



For Immediate Release

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ARC Honors the City of Douglasville for its Commitment to Sustainability

(ATLANTA, January 25, 2017) – The City of Douglasville was one of three local governments recognized today by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for its leadership in implementing policies and practices that contribute to the efficient and sustainable use of resources in metro Atlanta.

Douglasville was honored at ARC’s January board meeting for recertifying as a Silver Certified Green Community in ARC’s Green Communities program. The city first achieved certification in the program at the Bronze level in 2012. The cities of Norcross and Milton were also recognized for recertifying or upgrading their certification in the program in 2016.

“Douglasville is to be commended for making its community more sustainable,” said Kerry Armstrong, ARC board chairman. “The city’s efforts to conserve energy, reduce waste and protect natural resources set an example for the entire region.”

The steps Douglasville took to recertify at the Silver level include:

- Using captured rainwater and supplemental well water for irrigation at Hunter Park and West Pines Golf Club, saving more than 30 million gallons of potable water each year.
- Maintaining the character of its historic downtown by purchasing and rehabilitating several vacant or abandoned buildings.
- Incorporating parking maximums and allowances for shared parking in its Unified Development Code. Allowing nearby commercial business to collectively meet parking lot requirements helps reduce impervious surfaces and fosters a more walkable environment.

- Adopting an anti-idling policy to prevent fleet vehicles from idling for over 30 seconds when not in traffic. This reduces fuel use and improves air quality.
- Installing energy-saving LED lights in a number of locations including City Hall, the Riley Early Learning Center, Fowler Field and West Pines Golf Course.

ARC developed the Green Communities Program in 2009 to recognize local governments that invest in programs and policies that lead to a more sustainable region. The nationally recognized program showcases the many ways local governments are helping transform the region by reducing their environmental footprint.

Since 2009, 19 jurisdictions in the 10-county region have received certification. Cities and counties earn Green Communities certification points by implementing practices and policies in 10 categories, ranging from energy efficiency and green building to transportation and water efficiency. ARC's Green Communities program was the first program in the country seeking to transform a region by promoting sustainability through a green certification program for local governments.

Additional information about ARC's Green Communities Certification Program, including the measures each community has implemented for certification, is available at www.atlantaregional.com/greencommunities.

The Atlanta Regional Commission is the official planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta Region, including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties as well as the City of Atlanta and 72 other cities. The Atlanta Regional Commission serves as a catalyst for regional progress by focusing leadership, attention and planning resources on key regional issues.

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