

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Atlanta Regional Commission's community outreach activities are broad based and comprehensive in scope. Listed below are a few activities that engage the public in the planning process and are illustrative of the breadth **and scope** of outreach to the general public, local governments, special population groups, agencies/organizations and ARC staff. For a more complete listing, visit ARC's website, www.atlantaregional.com.

Aging Information Services - ARC's Aging Division contracts with the Center for Pan-Asian Community Services to provide information and assistance services to older adults with limited/non-English speaking proficiencies. The Division also has hosted "**Own Your Future**" town hall meetings to engage human resource managers, aging professionals and consumers to heighten awareness about the need for long-term care planning among young and mid-life individuals.

Atlanta Regional Health Forum –A multidisciplinary coalition charged with creating health local communities in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton Counties.

Atlanta Regional Housing Forums – These are quarterly events sponsored by ARC and approximately ten other organizations concerned with providing a range of affordable housing choices.

Atlanta Regional Workforce Board - This board is responsible for providing policy guidance for the Workforce Investment Service Area as designated by the Governor. This area includes seven counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Douglas, Fayette, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale.

Clean Water Campaign-The mission of this collaborative public education initiative designed to educate the general public about the sources of water pollution due to stormwater runoff, and its negative effects on our water supply, recreational opportunities, aquatic ecosystems and quality of life who all share the common vision of protecting water quality in metro Atlanta.

Community Choices Toolkit- This is a resource committed to quality growth practices. An implementation to use the tools in the Community Choices Toolkit was initiated in 2005.

Community Conversations on Diversity – This is a series of events that ARC sponsors in collaboration with community partners to leverage understanding of ethnic and immigrant populations, their issues, and collaborative opportunities. Activities have included county/community based roundtable discussions and regional forums with distinguished and expert speakers.

Community Planning Academy –The Academy offers planners and communities in the region training courses designed to help citizen planners and community leaders better understand local planning process.

CREATE Community Awards- These awards recognize outstanding local government initiatives in achieving the regional goals of community involvement, regional prosperity, educational excellence, air quality and transportation and environmental sustainability. The **Cobb Latino Initiative** was a recipient of the Community Building award in 2006.

Environmental Justice Planning Advisory Committee - considers the needs of the traditionally underserved population in the Atlanta region in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and other planning activities, projects and initiatives. The team is composed of representatives from grassroots/community-based organizations, federal agencies, local and state government, environmental organizations, educational institutions and the faith community

Ethnic Advisory Council (Latino and Asian Councils)- These councils assist ARC in facilitating the involvement of the Hispanic and Asian-American communities in ARC's planning processes, programs, projects and activities throughout the region.

Global Atlanta Works Advisory Committee – This advisory committee is composed of a diverse group of key business, education and community leaders who guide the Global Atlanta Works program and provide recommendation to the ARC Board on ways to maximize the participation of minority and ethnic populations in the planning projects and activities and monitor progress in this arena.

Growing A Greenspace Vision for Greater Atlanta -ARC, the Georgia Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land are working to develop a regional strategy to protect greenspace and provide support and assistance to those working on greenspace acquisition and protection in the 20-county Atlanta area. A Greenspace toolkit is also available to assist interested parties.

Leadership, Involvement, Networking, Knowledge (LINK)- This program offers leaders from the Atlanta region the opportunity to learn about challenges faced by leaders of other cities and new ideas for the Atlanta region.

Livable Centers Initiative -This program encourages local jurisdictions to plan and implement strategies that link transportation improvements with land use development strategies to create sustainable, livable communities consistent with regional development policies. [Each year LCI planning grants are awarded by ARC.](#) . Implementation funds are also provided for selected approved plans.

Local Governments and School Systems Managing Growth Together – This is a forum of educators, local officials and citizens concerned with working with boards of education and local governments to effectively build and maintain neighborhood schools that help achieve community visions.

I87 RIDEFIND – ARC, GDOT and FHWA work collaboratively in this effort to match commuters with potential carpool. Partners and/or vanpools with open seats.

Model Atlanta Regional Commission - This program is youth leadership training for high school students (sophomores and juniors). This program involves five months of study where they work together to develop resolutions to make the Atlanta region a better place to live.

Platforms for Progress Survey- This survey tracks regional progress in critical areas identified by citizens and measures progress in five key areas: community involvement, regional prosperity, educational excellence, transportation and air quality and environmental sustainability. Over 1450 people were contacted in the 2006 survey.

Public Involvement Advisory Group – The goal of this group of public involvement practitioners is to coordinate public involvement meeting schedules through a regional calendar; distribute information regarding public outreach meetings, website information, and environmental justice information and learning opportunities.

Regional Leadership Institute (RLI) - A week-long regional leadership program specifically targeting regional issues.

State of the Region Breakfast – This is an annual event whereby ARC brings together regional leaders on significant developments.

Translators Pool – ARC has an internal resource list of outside translators as well as on site, including interpreters for the hearing impaired.