



Fulton County

Leading the Way to Sustainability

In 2010, Fulton County was one of the first communities to be certified under the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities Program. The county reaffirmed its commitment to being green in 2014 when it recertified as a Green Community at the Bronze level. The following measures have been implemented by Fulton County to reduce its environmental impact and promote sustainability. These measures received points for certification.

Green Building

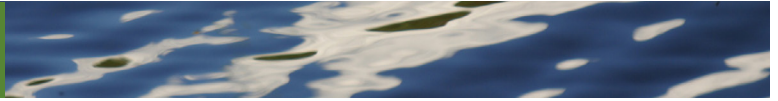
- » Achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification for the East Atlanta Library in November 2003. The Adamsville Regional Health Center recently became part of Fulton County's LEED building inventory at the Certified level.

Energy Efficiency

- » Joined the Energy Star partnership in 1994. Continues to make progress on implementing its Energy Star Strategy by updating its Energy Plan, sending employees through Certified Energy Manager's (CEM) training, and expanding the use of building automation systems.
- » All traffic signals, pedestrian displays, school zone lights, and flashing caution lights have been upgraded to LED fixtures. In addition to using substantially less power than conventional incandescent bulbs and having a longer effective life, LED signals improve visibility of the signal and safety.
- » Adopted a lights out/power down policy requiring employees and maintenance staff to turn off lights and all other non-essential electronic equipment when not in use.
- » Installed Energy Star rated cool roofs on the North Fulton Service Center, South Fulton Service Center, Welcome All Parks & Recreation Complex, and Aviation Community Cultural Center. Flyers are used to educate visitors to the Aviation Community Cultural Center on the benefits of cool roofs.

- » Replaced more than 300 exit light fixtures with LED fixtures in the Government Center and any building renovated or constructed since 2008. Retrofitting existing exit signs with LED fixtures reduces energy use by 90 percent; with the replacement of just 300 signs, the county estimates it will save almost 92,000 kWh per year. Continues to partner with Georgia Power to provide LED light bulbs to employees and county residents at special events.
- » Adopted a Night Sky ordinance to limit the use of excess lighting, which unnecessarily wastes energy and degrades the nighttime visual environment.

Water Efficiency



- » Leverages rainwater for its reflections fountain and pool at the Main Government Center. Uses reclaimed water for irrigation and for the fire suppression system at the Johns Creek Environmental Campus. Built a demonstration rain garden that uses grey water at the South Fulton Maintenance Operations Center.
- » Designated as a WaterFirst Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. WaterFirst communities demonstrate a strong commitment to water resource stewardship. The county maintains more than 2,300 miles of sanitary sewer, more than 1,200 miles of water lines, and provides water and pollution prevention education to residents, schools, communities, and businesses.
- » Completed an audit with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is in compliance with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's Water Supply and Water Conservation Management Plan, Wastewater Management Plan and Watershed Management.

Trees & Greenspace



- » Contains an estimated 2,053 acres of permanently protected greenspace in the unincorporated areas of the county, which equates to approximately 23 acres of greenspace per 1,000 residents.
- » Adopted a greenspace plan in 2002 with a goal of protecting 20 percent of the county as greenspace. The South Fulton Greenways and Trails Plan and the Chattahoochee Hill Country Regional Greenway Trail were developed with the goal of connecting neighborhoods, open space, and activity centers throughout the southern part of the county. Continues to add protected greenspace, including 83 acres at Cascade Palms that were donated to the county in 2013.
- » Offers 60 community garden plots at the North Fulton Annex for service center employees, senior citizens, and students at a local high school. Provides community gardens at the South Fulton Annex, Adamsville Regional Health Center, Darnell Senior Multipurpose Center, Benson Senior Multipurpose Facility, Mills Senior Multipurpose Facility, Oak Hill Child, Adolescent and Family Center, and Camp Truitt Neighborhood Senior Center.

- » Developed the Fulton Fresh Mobile Market program to provide fresh produce and nutrition education to residents living in communities identified as “food deserts,” which are large geographic areas where mainstream grocery stores are scarce or missing. Partners with the City of Roswell to offer the Riverside Farmers Market on Saturday mornings May through October at Roswell City Hall.

Transportation & Air Quality



- » Adopted an anti-idling policy to prevent county vehicles from idling, unless in traffic. Departments have placed “Be Green! No Unnecessary Idling” signs in fleet vehicles as a way to remind staff to comply with the policy.
- » Retimes traffic signals at isolated intersections every two years and within coordinated traffic signal systems annually. Completed the upgrade of traffic signals on Fulton Industrial Boulevard, decreasing travel time by 16 percent and reducing VOC emissions by 28 percent.
- » Addresses a number of pedestrian safety issues at and around K – 8 schools including traffic, children’s health, education and funding via participation in the Safe Routes to School program. Was successful in securing about \$1M in transportation improvements for four schools.
- » Adopted the Fulton County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in 1997 that addresses existing levels of services, identifies priority networks, and provides recommended improvements and policies. The county recently adopted a Complete Streets Policy, one of the plan’s recommendations.
- » Shared parking is encouraged via the county’s Off Street Parking and Loading ordinance.

Recycling & Waste Reduction



- » Provides recycling containers throughout office workplaces to collect paper, cardboard, and plastic and aluminum containers.
- » Provides recycling in government facilities for non-traditional items like electronics, ink and laser toner cartridges, cell phones and batteries.
- » Provides curbside recycling to single-family residents for metal containers, paper, glass, plastics, and corrugated cardboard.
- » Provides a permanent recycling drop-off location for electronic, printer cartridges, and batteries at the county’s Merk Transfer Station. Offers amnesty day events throughout the year for non-traditional recycling materials.
- » Offers biannual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events to local residents. Items collected include: latex based paints, pesticides, herbicides, gasoline, fluorescent tubes, drain cleaners, household batteries, rechargeable batteries, roofing tar, and rodent control products.

Land Use



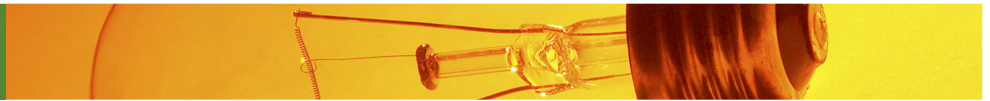
- » Constructed the East Atlanta Library on a remediate brownfield site. Remediated the Morgan Falls Landfill and helped develop the Blue Heron golf course, which is run by a private company.
- » Located the Fulton County Housing Department offices in a revitalized building that was abandoned for years. The new office is in a better location for clients and has helped in revitalizing the surrounding area.
- » Purchased an abandoned residential home and outparcels as a development site for the new Wolf Creek Library rather than use previously undeveloped land.
- » Received an Opportunity Zone designation for the Fulton Industrial Boulevard corridor. This designation allows businesses in the area to qualify for tax incentives for job creation.

Education



- » Shares information about the county's sustainability initiatives with employees via FulCo News and Green Update newsletters, new hire orientations, signage, and staff emails.
- » Educates residents about the county's environmental efforts through the Fulton County website, press release, special events, and workshops.

Innovation



- » Constructed the Johns Creek Environmental Campus to use the most advanced wastewater treatment technologies and serve as an exemplary treatment facility. The facility has no odor, no noise, and blends seamlessly with the surrounding greenspace and neighborhoods. The integrated educational facility provides an up close understanding of the wastewater treatment process and other features of the facility, including drought tolerant and native landscaping, water reuse, and stormwater best management practices and designs.
- » Began an initiative to reduce energy consumption at the Fulton County Jail by adding boiler sequencing control devices. The device turns off the jail's six boilers when sensors detect a significantly reduced demand, such as nighttime hours when laundry and showers are not in use. Since the installation of the devices, Fulton County Jail has experienced a 14 percent reduction in its annual natural gas costs, which equates to \$36,000 in utility savings.

- » Restored the banks of Burdette Stream, located in the Flint River watershed, which was once encroached upon by an unused parking lot and was a site for illegal dumping. The project included the complete removal of the impervious surface and the restoration of a natural slope to the stream bank with rip rap, live plant stakes and native plants along the stream buffer. The new green space is less than a five minute walk from a county summer camp and education staff is now able to use the site as a real life example of environmental restoration.

For more information on all the certified communities, visit the Certified Green Communities webpage at <http://atlantaregional.com/environment/green-communities>.