



City of Peachtree Corners

Leading the Way to Sustainability

In 2015, the City of Peachtree Corners achieved Bronze level certification under the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities Program. The following measures have been implemented by the City of Peachtree Corners to reduce its environmental impact and promote sustainability. These measures received points for certification.

Green Building

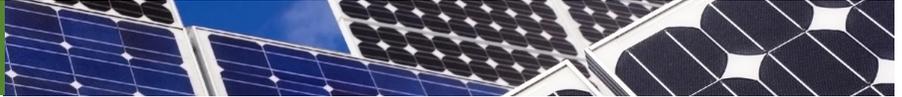
- » Requires all new city owned buildings greater than 5,000 square feet to be LEED certified.
- » Requires all new city owned buildings that are not LEED certified to achieve Energy Star or EarthCraft Light Commercial certification.
- » Requires all local government building renovations to be Energy Star certified or follow LEED guidelines.
- » Offers an expedited plan review, plan processing and permitting process for projects that are LEED, EarthCraft or Energy Star certified.
- » Offers an expedited building and site inspection process to affordable workforce housing entities for projects that are EarthCraft House, EarthCraft Multifamily, Energy Star or LEED for Homes certified.

Energy Efficiency

- » Conducted energy audits on 50 percent of its buildings, with a plan in place to audit the remainder within four years.
- » Became an Energy Star partner and is actively implementing its Energy Strategy for the Future.
- » Adopted a policy to purchase at least Energy Star rated equipment and appliances.
- » Worked with Gwinnett County and Georgia Department of Transportation to install new energy-saving LED traffic signals at 100 percent of traffic signals and beacons/flashers within the Peachtree Corners city limits, totaling 56 traffic signals and 8 beacons/flashers.

- » Adopted a lights out and power down policy for its employees. Employees and building maintenance staff shall be required to turn off lights and all other non essential electronic equipment when space within any city building is expected to be out of use for four or more hours.
- » Adopted an outdoor lighting ordinance to reduce the amount of light pollution in the nighttime visual environment and conserve energy, as well as provide incentives for additional reduction of sign lighting.

Green Power



- » Offers expedited development and building plan review and site inspection incentives for projects utilizing solar energy. The city Overlay requirements do not apply to solar panels, except that materials and colors shall comply to the extent possible.

Water Efficiency



- » Completed 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 Plan.
- » Offers incentives for WaterSense certified projects, including reduced plan review and inspection fees and expedited review and inspection schedules.

Trees & Greenspace



- » Adopted the Gwinnett County Tree, Landscape & Buffer Ordinance, which requires sufficient parking lot tree planting to achieve 50 percent canopy coverage of parking surfaces within 15 years of completion. The ordinance requires at least one tree per seven parking spaces and at least 200 square feet of planting space for each tree.

Transportation & Air Quality



- » Adopted a Green Fleet purchasing policy that gives preference to fuel efficient and lowest emission vehicles and equipment. In addition, the policy stipulates that the city will also consider the size of the fleet and size of individual vehicles to decrease total emissions and environmental impact.
- » Adopted a no-idling policy for the city and city contracted vehicles. Employees are to make every effort to prevent vehicles from idling in excess of three minutes.

- » Requires bicycle racks at all community facilities, ball fields, parks and City Hall.
- » Amended development regulations to set parking maximums for all types of uses and development categories.
- » Installed a Level II electric vehicle charging station at City Hall that is accessible to the public.

Recycling & Waste Reduction



- » Adopted an environmentally preferable purchasing policy that accounts for lifecycle costs and gives preference to products that are recycled, recyclable and otherwise more environmentally friendly than traditional products.
- » Recycles paper, metal, plastics and glass at government facilities. All employees have a small blue bin at their desk for recycling. Bins are also located in break rooms and common areas.
- » Provides a recycling program for non-traditional items at government facilities such as ink and toner cartridges, rechargeable batteries, cell phones and electronics.
- » Purchases copier, fax and printer paper with at least 30 percent recycled content.
- » Offers single stream curbside recycling to residents, including single family homes, condominiums, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, quadraplexes and mobile homes, for aluminum, glass, plastics, paper products and cardboard.
- » Provides bins for public use at City Hall for recycling ink and toner cartridges, cell phones and rechargeable batteries.

Land Use



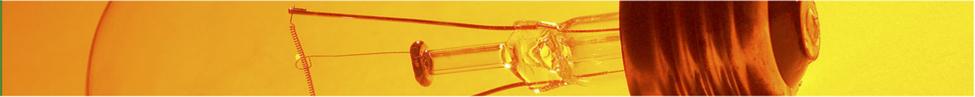
- » Located City Hall at the greyfield site of a vacant office building in Technology Park rather than building a new building on a vacant site.
- » Encourages smart growth through the creation and adoption of the city's Town Center Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Plan. Plan strategies include addressing traffic issues, increasing housing options, redeveloping and renovating areas of the town center, improving connectivity and creating remarkable spaces in the town center, such as a community garden, a water feature and a veteran's monument.
- » Incentivizes redevelopment of underutilized areas by providing an expedited plan review process and fee waivers. The Town Center LCI study focused on the Peachtree Corners central business district area, and sites within the district were targeted for redevelopment. The vision for the area includes transforming aging commercial properties into pedestrian oriented developments and the transformation of Technology Park into the Peachtree Corners Innovation Hub.

Education



- » Promotes sustainability initiatives the city is implementing through use of the city's website, staff meetings, newsletters and signage.
- » Informs residents of the city's sustainability initiatives through the city's website and online newsletters.

Innovation



- » Requires community gardens in all city-sponsored developments, particularly in conjunction with commercial restaurants and residential land use components. The proximity to restaurants creates the opportunity for a signature farm to table concept that includes fresh, local ingredients inspired by the garden. The building program requires at a minimum: a viable garden location, installation, ongoing maintenance and educational signage. Marketing materials include educational information on the benefits of fresh local ingredients to the environment and to the community health.
- » Encourages a wide variety of recycling activities within the community such as metal, asphalt and other construction products. This is accomplished by identifying potential sites and providing incentives for locating recycling businesses within the city. The zoning code recognizes and allows this use in the Light Industry District, the city's most prevalent zoning district, resulting in a large number of properties suitable for this use. The city also promotes recycling businesses through its website and by hosting special events to highlight facilities such as Newell Recycling.

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