



Gwinnett County
Environmental Sustainability
Program & Policies

Environmental Sustainability



Gwinnett County launched the Gwinnett Environmental Sustainability Program in 2009 to enhance efficiency in the use of valuable resources and reduce the impact of our local government operations on the environment.

This environmentally friendly initiative promotes protection and restoration of the community's natural resources through water and energy conservation, and reduction in air pollution and waste.

Environmental Sustainability



Policies:

Community Energy Code Enforcement Policy

Community Green Building Incentive Policy

Community Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Policy

Community Electric Vehicle Policy

Community Solar Energy Policy

Community Shade Coverage Requirements Policy

Environmental Sustainability



Community Energy Code Enforcement Policy

The design and construction of buildings in Gwinnett County for the effective use of energy are regulated by the Georgia State Minimum Standard Energy Code.

The International Energy Conservation Code, published by the International Code Council and adopted by the state of Georgia with Georgia Supplements and Amendments, constitutes the official “Georgia State Minimum Standard Energy Code”, herein referred to as “the energy code”. The energy code contains the mandatory requirements for buildings which establish the basis for this policy.

Environmental Sustainability

Community Energy Code Enforcement Policy

Regulations:

Building envelope and insulation requirements.

Mechanical systems and controls.

Electrical power and lighting systems.



Environmental Sustainability



Community Green Building Policy

Gwinnett County's policy for encouraging the construction of sustainable "green" buildings is promoted by the building permit fee reduction incentive as defined in the "Gwinnett County Land Development and Other Services Fee Schedule."

The policy establishes a financial incentive to promote the construction of sustainable "green" buildings in Gwinnett County.



Environmental Sustainability



Community Green Building Policy

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development offers a “Green Building Credit” for new commercial and residential construction:

A 5% reduction of the building permit fee shall be applied to new commercial building projects that indicate application and certification compliance with the LEED certification for commercial buildings.

A 5% reduction of the building permit fee shall be applied to new multifamily residential building projects that indicate application and certification compliance with the EarthCraft Multifamily certification for multifamily residential buildings.

A 5% reduction of the building permit fee shall be applied to new single family residential building projects that indicate application and certification compliance with the EarthCraft House certification for single family residential buildings.

Environmental Sustainability



LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement. Projects pursuing LEED certification earn points across several categories, including energy use and air quality. Based on the number of points achieved, a project then earns one of four LEED rating levels: Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum.



The **EarthCraft Multifamily** program provides certifications for low-rise and mid-rise multifamily projects, including new construction and renovation. Multifamily standards address a wide range of sustainability considerations, including environmental performance, indoor air quality, building durability, comfort and affordability.



The **EarthCraft House** program certifies homes that are sourced, constructed and designed to reduce environmental impacts. EarthCraft homes also save homeowners a projected 30 percent on their energy bills, relative to comparable buildings that use standard construction methods.

Environmental Sustainability

LEED Certified Buildings



Environmental Sustainability



Community Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Policy

Regulations:

Georgia State Minimum Standard Energy Code.
Gwinnett County Unified Development Ordinance

Goals:

Lighting power densities for building exteriors.
Allowable illumination levels.
Point by point photometrics.
Direction of light.

Environmental Sustainability



Community Shade Coverage Requirements Policy

Gwinnett County administers a Unified Development Ordinance that contains provisions for shade coverage on developed sites.

The Ordinance specifies plantings requirements for parking lots, tree density units, tree canopy measurements, buffers, specimen trees, and landscape strips.

Environmental Sustainability



Community Shade Coverage Requirements Policy

For parking lots, one (1) canopy tree is required for every seven (7) parking spaces.

For parking lots, all parking spaces must be located within 60 feet of a canopy tree.

200 square feet minimum planting area island is required for one (1) canopy tree with an additional 80 square feet required for each additional canopy tree within that island.

100 square feet minimum planting area island is required for one (1) small tree with an additional 40 square feet required for each additional small tree within the island.

Environmental Sustainability



Community Shade Coverage Requirements Policy

For single-family detached residential sites and commercial sites, sixteen (16) tree density units per acre are required which amounts to thirty-two (32) 2" caliper trees to be planted or thirty-two (32) 3" existing trees to be preserved per acre.

For commercial sites within an Activity Center Corridor Overlay District, twenty (20) tree density units per acre are required with amounts to forty (40) 2" caliper trees to be planted or forty (40) 3" existing trees to be preserved per acre.

Environmental Sustainability



Community Electric Vehicle Policy

Policy Goals:

To promote and encourage an eco-friendly environment and improve the future use of renewable energy, Gwinnett County shall require commercial and residential developments to provide electrical infrastructure for electrical vehicle charging.

Georgia is ranked fourth in nation for registered PEV,s per 1,000 people.

Georgia is ranked second in nation for total electric vehicle sales.

Environmental Sustainability



Community Electric Vehicle Policy

Regulations:

Require new commercial developments to provide electrical panel space reserved for vehicle charging systems.

Require new commercial developments and redevelopments that exceed 49 parking spaces to provide one electric vehicle charging equipment station (pedestal) for each 50 parking spaces.

Require new multifamily residential developments to provide electrical panel space reserved for vehicle charging systems.

Require new residential units to provide electrical panel space reserved for vehicle charging systems.

Environmental Sustainability



Community Solar Energy Policy

To encourage and recognize increasing levels of on-site renewable energy self-supply to reduce environmental and economic impacts associated with fossil fuel energy use, Gwinnett County encourages the construction of solar panel energy installations by offering permit fee reductions and expedited reviews for solar energy installations on new and existing commercial buildings.

Environmental Sustainability

Community Solar Energy Policy

Policy:

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development offers a “Green Building Credit” for commercial new building construction or existing building renovation that installs solar panels. The “Green Building Credit” is a 5% reduction of the building permit fee.

The Gwinnett County Department of Planning and Development offers an expedited plan review for building projects that include solar panel installations.



Environmental Sustainability

