



Recycling & Waste Management

Recycling can reduce greenhouse gas emissions because it is often less energy intensive than producing new items. This solution considers increases in recycling at the household level; increases in industrial and commercial recycling; and a focus on increasing paper recycling.

QUICK FACTS

- Stanford University estimates that one ton of recycled plastic saves about 5,800 kWh of energy.
- According to Project Drawdown, about 66% of paper is currently recycled in the United States.
- Many cities in Georgia, including Atlanta, have active recycling programs.
- A 2005 report from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs found Georgians throw away 1.9 million tons of paper annually, as well as 1 million tons of plastics, 0.36 million tons of metal, and 0.24 million tons of glass.

BEYOND CARBON

- Recycling can help improve soil and water quality by diverting waste from landfills. This creates environmental and public health benefits.
- This solution can help create jobs associated with expanded or upgraded recycling services.
- Issues to watch include the siting of recycling centers, which may be disproportionately located in under-resourced communities. This could impact local air quality and negatively impact property values. Other issues to watch include cost and infrastructure needs.

BUILDINGS & MATERIALS

GEORGIA'S 2030 MEGATON OPPORTUNITY

We could reduce 1 Mt of CO₂e in Georgia by recycling at least 20% of currently disposed paper waste annually.

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