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Neighborhood Planning Unit Clean Energy Advisory Board

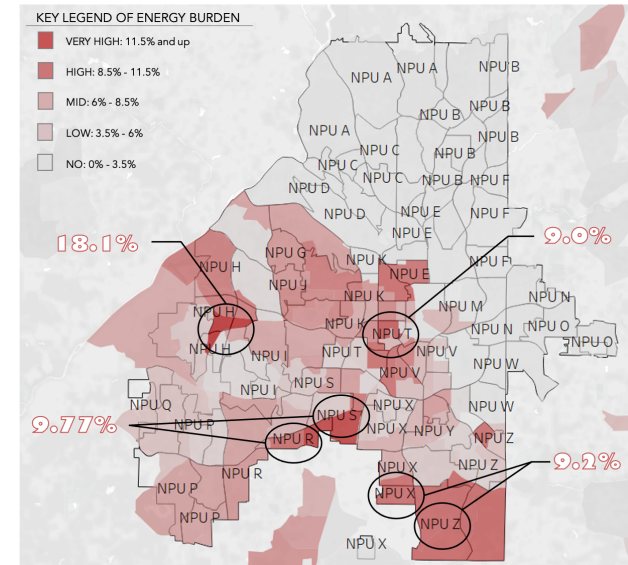


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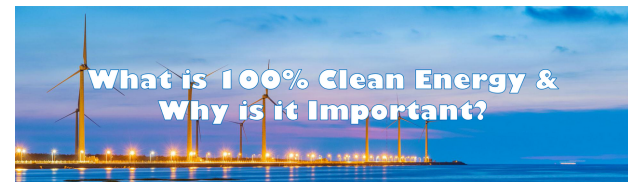


On March 6, 2019, the Atlanta City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 17-R3510, which adopted [Clean Energy Atlanta](#), a plan to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 for all Atlantans. To achieve this aim a Clean Energy Advisory Board (CEAB), composed of industry leaders and community members, was created and for two years will provide recommendations to reach the target.

This newsletter is produced and distributed by six community members on this board that represent the top six energy burdened neighborhoods/NPU's in the city of Atlanta, referred to as [Neighborhood Planning Unit](#) (NPU) Reps. It may come as no surprise that all six NPU's are south of I-20 and in predominantly Black communities, so equitable energy access is one of our top priorities.



* Top six energy burdened neighborhoods in the City of Atlanta



Equitable Energy Access

Metro Atlanta has the 7th highest energy burden in the United States. In one of Atlanta's most burdened zip code, the median electricity burden is 9.6%, meaning that 50% of residents pay MORE than 9.6% of their monthly income on their electricity bills. It is unacceptable for those with income on a lower scale, to pay the most for energy. We need to advocate for [clean energy](#), and decrease energy burdens in our neighborhoods.

According to the [United Nations](#), "Energy production and use is the single biggest contributor to global warming. The energy sector accounts for about two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions attributed to human activity. More than a billion people still lack access to electricity, while 3 billion rely on dirty fuels like charcoal and animal waste for cooking and heating."

In Atlanta, the median household income for residents of Buckhead (NPU B - see map above) is \$100,414. Residents living here and in other gray areas are paying roughly 3-5% of their income on energy. If you go south of I-20, take a look at the communities shaded in pink and red. Neighborhoods like, Adamsville (NPU H) are paying 10.96% of their median household income, which is roughly \$20,410, on energy.

In the city dubbed, A City Too Busy To Hate, it is increasingly important to note that historically Atlanta has ranked as one of the most segregated cities in the United States. The impacts of income inequality, racial segregation by neighborhood and upward mobility for native Atlantans are just the tip of the iceberg. The wealth gap was created by design through federal housing policies since the late 20th century, school redistricting and varying tax bases for education, public works, etc. African American incomes are ~60% of European American/White and roughly AA have ~5-10% of EA wealth which is directly attributed to historical, unconstitutional housing policies.

CHANGE NEEDS TO COME NOW!

RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION BY DESIGN: GRAB SOME TEA & [LISTEN](#) - GPB: *The Roots And Effects Of Housing Segregation — And Why It Persists In Georgia Today*

ARTICLES: [Energy Equity: Bringing Solar Power to Low-Income Communities](#)

[How Atlanta Plans To Get To 100% Green Energy By 2035](#)

MEET YOUR CLEAN ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD REPS (CEAB NPU REPS)

Collectively, we rose to the challenge and are advocating for a change! Meet the current representatives for your community.



[NPU-H](#), Khalifa Lee
Adamsville - West Atlanta Communities

Why is Clean Energy important to you?



[NPU-S](#), Robbie Hunter
Oakland City, Bush Mtn., Venetian Hills

Why is Clean Energy important to you?

"Clean Energy is important to me as it has been proven that those with the least [economically] and those in underserved communities are often most affected by the lack of its access and implementation to clean energy in the areas from which they frequent and live. Many of these communities I would grow to know as my home." [Read More](#)



[NPU-Z](#), Anne Phillips
Norwood Manor, Thomasville Heights

Why is Clean Energy important to you?

"Clean, sustainable energy that comes from renewable sources is tantamount to the reduction of pollution in our atmosphere and reduction of our dependency on fossil fuels and nuclear-generated energy. The development and utilization of the next generation power sources ..." [Read More](#)

"As a representative of residents of NPU-S in Southwest Atlanta, I am on this board and working group with other NPU representatives to learn more about sustainability as it pertains to social equity, economic development and find answers on how to help those unfairly carrying energy burdens in our community."



[NPU-R](#), Sheryl Brown
Adams Park, Campbellton Rd, SW Atlanta

Why is Clean Energy important to you?

"States in the USA decided a long time ago that they would establish poor environmental practices in communities of color as reflected in decades of Atlanta's zoning maps. We are committed to introducing our residents to the public service, insurance, and utility commissioners who are elected to represent us but fall short." [Read More](#)



[NPU-T](#), Kim Scott
Westview, West End, AUC Communities

Why is Clean Energy important to you?

"Clean energy is important to me because I believe it's crucial to the preservation of existing neighborhoods and planning for future growth as well as the implementation of sustainable developments in our communities."

[Read More](#)



Atlanta Elections Are Around the Corner

A Note from NPU-R Representative, Sheryl Brown

The Entire Ballot or the Bullet...

To not vote the entire ballot is like putting a bullet to our heads. We must learn to vote the entire ballot. On November's ballot the insurance commissioner is up for election, and they determine what our insurances and utilities costs will be and because communities of color are red lined and made to pay higher fees and costs for everything we must vote on these jobs and hire/elect appropriately. Bosses, here is an area you must pay close attention and vote for who serves you best and can do the job better. Insurance and utility costs affect our funds and budgets daily and rarely ever go down in costs. As Bosses each of those candidates are applying for jobs and they have completed their interviews and now we must hire. The whole ballot must be accounted for; we must do our due diligence on this matter as well.

Please find out who is running [for office] and if you like them VOTE for them but never leave those boxes unchecked. There are many types of commissioners and we pay them a lot of money but we must also manage them too. There are many distractions for some of these elected/ hires like lobbyists and some elected/ hires are weak and can be bought which sells us out. So choosing the best and honest candidate should be high on our list of characteristics to look for in candidates. These ballots can be long and a little confusing but imperative to our everyday life that we choose candidates wisely. Also pay attention to the Board of Education and Judge positions, all of these directly affect us more than government level positions because these are lawmakers who create laws for our states, counties and cities."

Repost from savvyadvocatecommune.com June 1, 2021.

- Sheryl Brown, NPU-R

[Read More](#)

FYI: Waste Management is trying to get folks to change their toilets to decrease water utilization. There is a [\\$100 rebate after you get the toilet](#).

We also need to focus on addressing policy(ies) related to our energy burden/inequitable energy access in our communities. When it comes to what can be done in my community in the delivery of clean energy to our residents, we need to establish organizations skilled in home renovations, utility and bill assistance, community education boards, human resources, community energy infrastructure, and land trusts. These all will build effective measures that will ensure they can receive the full benefits of clean energy use, while also helping the families adjust their lifestyles, homes, and community infrastructure.

- Khalifa Lee, NPU-H



ENERGY AUDITS & WEATHERIZATION

Each of our communities have our own challenges and goals, but one thing we have agreed to do as the six communities with the highest energy burdes is to get 10 residential homes and 10 businesses in EACH of our NPU's signed up for energy audits. If you are interested, connect with us by clicking our pictures above!

- Are you interested in getting your home or small business audited for energy efficiency? Sign up [HERE](#) today and let one of our reps know!
- Get the homes and businesses weatherized/updated so folks can save money!
- Serve as a model for the City to replicate throughout SW Atlanta and the remainder of the city.
- CHECK OUT other weatherization programs [HERE](#)

What should people do after reading this?

Please RSVP to attend the Atlanta Climate Justice Listening Sessions and subsequent [Town Hall](#).

These virtual (and FREE) events will be allow City of Atlanta and regional elected officials, community members, and community based-organizations to connect with future elected officials about the education of climate change, climate resilience, and the environmental needs of the community.

Listening Sessions - [REGISTER HERE](#)

- Districts 2, 3 & 5: July 10th, 11 am - 1 pm
- Districts 1, 4 & 12: July 24th, 11 am - 1 pm
- Districts 6, 7 & 8: August 7th, 11 am - 1 pm
- Districts 9, 10 & 11: August 21st, 11 am - 1 pm

NPU-H, Khalifa Lee

I want people to learn how far behind many other countries we are. I want people to see that another way is possible. I want everyone to see that until those in the most derelict positions in our society may suffer more from the lack of access to clean energy, yet we all are being affected by the slow implementation and change to clean energy systems, via climate change and urbanization.

NPU-S, Robbie Hunter

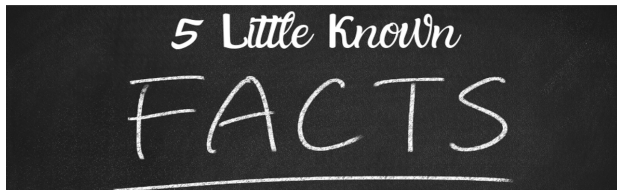
Did you know the City has a Clean Energy Plan to get 100% of Atlanta? We cannot wait 5 more years. We need to put people in an office that can fulfill what is written and ensure our community thrives.

NPU-R, Sheryl Brown

We are having a youth advocacy campaign and civics education workshops so that we can learn how democracy works. Sign up and get involved at: savvyadvocatcommune@outlook.com.

NPU-T, Kim Scott

Make a commitment to NPU-T's resiliency hub! Environmental controls (water and wastewater) that are equitable and are part of any new development project in our communities. Incentives for small businesses to be energy efficient.



ABOUT CLEAN ENERGY
IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, ATLANTA, GA

Did you know?

- Self Credit Builder Loans [[SELF](#)] (formerly Self Lender) will be available to fund projects and add contractors in Atlanta and all of Georgia as of July 1st as we

are launching a special program with the Atlanta Housing Authority. They have flexible loans for home improvements that provide energy savings; solar PV; roofs, hurricane impact windows and doors; and even disability adaptation.

- Regardless of the special program SELF will have ALL its loan products and services available to your communities and we are happy to work with you. SELF small unsecured loans are based on the ability to repay, and are available to everyone regardless of credit score or income.
- GA Power and Southern Company are energy service providers BUT did you know the [GA Public Service Commission](#) [PSC] sets your energy rates? Get to know your representative!! **Put pressure on our Public Service Commissioner (PSC 4) to audit our rates!**
- **ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP!** We need to get an energy slate! Learn about the [Down ballot](#) and [how we vote!](#) Do your due diligence! Do not vote based on name recognition.
- Did your power go out the last time a storm came through? Did you know it matters who owns your poles on the street? [Forestry/City of Atlanta Parks](#) is responsible for maintaining the trees along the power lines. If you see a challenge with trees and the lines, give them a call!

We are here to educate Atlanta residents on the importance of Clean Energy and how it affects our health, community, and our pockets. As elections gear up, we need to be prepared to demand more from our representatives and ensure they fulfill the promise of 100% Clean Energy for 100% of Atlantans by 2035!

Questions? Comments? Want to Get Involved?

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