

A Citizen Strategy for Decatur  
Energy and Climate Action

Decatur Clean Energy  
Transformation Through  
City Policy Action  
10-20-21



# Our Vision

---

The City of Decatur becomes a thriving, leading city that is entirely equitable, delightfully livable, and completely sustainable through our energy and climate initiatives by 2030.

# Who We Are... and What We Have To Do

---

A coalition of citizens, students, non-profits, businesses and faith-based organizations focused on our mission:

*Lower our city's carbon footprint to zero by 2030 through a just transition to clean energy and climate action.*



# Specific 'Clean' Energy Goals

---

1. Supply our city electricity with 100% clean renewable energy by 2030
2. Improve the energy efficiency of our city, residential, and commercial buildings 75% by 2030
3. Transition our city fleets and transportation to electric vehicles by 2030
4. Create policies that incentivize this transition for residential and commercial buildings.

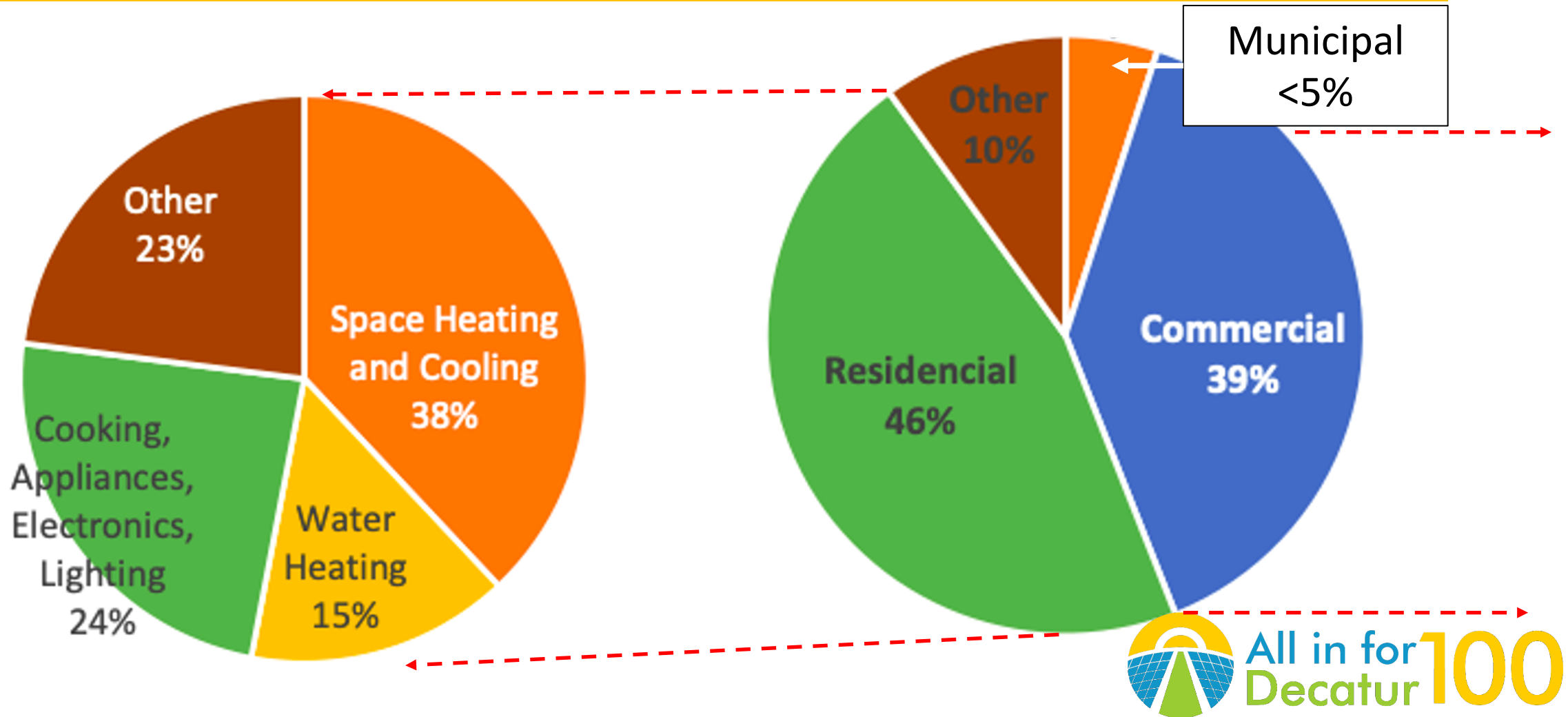
# What does “Our City” mean?

---

1. All municipal buildings, fleets, and
2. All residential homes including multi-family dwellings and rentals
3. All commercial enterprises, large, medium and small
4. All our public and private schools, colleges and faith-based organizations

# Why Focus on Residential and Commercial Programs?

## Residential



# Three Things We Need To Accomplish a Clean Energy Transformation?

---

- The City must lead by example (The Clean Energy Plan, City buildings, fleets, funds)
- The City must influence residential and commercial through policy, finance, incentives, and enforcement
- We must engage all citizens and businesses to act through specific citizen led programs

# City Policy Action – General Clean Energy Policies

---

1. Make a declaration and a commitment with benchmarks as a result of the Clean Energy Climate Plan now underway
2. Support the City Sustainability Manager to aid with implementation
  - Adding a student/youth position to the ESB
  - Adding another intern to City
  - Adding an FTE finance person to support effort
3. Host 2022 Georgia Climate Conference in Decatur (300+ visitors using our services, shops and hotels for 3 days)



# General Policies

---

4. Underwrite transition financial risk through a Decatur Green Bank Fund
5. Bend 2023 SPLOST dollars to assure energy programs are funded
6. Divest city funds from fossil fuels banking
7. Require sustainability and local employment clause in city contracts
8. Coordination with the county and with school systems

# City Policy Action – Efficiency

---

1. Require energy efficiency audits on all residential and commercial local property sales at time of sale or upgrading
2. Develop or leverage a PAYs program for low-income residents to make improvement, Solar Energy Loan Fund, (SELF) Loans for low income
3. Provide a 2-year property tax exemption up to \$5K for energy efficiency modifications or a PACE program

# City Policy Action – Efficiency

---

4. Create a city-wide “Empower/Weatherize” program (See All In for Decatur 100 program)
5. Create stretch high performance building codes past where we are now (requiring better commercial standards)
- 6.

# City Policy Action – Energy Sourcing

---

1. Demand city-wide access to all energy data (City, residential aggregate, and commercial aggregate) from Georgia Power
2. Provide a 2-year tax exemption up to \$5K on residential rooftop solar
3. Provide a 5 year- transferable solar tax credit for commercial buildings
4. Build a virtual power plant by partnering w Georgia Power to utilize smart meters. Or behind the meter aggregated and rewarded power demand regulation (aka OhmConnect).

# City Policy Action – Energy Sourcing

---

5. Require solar or solar-ready on all new commercial and residential construction
6. Develop a collective city-wide REC program for those who can't add direct solar on residential.
7. Mandatory program for solar rooftop for existing multi-unit dwellings after 2030

# City Policy Action – Transportation

---

1. Provide free parking for EVs in Decatur
2. Create an EV take home policy for city employees with city fleet
3. Add 12 city charging stations
4. Create an Hour Car EV program for Decatur
5. Develop a collective EV purchasing program and leverage Deklab transition as well

# City Policy Action – Transportation

---

6. Fund a Decatur Van Pool (City purchase van, passengers pay monthly fee) for Atlanta Downtown and frequently accessed destinations.
7. Use the Barcelona model for truck and car access to Decatur core and pedestrians.
8. Eliminate truck idling