



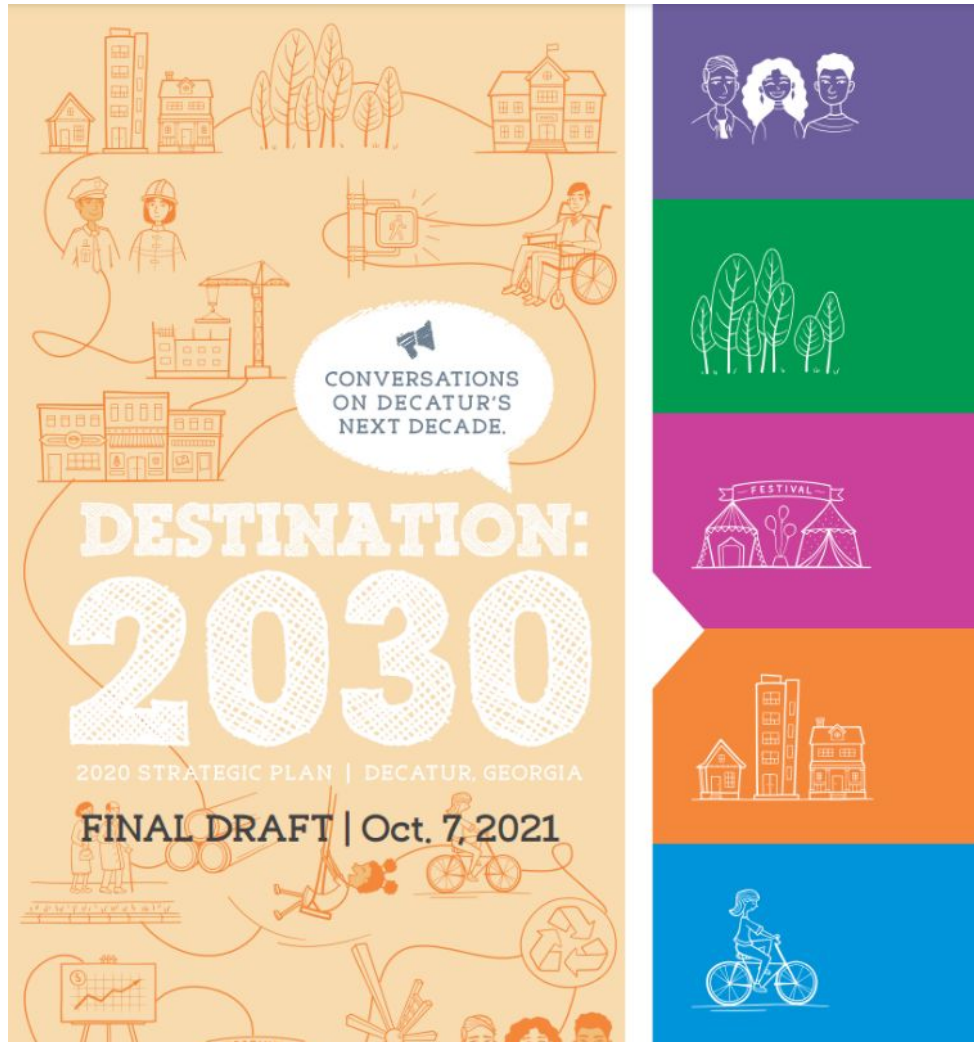
# Decatur: Community-Driven Clean Energy

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June 15, 2023



# Planning Context: 2020 Strategic Plan



**Vision:** Decatur will foster an **equitable, thriving, and welcoming community for all**, today and in the future.

**We Will:**

1. Think holistically
2. **Confront climate challenges**
3. Work together
4. Embrace accountability
5. Pioneer Innovation

# The Process

Project Launch

Input & Awareness

Action Identification & Prioritization

Develop & Refine Plan

Implementation

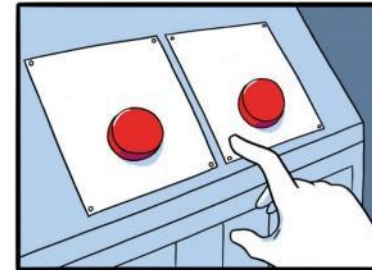
Initiate community engagement

Awareness through conversations

\*Beep boop\* Modeling & analytics

Create plan(s) & collect feedback

Help get it passed!



CLEAN ALL THE THINGS!



# Community Engagement

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## 3 Community Roundtables

- Community and Equity
- Clean Energy and the Economy
- The Built Environment

## 3 Learning Opportunities

- Weatherization and Equity
- Georgia Tech's Kendeda Building
- Climate Change and Health

**2 day In-Person Charrette**

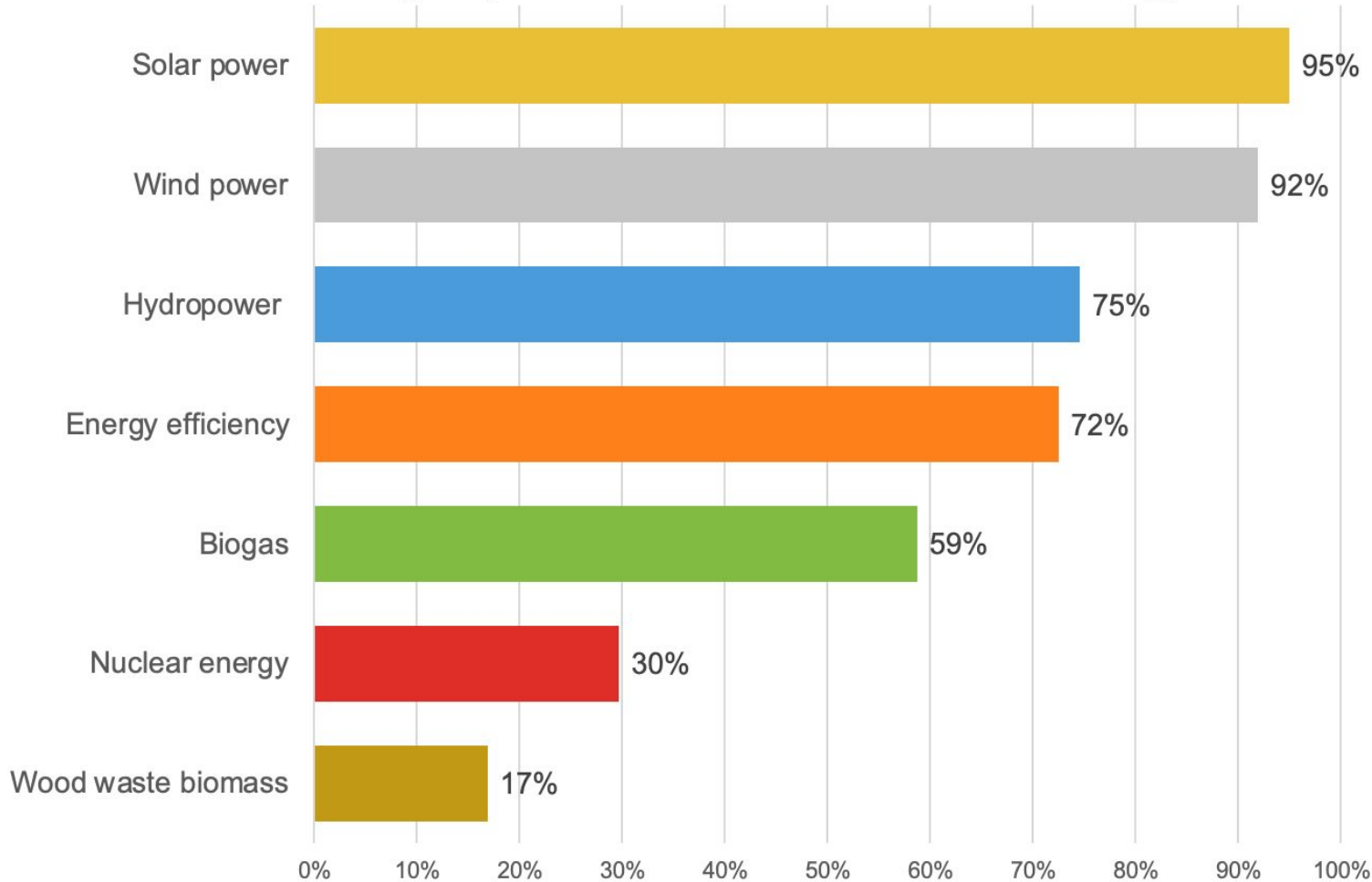
**260+ Survey Respondents**

**5 Youth Canvassing Events**



# What does clean and renewable mean to Decatur?

Which of the following do you consider clean and renewable energy sources?



Overwhelming support for **solar**, **wind**, **hydropower**, and **energy efficiency**

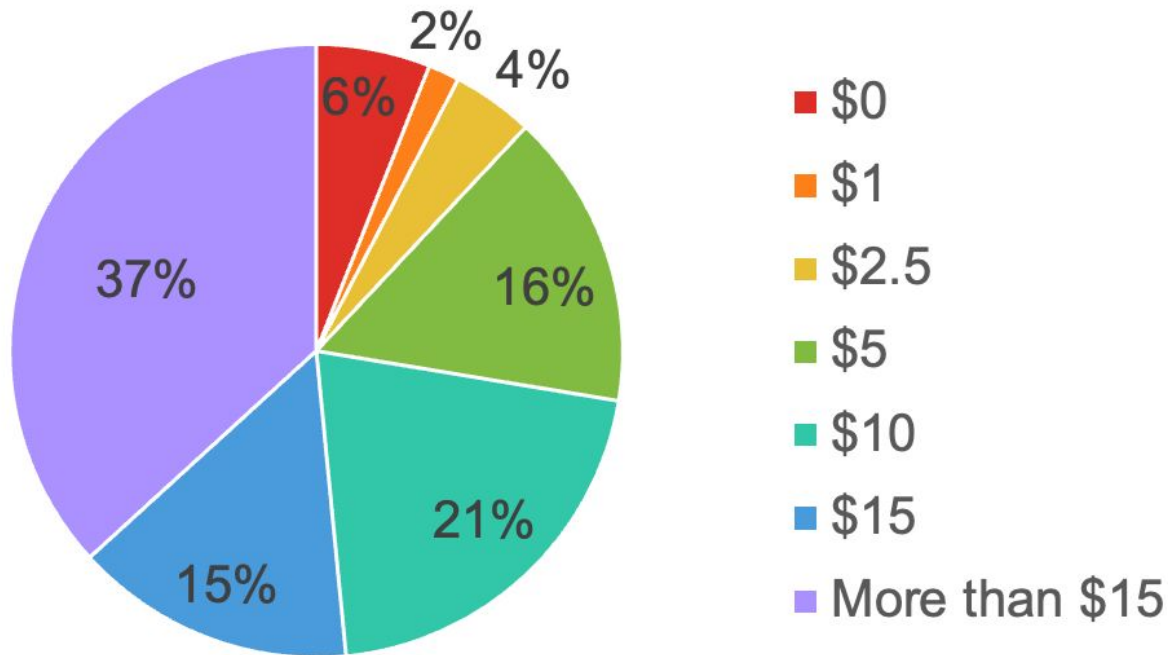
**Nuclear** energy lacks a strong endorsement

**Biogas** – yes or no?

# How much is Decatur willing to spend?

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In addition to your monthly energy bill, what is the maximum amount you could or would spend to receive clean and renewable energy?



88%

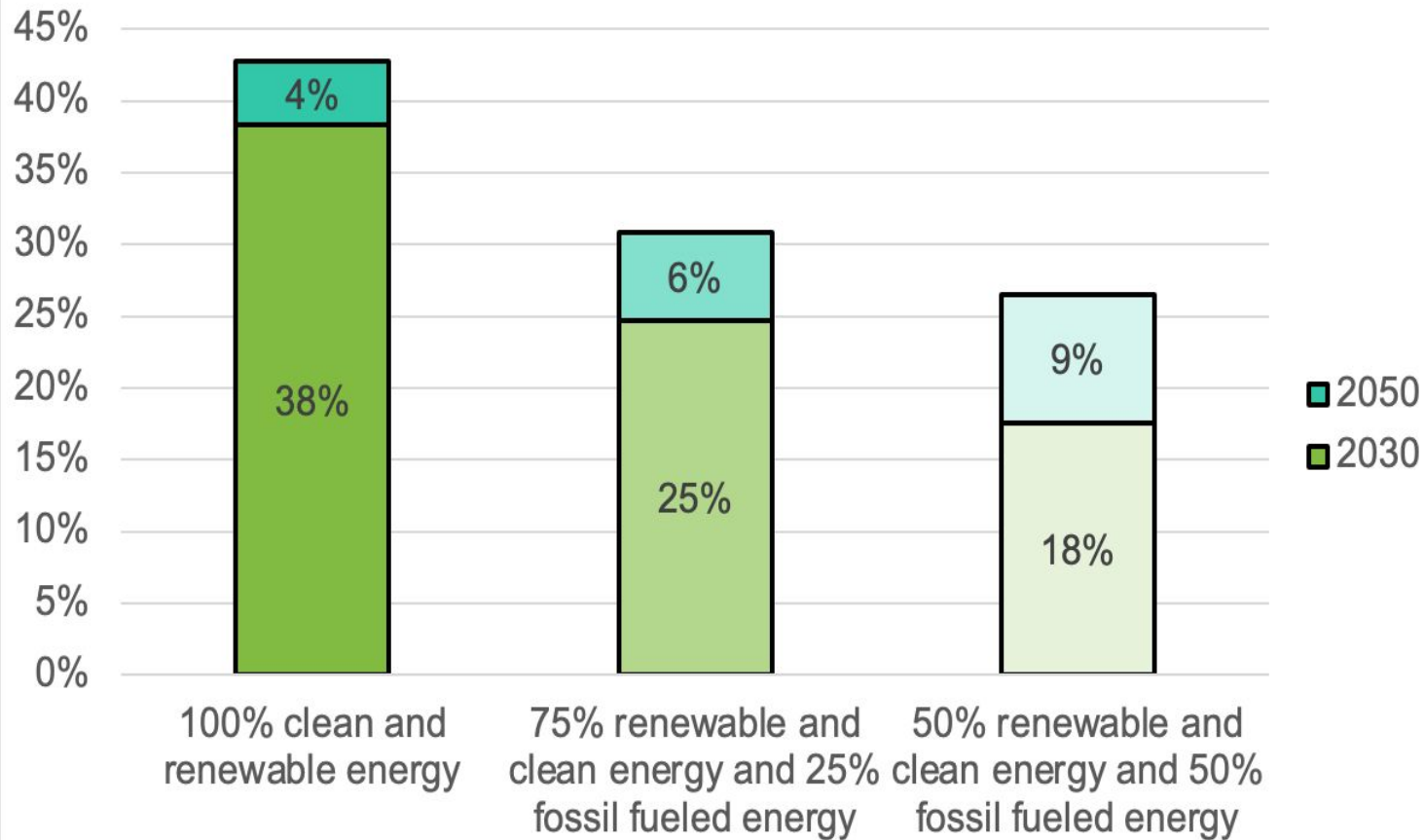
Respondents would spend **\$5 or more** a month for clean energy

37%

Respondents would spend **\$15 or more** a month for clean energy

# When does Decatur want change?

What timeline do you most agree with?



63%

Respondents want **at least**  $\frac{3}{4}$  clean and renewable energy by 2030

81%

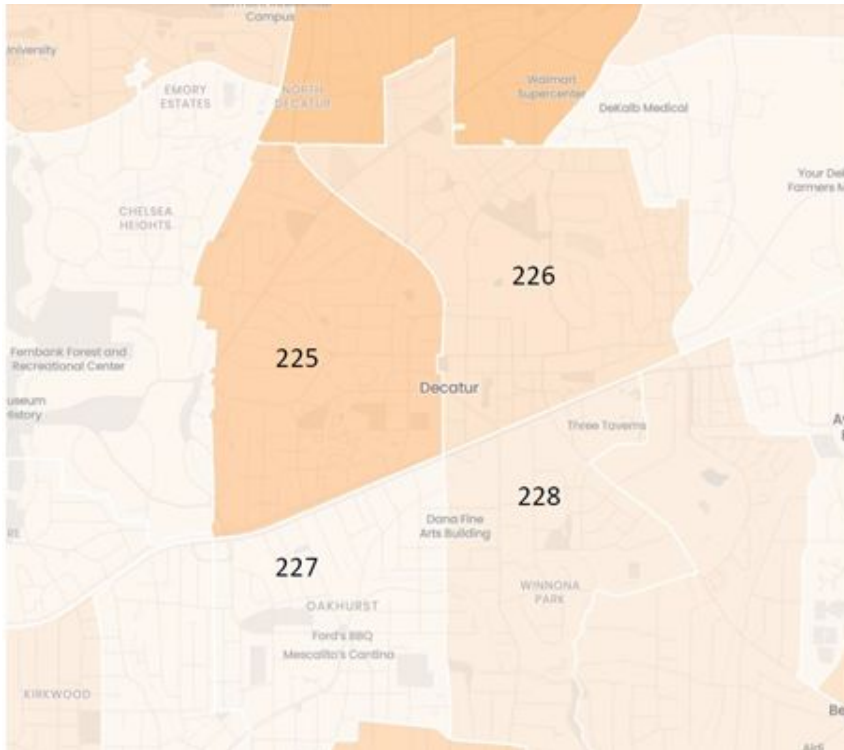
Respondents want **at least half** clean and renewable energy by 2030

A **majority** of respondents want these changes to be made

**by 2030**

# Centering (Energy) Equity

**14% of households** spend more than 10% of their income on energy bills, making them **severely energy burdened**.



Census Tract	Number of Households	Number of Households with Severe Energy Burden	Median Household Income
225	2662	638	\$90,645
226	2970	328	\$82,129
227	1730	141	\$136,333
228	1308	161	\$136,705

**High energy burden** is especially common for renters, low-income households, and communities of color that have disproportionately impacted by systemically racist housing policies.



## Clean Energy Goals

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- **2030** – Municipal buildings use 100% clean and renewable energy
- **2035** – Municipal fleet fully electrified;
  - Community buildings use 100% clean and renewable electricity
- **2050** – All community uses, including transportation, use 100% clean and renewable energy

# Pathway Summaries

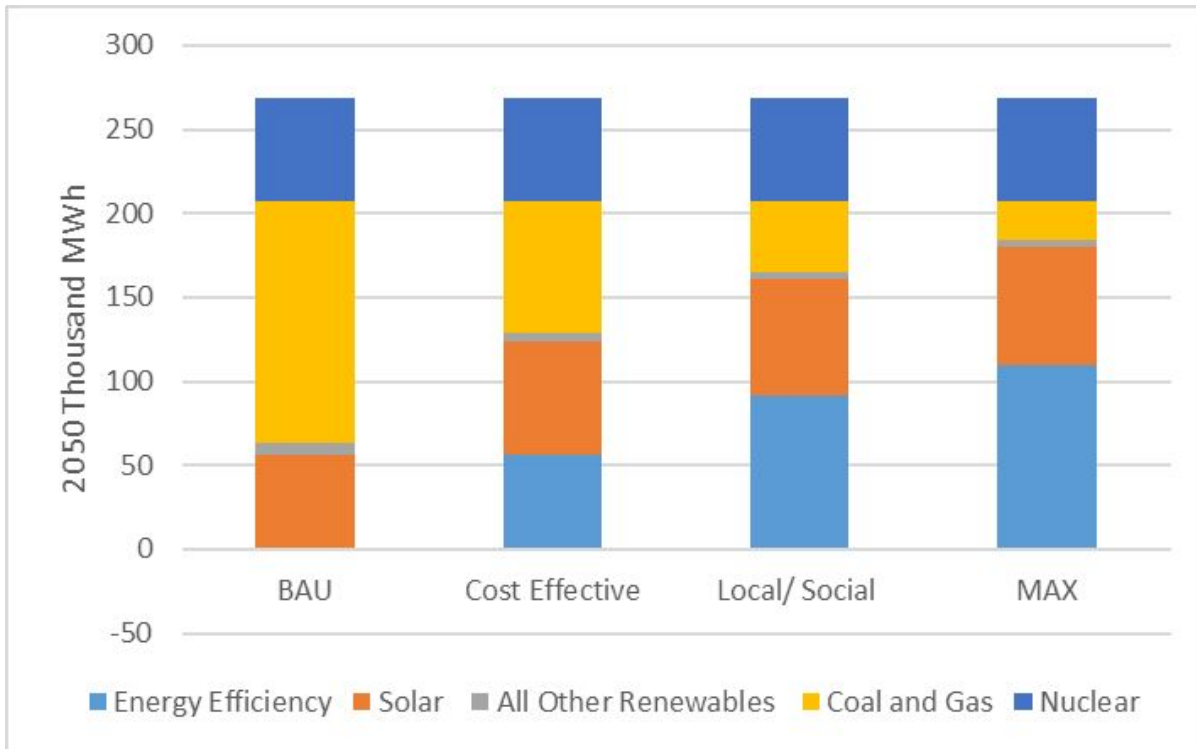
## Pathway Cumulative (2030 – 2050) Outcomes

	BAU	MCE	SLI	MAX
Benefits (\$M)	-	428	520	634
Costs (\$M)	-	35	57	86
Benefit/Cost Ratio	-	12.2	9.1	7.4
Net Jobs	-	120	160	225
Household Income Increase (\$M)	-	24	33	47
Gross Regional Product (\$M)	-	55	72	99
Public Health Savings (\$M)	-	26	36	43
Household Bill Savings (\$M)	-	20	24	30
CO2 Emissions Avoided (MMT)	-	0.59	0.92	1.17

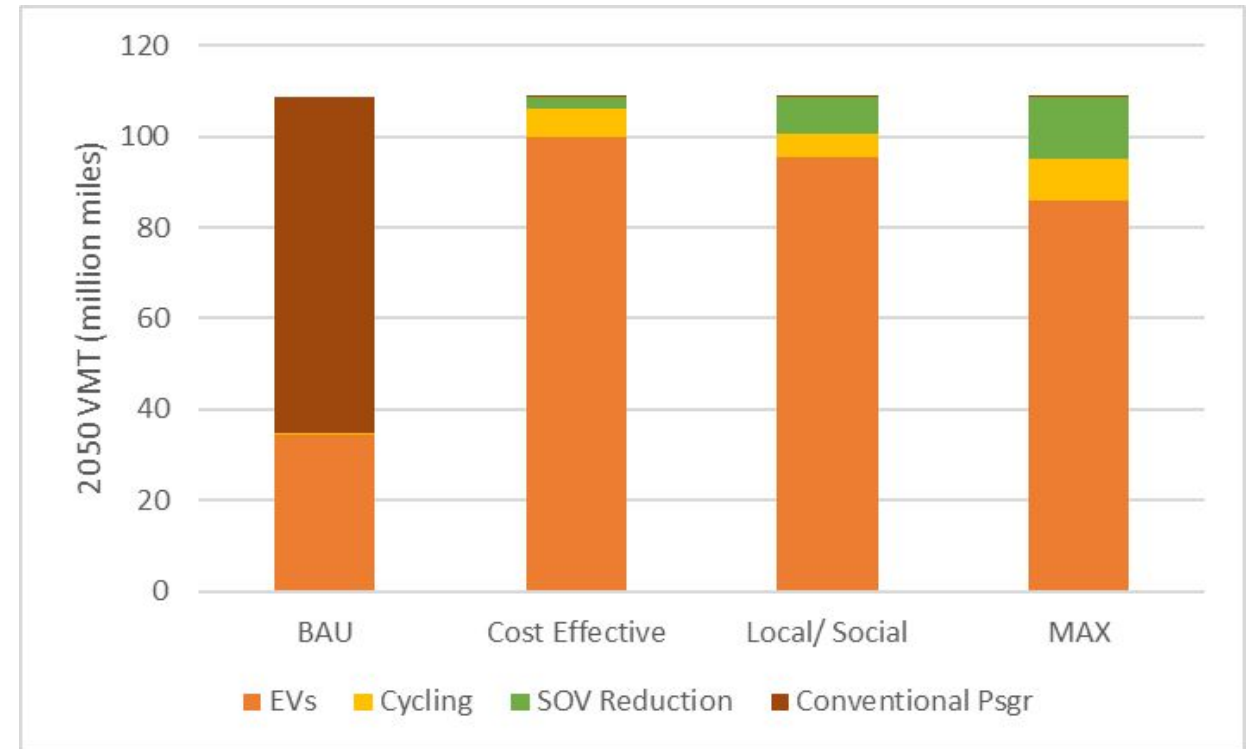
- (BAU): Business As Usual
- (MCE): Most Cost-Effective
- (SLI): Social and Local Impact
- (MAX): Maximum Case

# Pathways to 100% Clean Energy

Energy Supply Forecast



Transportation Forecast



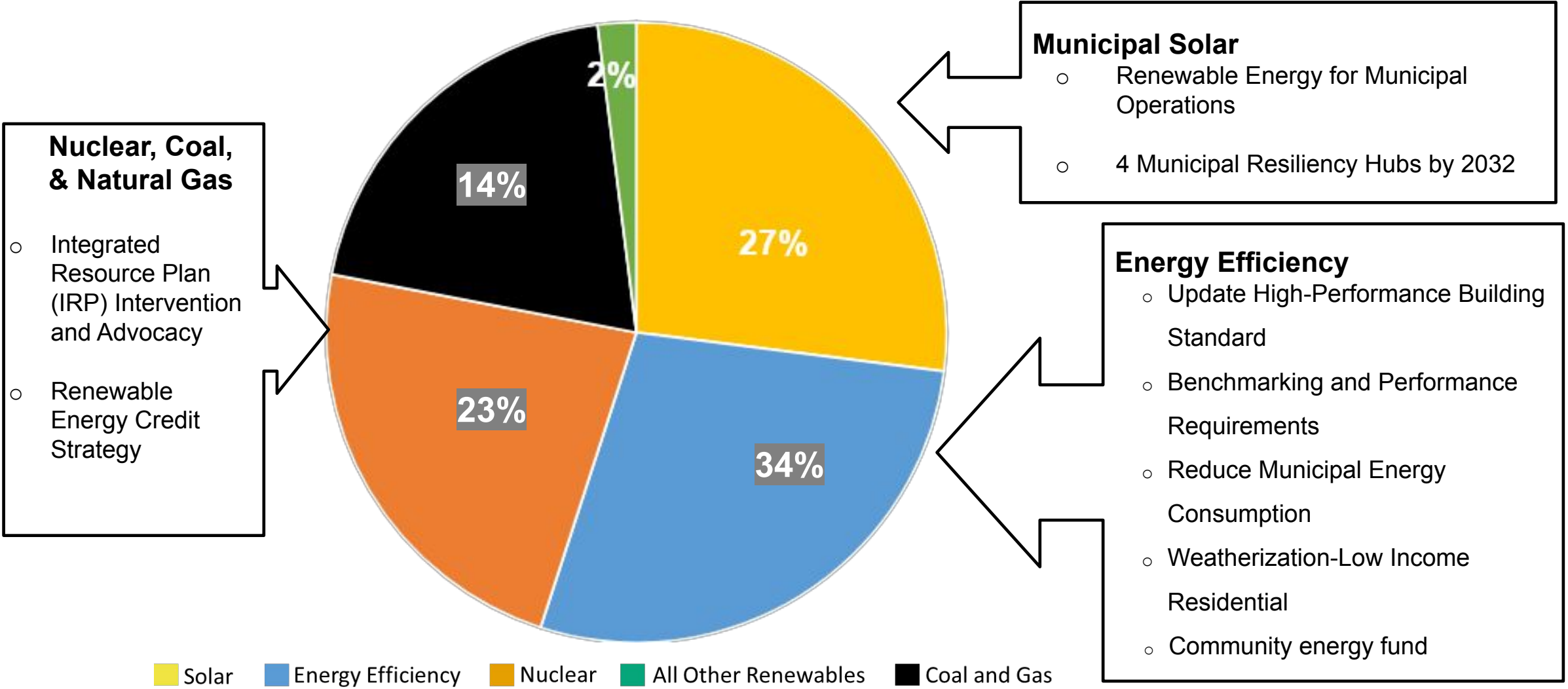
# Outcome

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- **Sept 26, 2022** – Decatur City Commission adopted the clean energy plan!
  - Community chose the SLI scenario



# Decatur's Top Policy Options



■ Solar ■ Energy Efficiency ■ Nuclear ■ All Other Renewables ■ Coal and Gas



# THANK YOU!

Read the plan:  
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# APPENDIX

# Survey Results: Common Themes

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## **Decatur should be a leader when it comes to reducing their impact on climate change:**

- *“We as a city should and absolutely MUST be the leader on this. We need to be the model for the rest of the state and all the south.”*
- *“[We need to] hold city leaders accountable to make this happen as quickly as possible.”*
- *“Prioritize commercial and municipal shifts before [making requirements from the] residential [sector].”*

## **Decatur needs to be transparent and engaging in their clean and renewable energy transition:**

- *“Decatur should make this a flagship and very visible program.”*
- *“Publicize the goals constantly; get material to classrooms”*

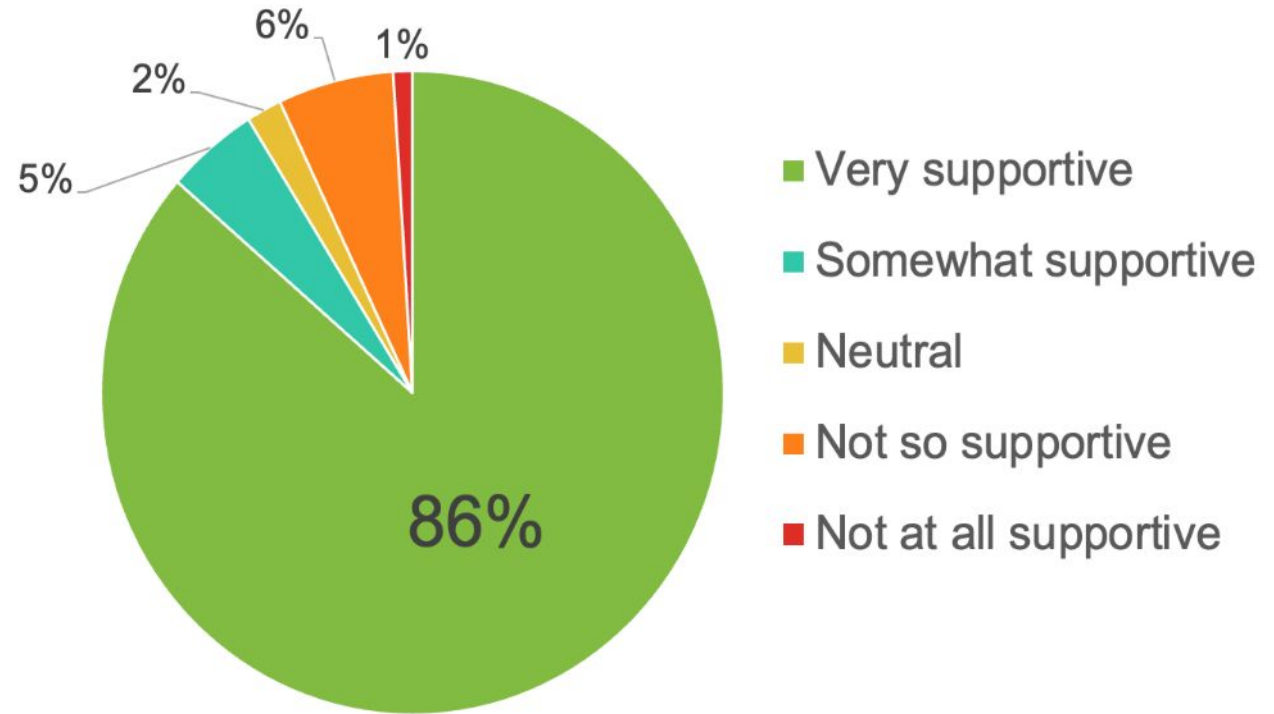


# Survey Results: Key Questions

# 86%

Respondents are **very supportive** of a transition to cleaner energy  
Not counting write-in

If you were aware of Decatur's plans to transition to clean and renewable energy prior to this survey, how supportive are you of transitioning to cleaner energy?



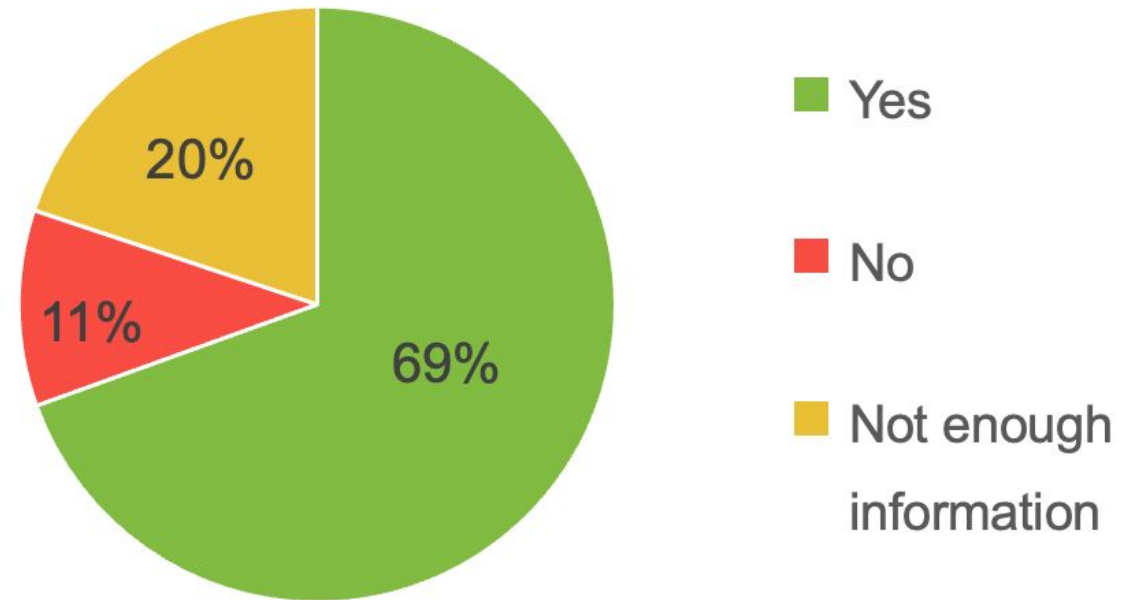
# Survey Results: Key Questions

69%

Respondents want to see Decatur  
**completely phase out fossil  
fuels**

Not counting write-in

Do you think Decatur should completely phase out its use of fossil-fueled energy sources, such as coal and natural gas?



# Clean Energy Impact Areas

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## Leading by Example

- Transition all municipal buildings to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2030

## Building Community Through Equitable Investment

- Provide funding for energy audits, weatherization, and rooftop solar installations through Community Energy Funds eligible for donations from the public
- Fund local clean energy initiatives

## Community Energy Fund

- Establish a sustainable mechanism to support community projects; Focus on equity and local workforce development

## Greening the Built Environment

- Zero Energy Ready
- Building Performance Standard

## Moving to Low and No-Carbon Transportation

- Reduce single-occupant vehicle trips by enhancing cycling infrastructure and e-bike access
- EV Shuttle
- VMT Reduction

## Advocating for Larger Solutions

- Actively engage and intervene in future IRPs
- Create partnerships with similar cities

## Closing the Gap

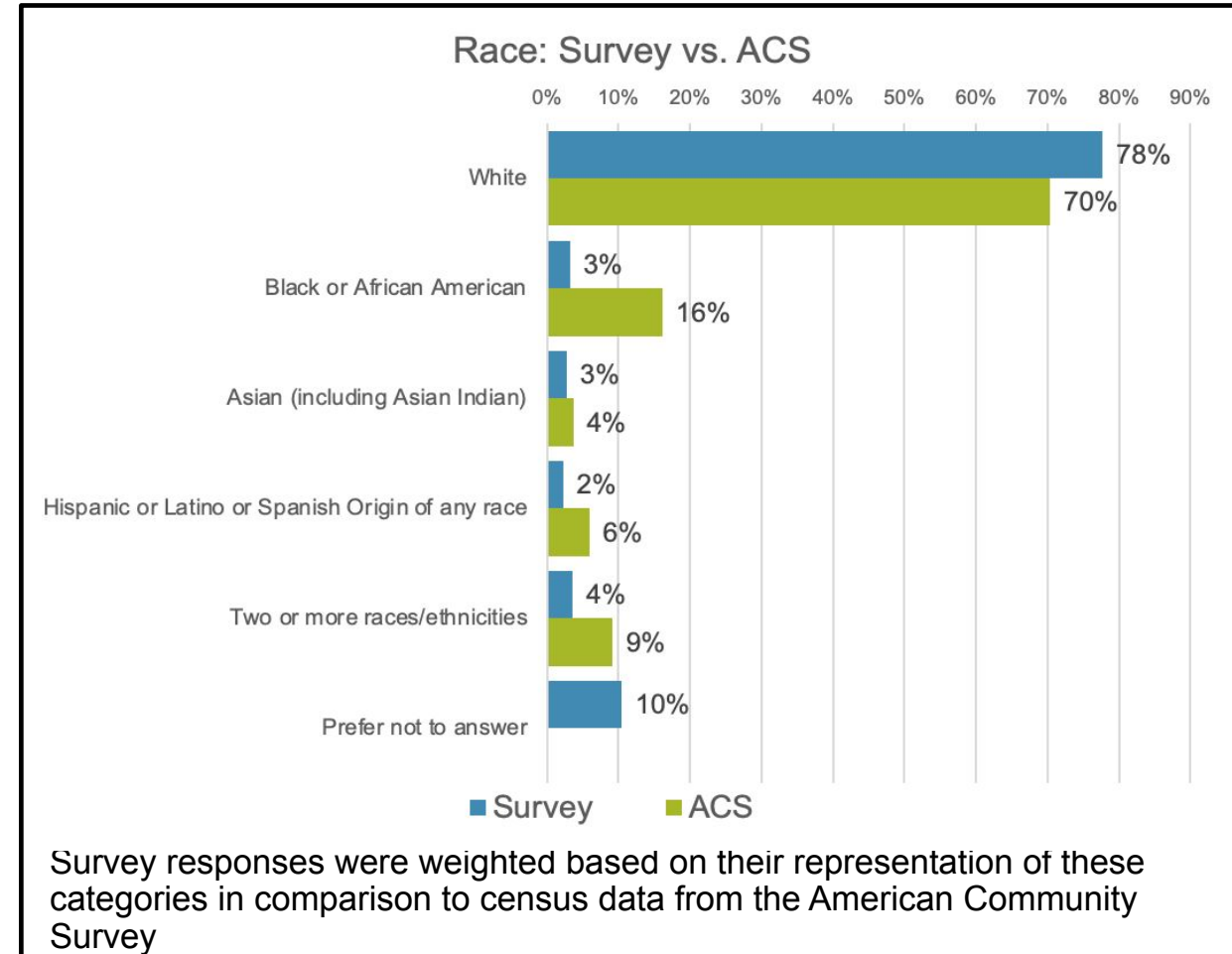
- Design local offset programs
- Leverage Clean Energy Advisory Board
- Buy local RECs (strategy)-long term (after 2030 strategy)

# Survey Results

Over 260 people took Decatur's survey around the city's decision to move toward 100% clean and renewable energy

Of those respondents, 222 were Decatur residents and 41 were Atlanta residents.

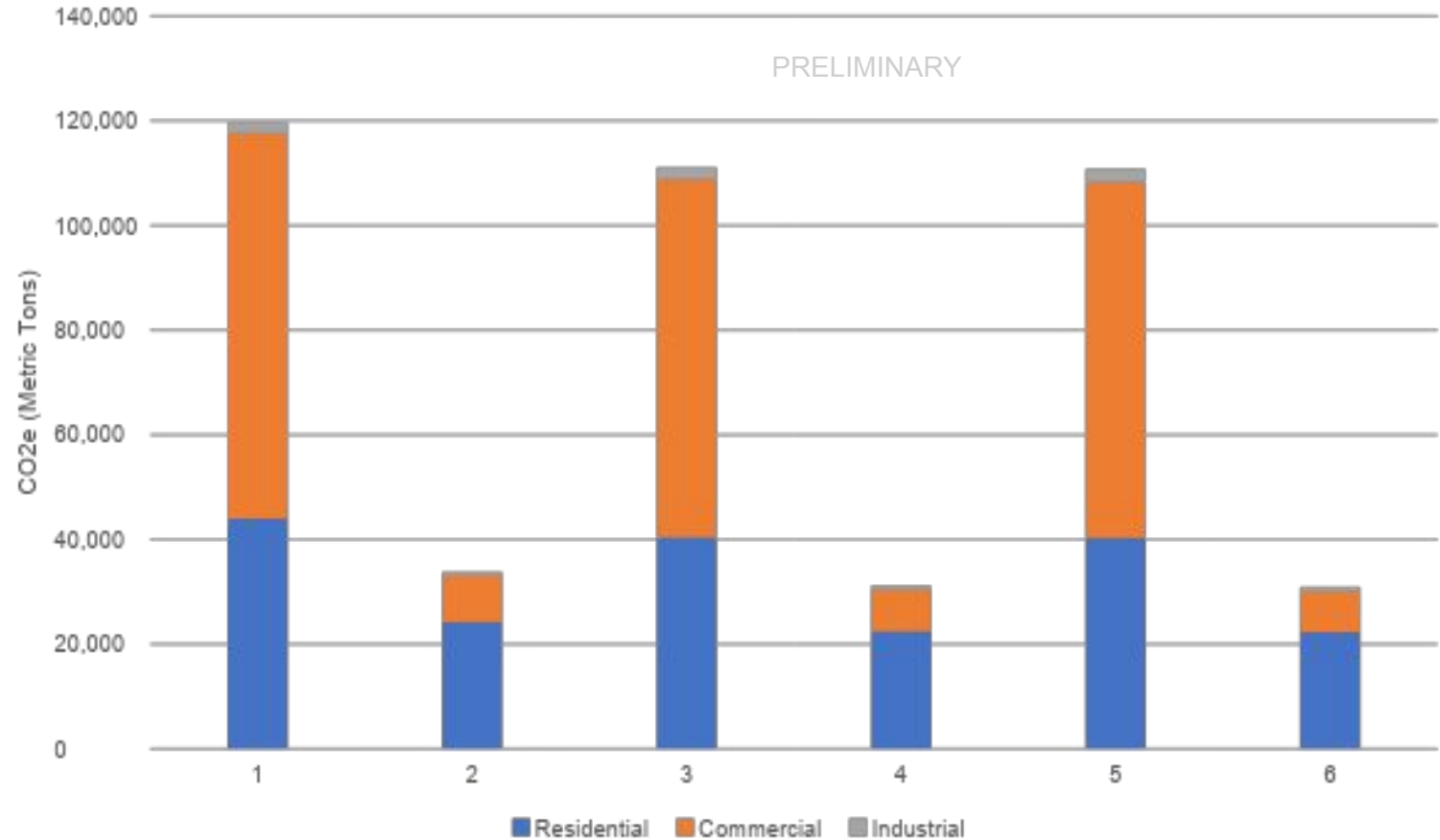
- **Race:** 196 White, 13 Black, 9 Asian Pacific, 5 Hispanic or Latino respondents
- **Gender:** 50% female, 44% male
- **Age:** 70% of respondents were 40+, where 30% were 60+ and 11% were under 30
- **Income:** Over half reported a household income of \$100k+ in 2019
- **Owner/renter status:** 85% owners, 11% renters



# Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Decatur

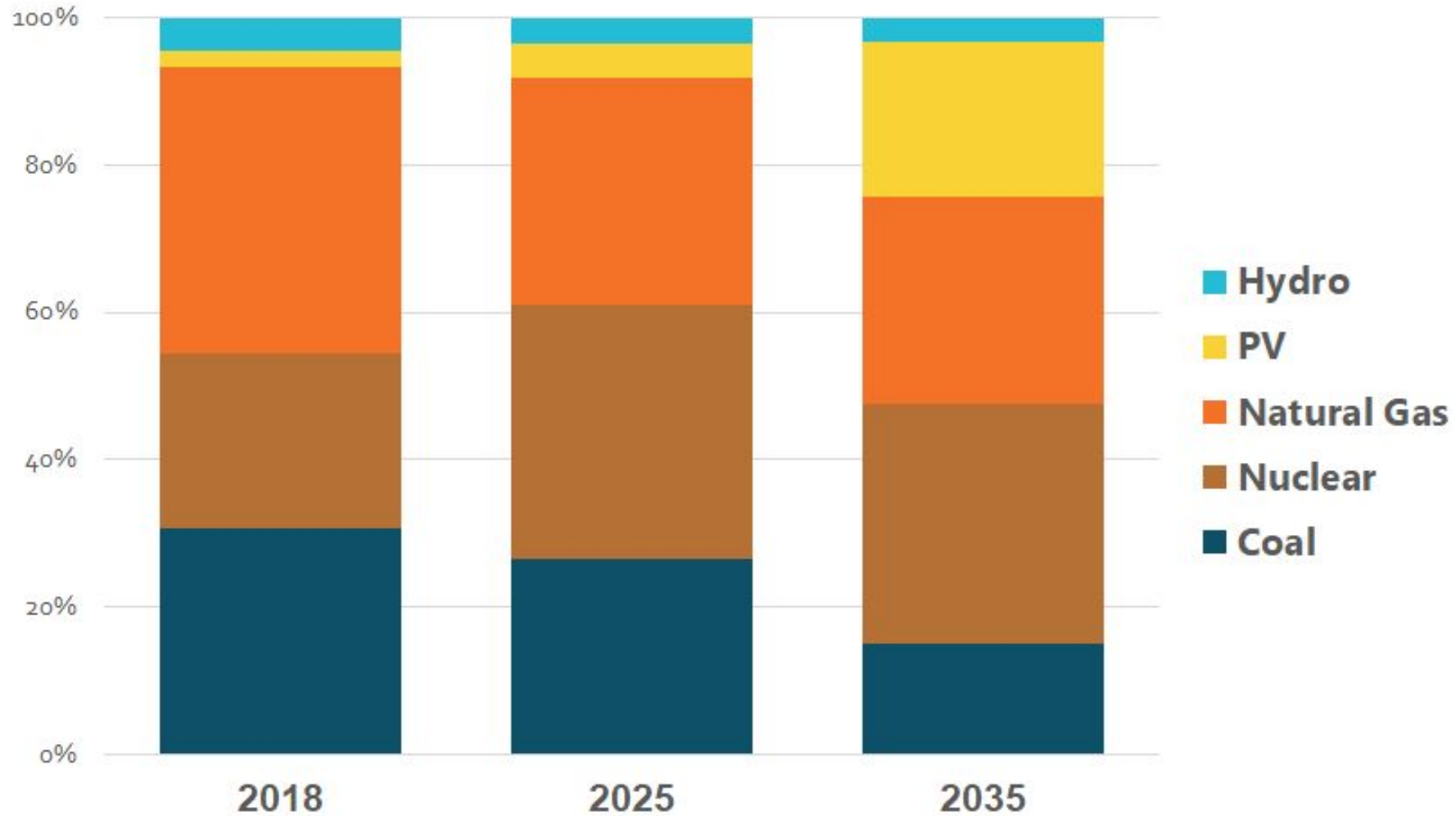
Residential buildings consume a majority of Decatur's energy demand (51%) but produce 17% less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than commercial buildings.

Total emissions reduce by 8% from 2020 to 2050 if Decatur continues with business as usual.



# Our Current Sources of Energy

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# Pathways to 100% CE: Residential and Commercial Energy Efficiency

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## Expand Existing Programs

- COD Community and Economic Development Department forms partnership with ACTION
- MLK Service Project
- Decatur Land Trust Home Rehab Program

## Create Community-wide Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Program

- Based on success of 'Solarize' to take advantage of bulk purchasing

# Pathways to 100% CE: Benchmarking and Performance Standards

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## Policy Options and Goals

- Improve and advance code towards net-zero energy requirements for new municipal, institutional, and commercial construction
- Benchmarking: Require commercial and multifamily buildings to track and report energy and water consumption
- Performance Standards: Require periodic energy performance improvements

**2035**  
Net Zero-Ready

**2038**  
Net Zero



# Pathways to 100% CE: Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Public

## Transportation

### 10% Reduction in VMTs by 2030 with TDM Programming

- Expand local bus service including “first and last mile” connections to metro transit
- Parking management and monitoring, financial incentives
- Continue densification of commercial districts, transit-oriented development
- Commute reduction program
  - Carpool/vanpool through employer/city-provided vehicles
  - Transit incentives such as free MARTA pass

### Increase Bike/Pedestrian Commutes to 15% of total

- Bike lane striping, expanded bike lane and safety infrastructure
- Bike and E-bike rental program
- Achieve Gold Status: Bicycle Friendly Community Certification

# Pathways to 100% CE: State Level Advocacy

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## 2022

- Expanded efficiency and equity-focused funding in Georgia Power (IRP)\*
- Monitor PSC proceedings
- Advocate for net metering (“monthly netting”) in Georgia Power Rate Case

## 2025

- IRP intervention with specific program requests from the Decatur Clean Energy Plan

## 2026 and Onward

- Decatur leadership in the DSMWG
- Re-negotiate Franchise Agreement with Georgia Power

# Pathways to 100% CE: Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

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## Purchase Locally

- Decatur > County > Metro > Southeast > National
- Consider carbon avoidance (if using National)
- Best to invest somewhere that doesn't have as much renewable energy

## Bulk Buying

- Buy them all at once (cheaper) or buy them annually (more expensive, but more options)
- Buying them now (\$5-10/ MW ) is cheaper but would still have to buy every year - based on a typical national price
- Building your own solar (\$70-80/ MW), but it will be there for the entirety of the 30 years