

PROPOSED ATLANTA SUSTAINABLE BUILDING ORDINANCE

FACT SHEET

Background

In 2006, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin identified environmental sustainability as a critical factor in making Atlanta a best-in-class city. To that end, Sustainable Atlanta is leading Atlanta's quest to be a world-class sustainable city by developing strategies and policy recommendations through partnerships and collaboration with Atlanta's business, non-profit, academic, civic and government leadership.

Ordinance Overview

The intent of the proposed Sustainable Building Ordinance is to protect the health and welfare of Atlantans as well as to preserve the economic, social and environmental competitiveness of the city of— attracting more businesses to Atlanta, stimulating our economy, and providing the foundation for the creation of numerous green-collar jobs.

The proposed ordinance addresses the following areas of the building code:

- Site development
- Water-use efficiency
- Energy
- Indoor environmental quality
- A building's impact on the atmosphere, materials and resources
- Construction and operations

The proposed ordinance draft outlines several options for compliance:

- LEED certification
- EarthCraft
- Green Globes
- The standards of the Atlanta Sustainable Building Ordinance

These options are roughly equivalent and provide a great deal of flexibility to the building industry while ensuring a wide range of environmentally responsible practices. The Atlanta standards, too, include many options for compliance, so that designers and developers will have as much freedom as possible in determining how they will meet the city of Atlanta's environmental goals.

Ordinance Development Process

Since June 2008, a work group composed of architects, engineers, developers, lawyers, city planners and other experts has researched and drafted the proposed ordinance. Their group research involved evaluating various green building initiatives including ASHRAE/USGBC Standard 189, Architecture 2030, and LEED, and they conducted a comparative study of green building ordinances in other U.S. cities.

The Sustainable Building Taskforce has hosted several large meetings to engage citizens and all sectors of the building industry and the taskforce has met individually with industry representatives at their invitation and collected responses to the various drafts to date via e-mail, phone and in-person meetings. The feedback received during this process (along with aforementioned research) has resulted in the current draft. Once a final draft is set, it will go before the Mayor and the City Council for review.

About Sustainable Atlanta

Led by Lynnette Young (former chief operating officer of the city of Atlanta), Sustainable Atlanta is a facilitator of the collective work of government, business, institutions, non-profits and organizations to develop and implement the action plan for environmental sustainability in Atlanta.