



Milton Grows Green Committee Press Release January 12, 2008

Atlanta Regional Commission Recognizes City's Efforts Through Milton Grows Green Committee

MILTON, GA., Jan. 12, 2009 – The Atlanta Regional Commission recently recognized the City of Milton with its CREATE Community Local Government Innovation Award for the work of the Milton Grows Green committee.

The award honors a local government in the 10-county metro Atlanta region for creative efforts to improve efficiency and services to citizens in each of five categories, according to Kellie Brownlow, ARC's head of Local Government Services. Milton's award came in the category of community involvement and collaboration; others include community education, technology and environmental sustainability.

The Atlanta Regional Commission describes this award as recognizing active community involvement and collaborative projects that demonstrate new and innovative ways of working with residents, neighboring cities and counties, the school system and other partners to support collective goals and attain a shared vision for a greater community.

"MGG is honored to have been able to help Milton obtain positive recognition for its efforts in implementing a comprehensive approach to environmental and sustainability issues facing the city," said one of MGG's co-chairs Jon McPhail. He believes that Milton won the award because of City Council's adoption of MGG's broad-based approach to dealing with environmental issues, rather than separating different initiatives within various departments and agencies. MGG has subcommittees focused on the three Rs (all aspects of recycling, including reduction and reuse of materials), air, water and energy, land use and building standards, and community education.

"It is wonderful for Milton Grows Green to be recognized in this way," said Councilwoman Julie Zahner Bailey, who championed the committee's creation. "I am so proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of committed, caring and engaged volunteer citizens and business partners who truly care about the best interests of our distinctive community and who are helping to make Milton the best and the 'greenest' it can be."

MGG has been involved with activities such as the Adopt-A-Road and Adopt-A-Stream programs, Rivers Alive, marking stormwater drains, a pilot environmental program at Hopewell Middle School, a free recycling program at Bell Memorial Park and Christmas tree recycling. MGG is also engaged in long-term research and development of programs to promote appropriate land use patterns and assure higher-quality development within the City.

The committee coordinates the efforts of individual volunteers and community-based organizations through the efforts of its own members, who include Milton residents, business partners and those with an interest in the environment in Milton. For more information, e-mail miltongrowsgreen@earthlink.net.

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