



ReBuildATL Coalition Description

It is well documented that America's economic system sets boundaries and exclusionary policies that are extractive and degenerative of historically marginalized communities of color. These vulnerable communities persist in Metropolitan Atlanta, particularly in vulnerable communities on the west and southwest sides. The Rebuild ATL Coalition is led by community-based organizations that are long-time, trusted leaders from westside communities, in partnership with higher education institutions, industry partners, and government agencies. The Coalition supports these communities' reclamation and reuse with the objective of creating a circular economy that is equitable, sustainable, decarbonized and resilient. We aim to inspire the next generation of residents to draw on their assets to rise above trauma and barriers that limit opportunity. Our lens is regenerative: we focus on removing barriers and replenishing communities to help them move from surviving to thriving.

Founded to mitigate the disproportionate impact of climate change on historically marginalized communities, the Coalition's pilot program focused on deconstruction workforce training intended to lead to greater opportunities for residents from westside communities. Our expanded scope now focuses on improving access to green, sustainable, high performance affordable housing, jobs, and careers. Our work includes pushing for energy efficiency and electrification to transition to community-based clean energy deployment to advance equitable, community-driven development. Through a partnership with the organization Build Reuse, a national network of building material reuse organizations; and through composting and urban agriculture, we aim to build a reuse economy that is sustainable, resilient, and grounded in community-driven action.

While grounded in deconstruction and reuse, our overall vision and mission is to develop an asset-based model for addressing energy challenges as well as clean energy solutions that result in community-owned regeneration that can be replicated across the country.

OUR HISTORY

We were founded in 2022 with a grant from EPA Region 4 to stand up a workforce development program rooted in reusing building and construction materials and begin growing the reuse economy in the Atlanta region. Our pilot program, *Breaking Barriers Through Deconstruction*, supported a network of community-based organizations to green economy workforce development program, which included teaching deconstruction and construction skills through on-the-job deconstruction projects with the Grove Park Theater and Roswell Community Masjid Barn. Twelve trainees, all westside residents ranging in age from 19 to 60, completed the program and participated in the graduation ceremony held at Georgia Tech's Living Building, The Kendeda Building for Sustainable Innovative Design. Fundraising is under way to execute this program again with an increased focus on preparing trainees to pursue career paths of their choice.

In 2023, the network received a Community Clean Energy Coalition Prize from the U.S. Department of Energy to support home energy efficiency and solar deployment to reduce energy burdens, address housing affordability and access, and improve health outcomes while advancing a culture of sustainability.

Completed in April 2024

<https://www.lifecyclebuildingcenter.org/rebuildatl>