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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeKalb Receives Regional Recognition for Leadership in Sustainability

County upgraded from bronze to silver by ARC

DECATUR, Ga. – DeKalb County was [recognized as a “Green Community”](#) by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) on Jan. 28, 2015 for its leadership in sustainable practices. In addition to the cities of Alpharetta, Decatur, and Sandy Springs and the counties of Cherokee, Fulton and Gwinnett, DeKalb is acknowledged for its programs and policies that reduce environmental impact and transform the metro Atlanta region. DeKalb increased its designation from “certified bronze” to “certified silver” for 2014-2018, on a scale that also reaches gold then platinum.

“DeKalb’s commitment to sustainability is contributing daily to a cleaner environment, a reduction of waste entering our landfill, and a decrease in energy use,” said DeKalb County Interim CEO Lee May. “We’re proud to be considered a “Green Community” for a fifth consecutive year, and look forward to the sustainable achievements of 2015.”



Representatives from DeKalb County Government, including former CEO Liane Levetan and Commissioner Kathie Gannon, receive the county’s “Green Community” silver certification (MORE)

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The accomplishment is another step forward in DeKalb County's long history to [pursue and promote sustainable efforts](#). More than 105,000 tons of materials have been recycled in DeKalb County since 2005, including 21,627 tons in 2014. Additionally, the county contains 10,352 acres of protected greenspace. Of the 32 cultivated community gardens among all of the ARC's recognized local governments, DeKalb County claims 12.

Cities and counties earn "Green Community" certification from the ARC by implementing practices and policies in 10 categories, including energy efficiency, green building, transportation and water efficiency. Complete information about ARC's Green Communities Certification Program, including measures each community has implemented, is available at www.atlantaregional.com/greencommunities.

For more information about DeKalb County's efforts in sustainability, visit www.co.dekalb.ga.us/greenfocus/index.html or contact Amber Weaver at 404-687-3899 or angreer@dekalbcountyga.gov.

DeKalb County is Georgia's third largest county with more than 700,000 residents calling it home. Known for its business and education hub, growing international community and natural wonders, DeKalb County Government is administered by [Interim Chief Executive Officer Lee May](#) and legislative policy is set by a seven-member [Board of Commissioners](#).

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