

CITYAGE

CITYAGE ATLANTA

HEART OF THE NEW CLIMATE ECONOMY

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METRO
ATLANTA
CHAMBER



LDG
DEVELOPMENT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

CityAge Atlanta showcased the region's rising influence in America's climate economy. Notably, this marked the first time that CityAge hosted an event in Atlanta, underscoring the city's growing significance. The event featured a day of engaging dialogue, interactive panels, and presentations by some of the region's most forward-thinking leaders. This intimate gathering provided crucial insights, facilitated valuable networking opportunities, and helped set the stage for Atlanta's future growth.

In collaboration with Georgia Power, LDG Properties, and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the event effectively convened private and public leaders from the region to examine the partnerships driving the new era of progress in Atlanta, the South, and the nation as a whole. The insights and priorities identified during this event will play a crucial role in shaping Atlanta's path forward in the realms of sustainability, climate resilience, and economic inclusivity.

EVENT THEMES:



Deploying Clean Mobility: How to rapidly deploy electric, hydrogen and low-carbon fleets at scale through the introduction of clean energy infrastructure



Downtown's Role in a Fast Growing Region: Atlanta's downtown plans are creating a central hub for a new economy, including revitalizing buildings, promoting energy retrofits, and adapting to new work patterns



Utilities in Transformation: How Georgia's utilities are driving the path to a Net Zero economy



Leveraging Major Events: Plans for the 2026 World Cup and beyond can accelerate growth of innovative new infrastructure solutions, such as green aerial mobility



Learning from Nature: How the concept of biomimicry, and what cities can learn from nature - can impact Atlanta's future



Complete and Equitable Neighborhoods: A fast growing economy, as well as action on climate change, must be equitable and support every citizen



The Resilient Atlanta: Decarbonization and natural disaster planning in the time of climate change.

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:



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CITYAGE ATLANTA BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CityAge went beyond traditional presentations and panels by hosting engaging breakout sessions, conducted under the Chatham House Rules, to foster non-attributed in-depth conversations and generate a comprehensive list of priorities specifically tailored to Atlanta.

The breakout sessions presented attendees with four thought-provoking questions, ensuring that every participant had the opportunity to share their perspectives and actively contribute to a collaborative discussion.

How can the private and public sector collaborate to achieve Atlanta’s goal of providing 100% clean energy to all residents by 2035, become a leader in green mobility, and overcome obstacles to building a greener fleet in the metro Atlanta area?

Foster Public-Private Collaboration: Promote collaboration between public and private sectors to drive Atlanta’s clean energy and green mobility goals and tackle green fleet challenges.

Invest in Infrastructure: Prioritize investments in battery storage, fast charging infrastructure, and grid stability to bolster clean energy and mobility projects.

Lead at the State Level: Encourage state-level leadership to address barriers to electric vehicle adoption and transition to cleaner energy sources.

Engage Communities: Secure community support for initiatives, such as improving public transit and urban planning to reduce commute times.

Streamline Regulations and Funding: Simplify regulations, streamline permitting processes, and secure capital funding to advance clean energy projects while educating the public about funding options.



2.

How can Atlanta enhance its infrastructure and built environment to adapt to climate change, improve residents' quality of life, and prepare for the 2026 World Cup, all while effectively prioritizing and funding critical projects and addressing sustainability challenges?

Green Energy Integration: Prioritize integrating green energy sources (micro-grids, solar, wind, geothermal) and advanced storage in residential developments to boost sustainability and climate resilience.

Optimize Existing Infrastructure: Minimize new construction and align projects with long-term city plans by leveraging current infrastructure.

Streamline Efficiency and Permitting: Accelerate critical projects through expedited permitting and promote flexible infrastructure models.

Sustainable Practices: Focus on circular economy products, sustainable home sizing regulations, and resource reuse to enhance environmental sustainability.

Enhance Accountability and Incentives: Implement measures for greater accountability, particularly in relation to deforestation, and offer incentives for corporations to support sustainability efforts.

3.

How can we ensure the economy of Atlanta and the region remains inclusive, benefiting the entire community in terms of jobs, connectivity, health, and education, even in the face of climate change?

EV Access and Infrastructure: Prioritize EV access and infrastructure investment in frontline and all communities to enhance transportation options supporting employment and education.

Encourage Investment: Promote public and private investments to empower municipalities and non-profit organizations (NPOs) in providing community services, particularly related to EV access.

Workforce Upskilling: Utilize educational programs to enhance workforce skills, ensuring adaptability in a changing economy.

Balance Leadership: Strike a balance between top-down leadership and grassroots organizations, leveraging experts, financial resources, and networking opportunities.

4.

What roles should the private and public sectors play in enhancing the city's resilience to climate change, and benefit all citizens.

Foster Innovation: Encourage innovation within the private sector and through public-private collaboration. Embrace bold ideas and calculated risks, often more feasible in the private sector.

Private Sector Collaboration: Collaborate with the private sector, tapping into their expertise and financial resources to bolster climate resilience efforts and foster innovative solutions.

Sustainable Business Strategy: Integrate sustainability into the core business strategy, recognizing its importance to employees and the community. Investing in climate resilience can result in a happier and more productive workforce. Prioritize concrete actions over mere "greenwashing."

Inclusivity and Education: Ensure the involvement of low-income communities in climate resilience discussions and clearly communicate the benefits of these efforts to them. Recognize the unique and pressing challenges these communities face, requiring tailored solutions.

Workforce Development and Education: Invest in upskilling and educating the workforce to support climate resilience initiatives. Expand and scale successful programs, such as the one in Thomasville Heights, to comprehensively address the multifaceted challenges faced by low-income communities.





CONCLUSION

It is clear that Atlanta and its region are emerging as a key hub that will benefit from America's investments in a low-carbon economy that is embracing innovation. The discussions at the CityAge Atlanta event, *Heart of the New Climate Economy*, have provided actionable insights into the key priorities that Atlanta should focus on. These priorities, identified through the interactive breakout sessions, will serve as a roadmap for the city's future development, addressing the challenges of climate change while fostering inclusive economic growth and sustainability.

Three key foundations for this future:

- 1. Clean Energy, Green Mobility and PPPs:** Atlanta must foster collaboration between the private and public sectors to achieve its ambitious goal of 100% clean energy by 2035 and leadership in green mobility. This entails investing in critical infrastructure, engaging the community, and addressing regulatory and funding barriers.
- 2. Climate Resilience and Sustainable Infrastructure:** Enhancing Atlanta's infrastructure and built environment to adapt to climate change while prioritizing sustainability is paramount. The integration of green energy sources, efficiency in permitting processes, and accountability measures will play a pivotal role in achieving this objective.
- 3. Inclusive Economic Partnerships for Growth and Equity:** To ensure a thriving and equitable economy, Atlanta must focus on providing access to electric vehicles, stimulating public and private investments, promoting education programs, and finding the right balance between top-down and grassroots leadership. Public-private partnerships and government incentives will also be instrumental in promoting economic growth and equity for all residents.

By adhering to these three core priorities, Atlanta can effectively address climate change challenges, enhance its resilience, and foster a more inclusive and sustainable future for all its residents. In short, Atlanta is poised to be a leader building the United States' low-carbon future and using that strategy to increase region-wide benefits to citizens.

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