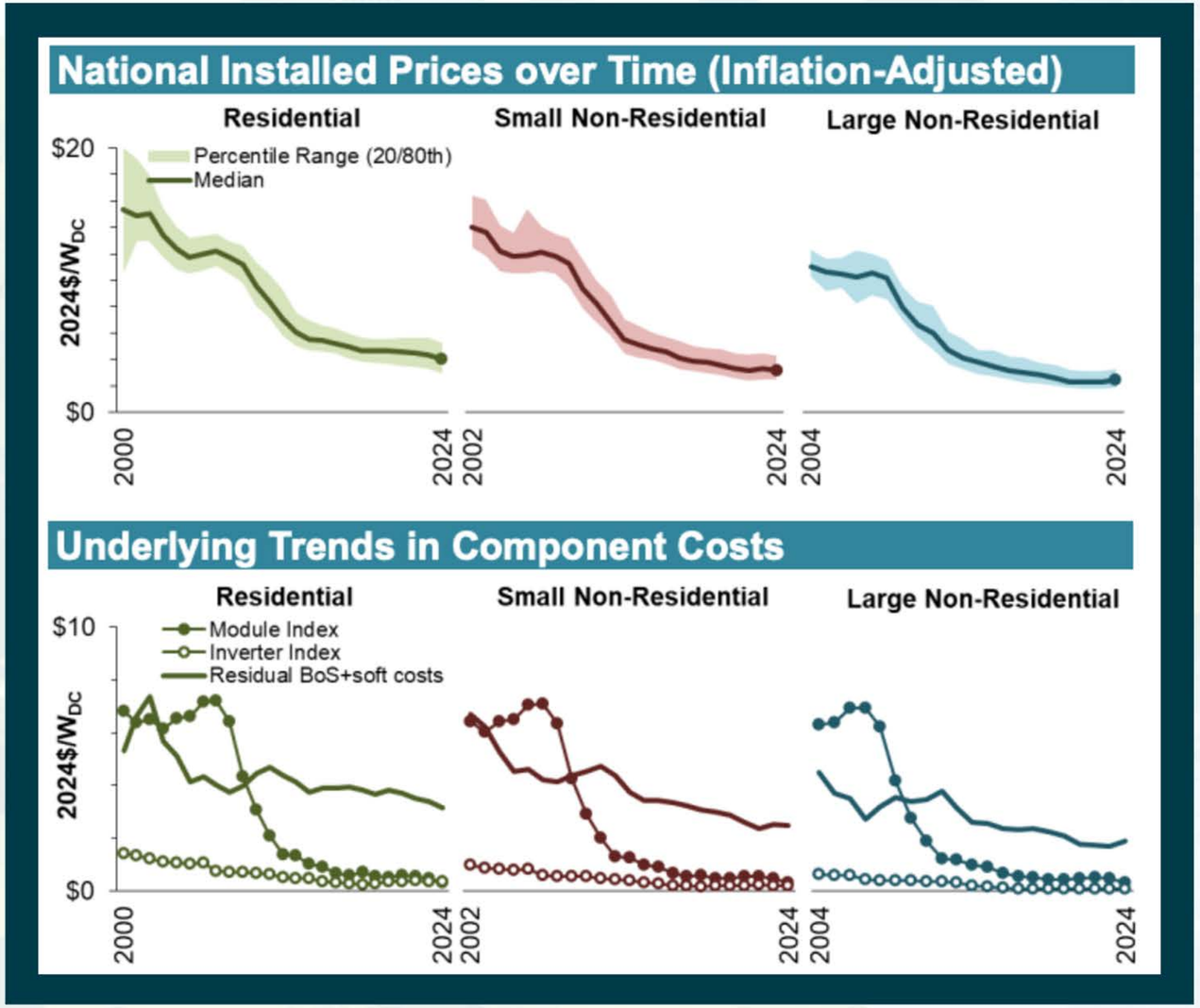
Improvements in Solar PV



- Installed costs for solar PV ($/W) have decreased by over 70% since 2010
- Rooftop solar can provide favorable financial value, depending on the site

Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

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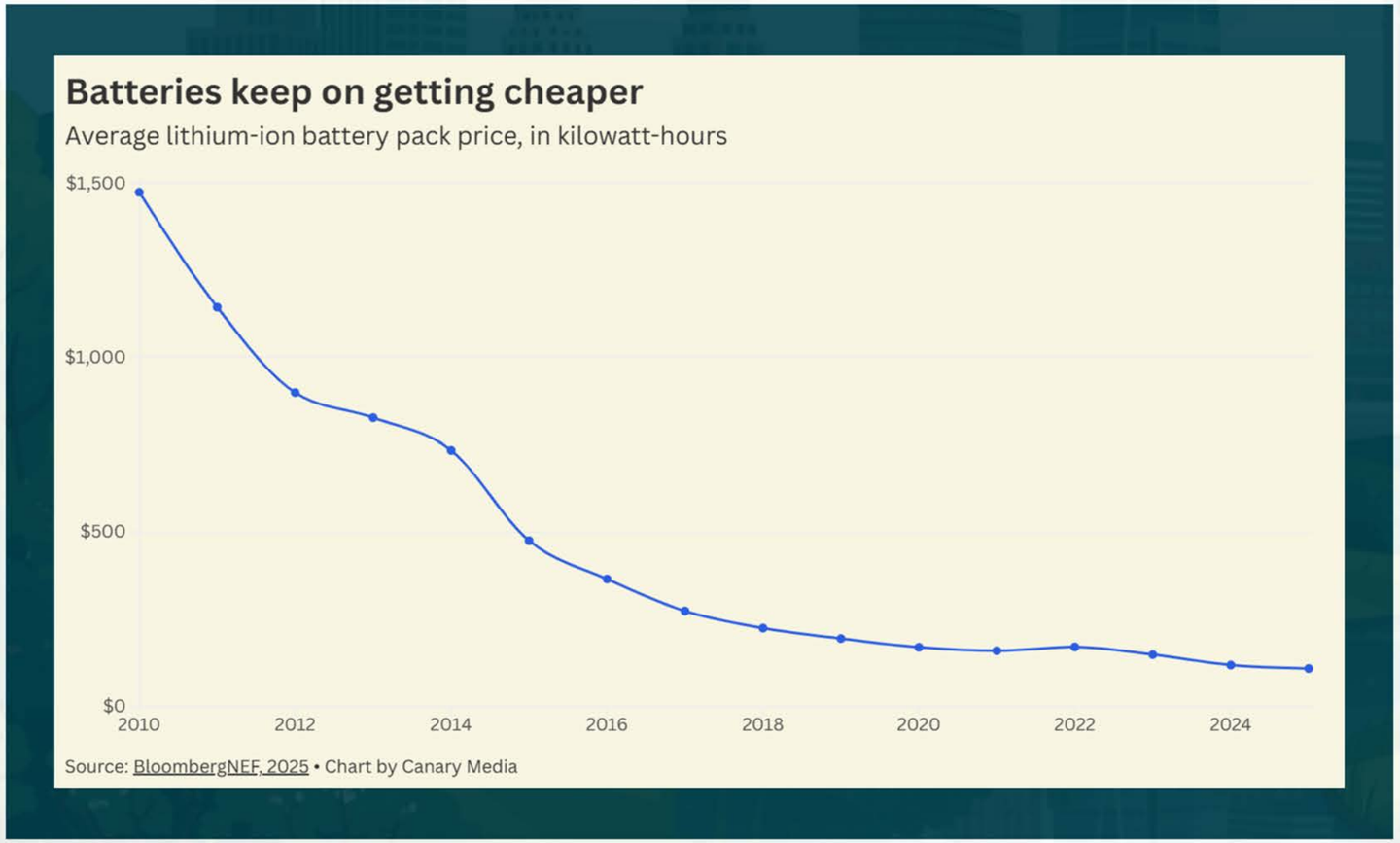
Improvements in Battery Storage



- R&D progress and economies of scale have decreased prices by over 90%
- Improvements in battery density, capacity, and charging for Li-ion batteries
- Increased adoption of storage systems by homeowners and businesses for energy resilience

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Key Takeaways

1) Energy is increasingly important across the region

2) ARC is leading a regional clean electricity plan for local governments

3) There are key approaches to manage the cost of energy and increase clean electricity in local government operations

4) Local government participation in the planning process is key to successful, applicable recommendations

Q&A

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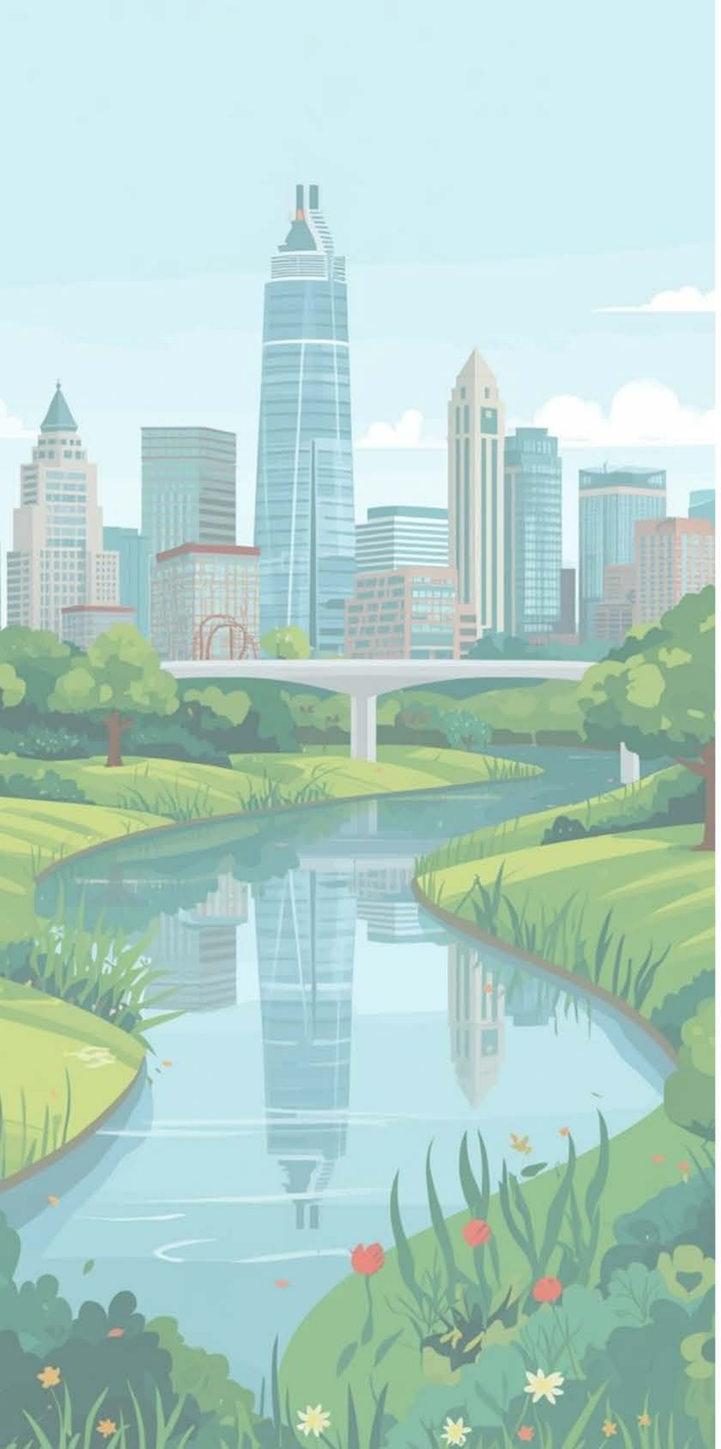

Next Steps

- Workshop II: What is the Clean Energy Landscape in Georgia?
  - Clayton County
  - June 2026 (TBD Day)
- 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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