



RESILIENT DEKALB

THINK GLOBAL. ACT LOCAL.

TED TERRY
COMMISSIONER
Super District 6

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY, POLITICAL, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE IN DEKALB



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MESSAGE AND DATA RATES MAY APPLY
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DEKALB FACES MAJOR STRUCTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES.

Many of DeKalb County's most pressing challenges stem from environmental injustices. Each year, residents across the county experience rising utility costs, loss of green space, increasing temperatures, flooding, sewer spills, and development decisions that reshape neighborhoods for generations. While these challenges affect everyone, they place the greatest burden on lower-income communities and neighborhoods that have historically received fewer investments and resources.

These issues are also not just environmental concerns. They directly impact public health, household finances, housing stability, and overall quality of life. Important decisions about land use, zoning, infrastructure, housing, utilities, and environmental programs are made every year by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, yet many residents feel disconnected from these very decisions that ultimately shape their communities. When information and engagement opportunities are difficult to navigate, the voices of those most affected by environmental challenges can be left out of the conversation.

Resilient DeKalb was created to bridge this very gap. Building a more resilient county means not only addressing pressing environmental challenges, but also making sure residents have the information, access, and opportunities needed to help shape the solutions. Stronger connections between communities and local government lead to more equitable decisions and stronger outcomes.



OUR SOLUTION BUILDING A RESILIENT DEKALB.

Resilient DeKalb is a people-powered initiative that works to reduce environmental injustices while strengthening community engagement and local decision making. Building on Commissioner Terry's Green New Deal framework, Resilient DeKalb approaches environmental challenges through an environmental justice lens which ensures that every resident, regardless of race, income, age, or ZIP code, has access to clean water, affordable utilities, healthy neighborhoods, and a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their community.



KEY PRIORITIES



Advancing sustainable land use & development practices.



Supporting affordable, reliable, and clean utilities and services.



Expanding access to county programs, coalitions, and decision-making processes.

HOW THIS WORKS

Resilient DeKalb helps residents understand how local government decisions affect their daily lives and provides clear pathways for engagement. The priorities for this initiative are led by the [Resilient DeKalb Steering Committee](#).

- Breaks down Board of Commissioners agenda items into accessible language.
- Shares updates on environmental justice issues and county initiatives.
- Connects residents with public meetings, town halls, and opportunities for public comment.
- Builds partnerships between residents, community organizations, and local government.
- Creates spaces for community members to identify priorities and advocate through the [Steering Committee](#).

STEERING COMMITTEE

A resident-led collaborative body that guides the Resilient DeKalb Initiative by identifying priorities, building partnerships, and supporting public engagement

THE THREE PILLARS OF RESILIENT DEKALB

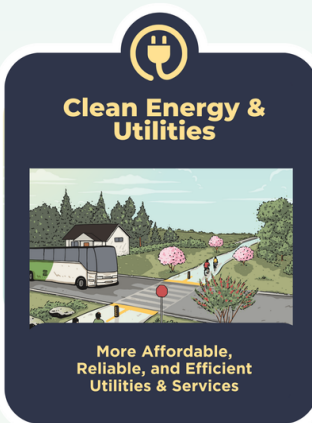
Building a Resilient DeKalb requires addressing environmental justice from multiple angles. Some challenges demand smarter planning and land protection. Others require lowering household costs and modernizing infrastructure. And lasting change depends on community power and access. Resilient DeKalb is structured around the following three pillars:



SUSTAINABLE LAND USE & HOUSING

PROTECTING LAND, PLANNING SMARTER

This pillar focuses on protecting green space, improving zoning and development practices, and promoting land use that supports healthy neighborhoods and long-term environmental resilience. Through initiatives like [South River Forest protection](#), the [Library Transition Plan](#), [tree preservation efforts](#), [composting and landfill reforms](#), [trail expansion](#), [fair housing planning](#), and [initiatives to regulate data center expansion](#), we aim to reduce environmental risk while ensuring growth benefits existing residents. Sustainable land use protects communities from flooding, heat, and pollution while preserving the natural assets that make DeKalb livable.



CLEAN ENERGY & UTILITIES

MORE AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, AND EFFICIENT UTILITIES & SERVICES

This pillar ensures residents have access to affordable, reliable water, power, and essential services. It works to reduce energy burden through efficiency programs, [100% clean energy investments](#), and consumer protections while modernizing county infrastructure. Initiatives include [SPLOST II clean energy projects](#), [EV fleet expansion](#), [water bill assistance](#), and [policies that lower household utility costs](#). By investing in infrastructure and affordability, we reduce emissions while making daily life more financially sustainable for residents.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

BUILDING COMMUNITY POWER AND ACCESS

Lasting resilience requires [engaged and empowered residents](#). This pillar expands access to county programs and decision-making processes while strengthening coalitions across neighborhoods and organizations. Through town halls, policy reforms, the Environmental Justice and Sustainability Resident Review Group, [the Resilient DeKalb Steering Committee](#), [community led housing initiatives](#), and cross-community partnerships, we ensure residents have both a voice and pathways to shape policy.

STAY INVOLVED

Building a Resilient DeKalb starts at the neighborhood level! Our Goal is to work collaboratively and respectfully to elevate community concerns, identify local priorities, connect residents to county resources and opportunities, and strengthen community engagement around environmental issues. Residents can stay informed by [subscribing to Commissioner Ted Terry's newsletter](#) for updates on Board of Commissioners agendas, environmental justice initiatives, community events, public meetings, and opportunities to take action.

RESOURCES

Click the links below to learn more!

1. [Find Your Commissioner](#)
2. [Board of Commissioners Public Comment Information](#)
3. [Board of Commissioners Meeting Calendar](#)
4. [Commissioner District 6 Map](#)
5. [Important BOC Agenda Items Impacting Environmental Justice](#)
6. [Learn About DeKalb's First Zoning Rewrite in 20 Years](#)

STAY ENGAGED



Attend BOC Meetings
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9 AM
178 Sams Street, Decatur, GA

- Provide public comment
- Participate in zoning and development discussions
- Follow environmental justice initiatives
- Contact your commissioner



STAY UPDATED!

COMMISSIONERTEDTERRY.COM