



# Gwinnett County Government Communications Division NEWS RELEASE

Charles E. Bannister, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

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## GWINNETT NETS POWER SAVINGS

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Sept. 29, 2010) – Back in April 2009, Gwinnett County hired a consultant to analyze its electricity accounts and recommend ways to reduce the \$22 million it was spending to power its offices, courtrooms, water and sewer systems, traffic and street lights, computers, sports fields, the jail, the prison and other County facilities.

Since December 2009, this effort has produced ongoing savings of over \$250,000. These ongoing savings are expected to increase to over \$500,000 for the year. In addition, Gwinnett County has received one-time savings, due to refunds, of over \$75,000. A number of additional refunds are presently being reviewed that, if realized, will increase this figure, according to County officials.

The consultant, Utilities Analyses, Inc. (UAI), studied approximately 150 County accounts with Georgia Power, Jackson EMC, Walton EMC, Sawnee EMC and the cities of Lawrenceville, Norcross and Buford. “These savings are mostly the result of finding rate adjustments and refunds on 74 of these accounts,” said Dennis Baxter, an engineer with Gwinnett’s Facilities Management Division. “The contractor gets paid based on actual savings with no retainers or up-front fees at all.” UAI will monitor all accounts for three years to document savings.

“Water Resources, with 30 accounts for various treatment plants and pump stations, has begun saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual energy costs under this program alone,” said Board Chairman Charles Bannister. “Plus we’re building a waste-to-energy generator powered by methane gas to produce some of the power we need for sewage treatment.”

On the demand side of energy management, Baxter added that the County has identified 36 initiatives in nine categories to reduce annual costs and environmental impacts by using sustainable “green” practices. Through the implementation of these practices, the County hopes to further reduce its energy costs by an additional \$1 million annually. The County will fund many of these initiatives through a \$7.3-million grant funded by the federal stimulus. More information is available at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com).

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