



CITY OF ATLANTA

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NEWS RELEASE

ATLANTA REDUCED MUNICIPAL CARBON FOOTPRINT BY 5.6% TOWARDS 7% GOAL

Today Mayor Shirley Franklin announced that Atlanta city government has reduced carbon emissions by 5.6% between 2007 and 2008. This is a major step towards the goal of reducing overall emissions in the city seven percent by 2012.

The City of Atlanta has undertaken a range of initiatives to drive these reductions. They include the following:

- 9.5% reduction in electricity use by Department of Watershed Management (related to 11% reduction in volume of drinking water and wastewater treated)
- 58% reduction in natural gas use at Hartsfield Jackson International Airport due to replacement of gas chillers with electric chillers; and
- 4% reduction in electricity use in other departments, including 10% savings in City Hall due to 4-5 months of aggressive savings measures undertaken by the Office of Enterprise Assets Management

Electricity use in city operations remains the largest source of emissions – it is currently 72% of our carbon footprint). A significant portion of the total reduction, 1.4%, was due to Georgia Power shifting its power generation fuel mix to less carbon intense fuel sources.

Water Conservation and Climate Change

“I want to highlight that water conservation is an issue that cannot be ignored when addressing climate change,” said Mayor Franklin. “The more water we save, the less energy is needed for

treatment and delivery, and in turn we see a direct savings in greenhouse gas emissions. Residents of this city and the Department of Watershed Management are doing an exceptional job at reducing our water consumption. This is something we should all be proud of.”

The City of Atlanta’s water conservation efforts have yielded a savings of 29.12 million gallons of water a day (over 2006 usage), a total of 10.6 billion gallons saved in 2009 alone. Additionally, the City continues to repair about 750-800 water leaks per month. When the Department of Watershed Management was under private operation, that figure was 750 a year.

Savings can be attributed to conservation pricing, outdoor watering restrictions, the toilet rebate program, distribution of water saver kits and other devices, leak repairs and conservation education.

Reaching the Goals

“Last week, Mayor Franklin signed onto the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement in support of the United Nations climate change policy negotiations underway in Copenhagen, Denmark. Under this agreement we’ve pledged to reduce our emissions by 80% by 2050,” said Mandy Mahoney, Atlanta’s Director of Sustainability. ““We are set to exceed our 7% reduction by 2012 and are in good position towards our 2050 goal through the energy and water conservation projects funded through federal stimulus grants and other funding.”

About City of Atlanta – Division of Sustainability

The Division of Sustainability is focused on instituting environmental protection practices into Atlanta city government. The Division is aimed at improving the city’s environmental programs and policies such as water and energy conservation, solid waste and emissions reduction and recycling. For more information: www.atlantaga.gov/mayor/sustainability.aspx

For the 2009 City of Atlanta Municipal Carbon Footprint:

http://www.atlantaga.gov/mayor/sustainability_ghg_031209.aspx

For more information about World Mayors and Climate Protection Agreement:

<http://www.icleiusa.org/programs/international/world-mayors-agreement/?searchterm=world%20mayors>