

## SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN GEORGIA

### Make Georgia a Leader on Energy Efficiency

- **If we invest in efficiency, we will not need to invest in polluting power plants.** Currently, Georgia lags behind much of the country in our investment in energy efficiency. Residential customers consume more electricity than those in many other states. Lack of efficiency means there is a lot of wasted energy that we all pay for through increased transmission lines, burning more coal and nuclear fuels, and in turn, generating more air and water pollution and radioactive waste.

### Help Consumers Reduce Their Electric Bills

- **Require Georgia Power to help reduce customer bills by lowering their energy use through energy efficiency.** Georgia's average residential consumer uses 25% more electricity and pays 9% more each month than the national average. Our electric bills are based on two things; electric rates and energy usage. The Public Service Commission has traditionally been only focused on rates, but rates are only half of the equation for determining how much Georgians pay for energy. The other half – energy usage – has been ignored.

### Help Avoid the High Cost of Building New Power Plants

- **Energy efficiency reduces demand and the need for additional power plant infrastructure.** Energy efficiency is less expensive than building new power plants. According to the Rocky Mountain Institute, each dollar invested in electric efficiency displaces nearly seven times as much carbon dioxide as a dollar invested in nuclear power. ([www.rmi.org/images/other/Newsletter/NLRMIspring20.pdf](http://www.rmi.org/images/other/Newsletter/NLRMIspring20.pdf)). The need for new power plants and transmission lines is driven by our demand for electricity.

### Reduce Harmful Air & Water Pollution

- **Energy efficiency measures create no air or water pollution.** Energy efficiency reduces emissions from power plants thus making the air we breathe cleaner and making our lungs healthier. About 65% of Georgia's electricity comes from old, dirty coal plants that are a source of soot, smog, global warming, and toxic mercury that contaminates fish and can cause neurological problems in children.
- **Increased energy efficiency reduces water consumption by power plants that compete with local industries and cities for much needed water.** The proposed nuclear power plants along the Savannah River are estimated to use 53 million gallons of water per day with 50-75% of that lost as steam (*Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Early Site Permit Application, Environmental Report, August 2006*). This means that more water will be lost from the two existing and two proposed reactors at Plant Vogtle than is currently used by all residents of Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah combined.

## **Tap Safe, Clean Energy Available Today**

- **Georgia has an abundance of renewable energy resources that could be tapped to help the state and the country become less dependent on foreign and imported fuels.** Georgia produces enough biomass energy resources to meet 12% of the state's electricity needs (*The Feasibility of Generating Electricity from Biomass Fuel Sources in Georgia, UGA, 2003*).
- **Georgia has the potential to meet 1518-1618 MW of the state's forecasted electricity demand through *new* renewable resources such as biomass, wind, hydropower, landfill gas, and solar photovoltaics** (*Meeting Future Electricity Demand, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, 2006*).
- **Clean renewable energy resources will create new markets and jobs for agricultural and rural communities and help reduce global warming.**

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