Healthy Children for a Better Washington County

Fall-line Alliance for a Clean Environment
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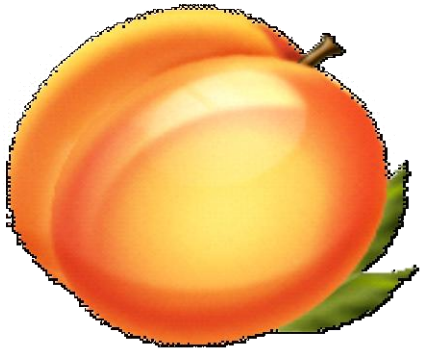
Executive Director

How healthy are we?



Georgia consistently ranks in the mid 40s when compared to other states on chronic disease, morbidity and mortality, health status, access to care, and other indicators.

Robert Wood Johnson and the University of Wisconsin's county health rankings were released in early 2011.

- Fayette County ranked 1st for Health Outcomes and Factors
- Calhoun County ranked 156 for Health Outcomes.
- Hancock County ranked 156 for Health Factors.

Echols , Taliaferro , Webster Counties are not ranked

An estimated 12% of children ages 0-17 years in Georgia have asthma. Among children with asthma, hospitalization rates are highest for those ages four and under.

HOSPITALIZATIONS and ER Visits

- More than **54,000 ER visits for asthma occurred in Georgia in 2007**
- More than **10,000 hospitalizations for asthma occurred in Georgia in 2007**
- Asthma hospitalization rates were • **highest among young children and older adults**
- Blacks were • **twice as likely as whites to be hospitalized with asthma**
- Hospitalization charges related to asthma • totaled more than **$132 million in 2007**
- Children ages 0 to 4 had the **highest rate for asthma-related ER visit 1,428 per 100,000 persons**

2010 Georgia Data Summary, Dept. of Community Health

In Washington County:

- Total Population: 20,879
- Pediatric Asthma: 490
- Adult Asthma: 1,097
- Chronic Bronchitis: 701
- Emphysema: 352
- Cardiovascular Disease: 5,923
- Diabetes: 1,681
- Children Under 18: 4,969
- Adults 65 & Over: 2,758
- Poverty Estimate: 4,709

American Lung Association State of the Air 2011

COAL PLANTS' IMPACT ON AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

According to a 2010 report from the Clean Air Task Force, fine particle pollution linked to the coal industry is expected to cause over 13,000 premature deaths in 2010 as well as almost 10,000 hospitalizations and more than 20,000 heart attacks per year.[1] Research shows that communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the air pollution caused by coal plants.

In 2002, the Clean Air Task Force and the Coalition for the People's Agenda described how dirty power plants saddled African American communities with dirty and toxic air.[2]

Footnotes:

1. "The Toll from Coal." Clean Air Task Force, 2010. http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/view/138.
2. "Air of Injustice." Clean Air Task Force and the Coalition for the Peoples' Agenda, 2002. http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/Air_of_Injustice.pdf

The air in our communities violates air quality standards: 71% of African Americans live in counties that violate federal air pollution standards, compared to 58% of the white population.

- 68% of African Americans live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant — the distance within which the maximum effects of the smokestack plume are expected to occur.

- Asthma attacks send African Americans to the emergency room at three times the rate (174.3 visits per 10,000 population) of whites (59.4 visits per 10,000 population).

Plant Washington will pollute our air for decades and impact our health for lifetimes.

Annual emissions from Plant Washington, according to the pollution permit application filed by Power4Georgians, include:

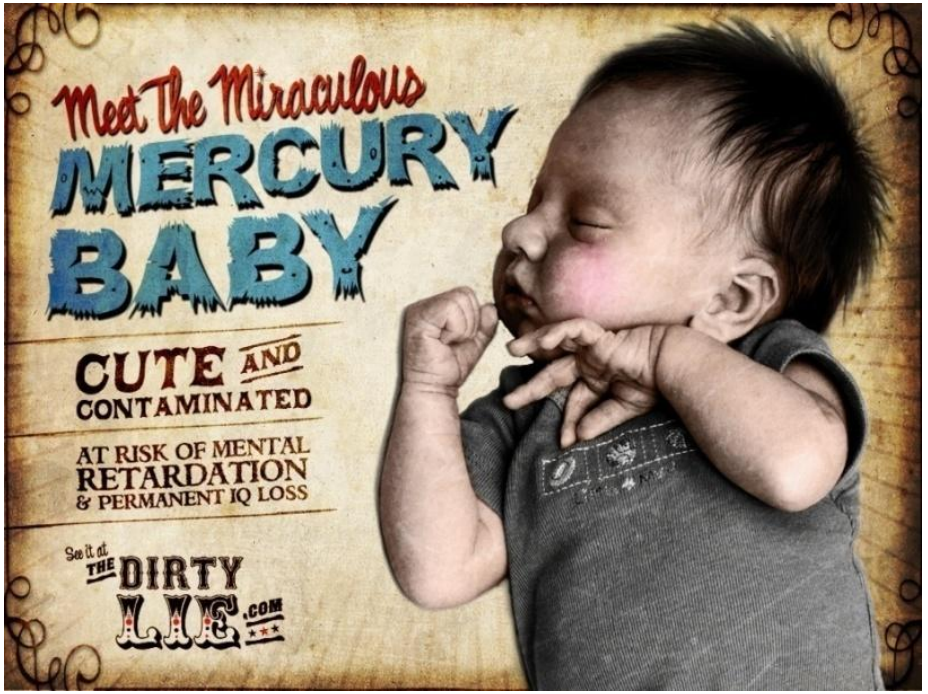
- Over 1,000 tons of **soot particles**, 40 percent of which would comprise fine soot that the EPA says, because of its microscopic size – less than one-seventh the width of an average human hair – can lodge deeply in the lungs, causing respiratory ailments
- 1,890 tons **sulfur dioxide**, the main cause of acid rain
- 1,345 tons of **nitrogen oxides**, which are a chief ingredient in the formation of dangerous ozone pollution
- 87 tons of **volatile organic compounds**
- 144 tons of **sulfuric acid, the main cause of acid rain**
- 3,635 tons of **carbon monoxide**
- 6.9 million tons of **carbon dioxide**, equivalent to the amount of global warming pollution emitted every year by over 1 million cars.
- 1,163 pounds of **lead, a potent neurotoxin**

And then there is the mercury:

63 pounds of mercury will be pumped into our air each year. 533 pounds of mercury, which will be dumped into a landfill.

Mercury levels already are so high that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division has issued fish consumption advisories for a number of rivers and streams, including the Ogeechee and Oconee. **Adding just 20 pounds of mercury annually to the Ogeechee River would make fish completely unsafe to eat.**

Is this the best we can do for our children and their children?



The EPD calculates that that over 30 years time the plant will store 8 tons of mercury, 800 tons of arsenic, and other heavy metals as coal ash waste.

The landfill waste will be as high as a 4 story building, cover 400 acres, and be dumped on a liner, which must be tested for leakage.

And the coal ash won’t stay in the landfill

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE SOUTH

APPENDIX G

STATE PROFILES OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SOUTH:GEORGIA

Marilyn A. Brown,[1] Joy Wang,[1] Matt Cox, [1] Youngsun Baek,[1] Rodrigo Cortes,[1] Benjamin Deitchman, [1] Elizabeth Noll, [1] Yu Wang, [1] Etan Gumerman,[2] Xiaojing Sun[2]

[1]Georgia Institute of Technology
[2]Duke University

April 13, 2010

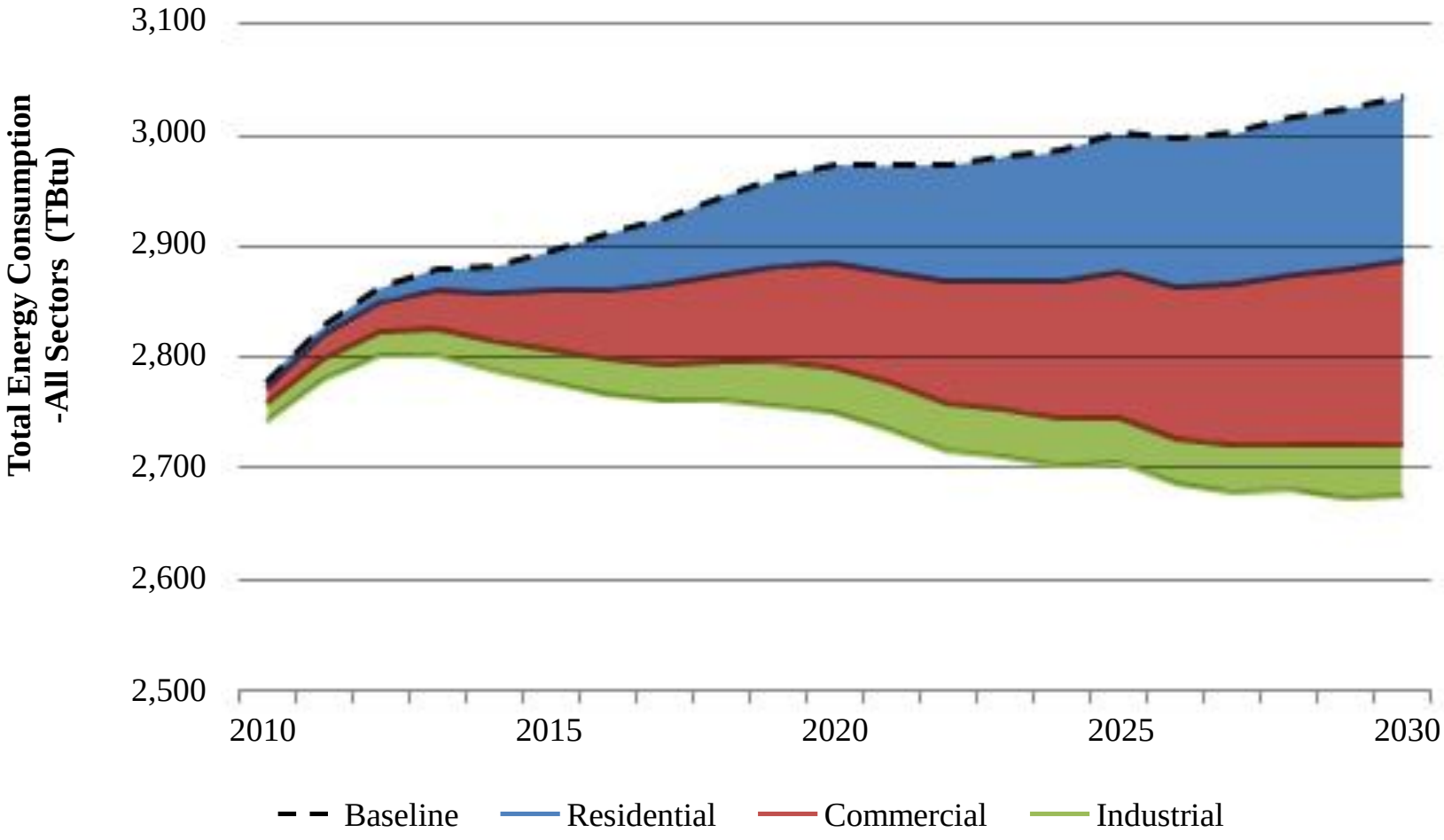
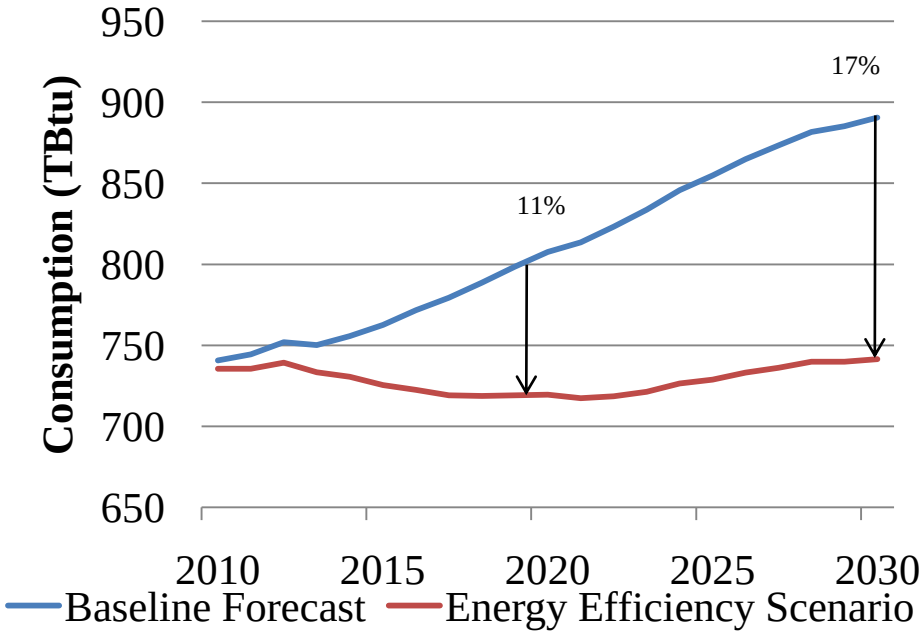
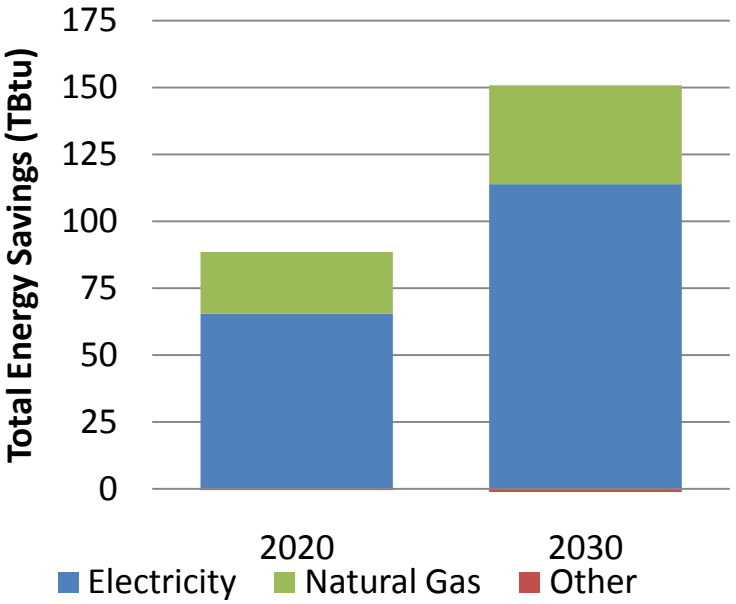


Figure 3: Energy Efficiency Potential in Georgia

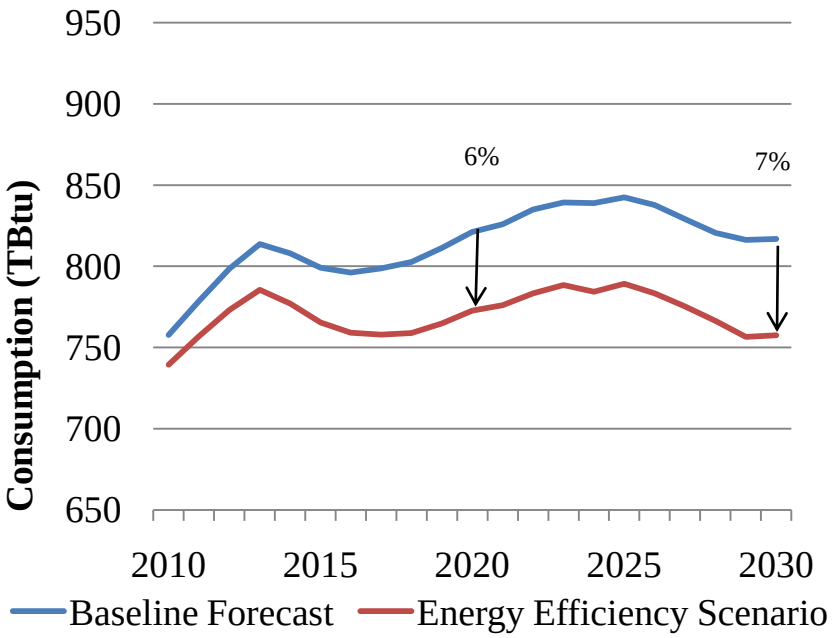


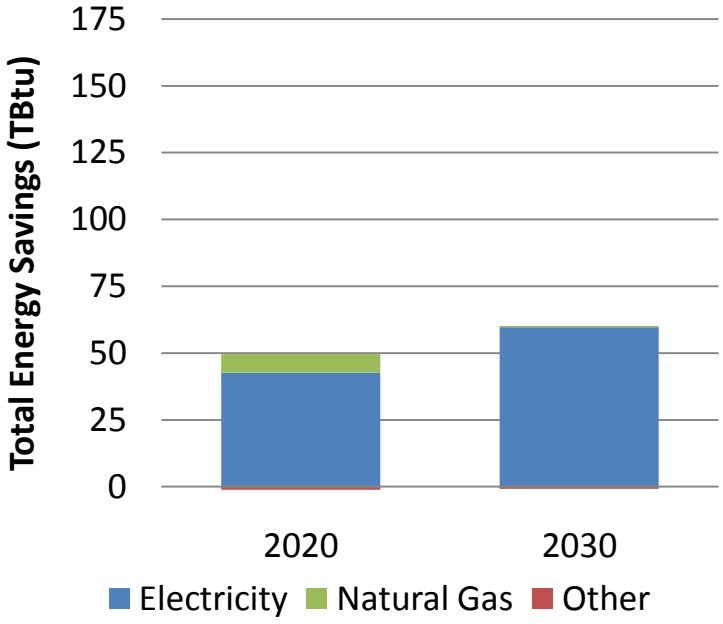


RESIDENTIAL SECTOR SAVINGS

-BY FUEL TYPE

*Residential energy consumption could remain largely unchanged over the next two decades.





Industrial Sector Savings **-By Fuel Type**

*Three energy efficiency policies could significantly reduce the growing consumption of industrial energy projected over the next two decades.

Energy Management Courses

Diploma – Energy Management

Green Building Technology I
Green Building Technology II
Energy Efficient Building and Design
Energy Auditing/Modeling
Weatherization for New and Existing Buildings
Building Analyst Professional

+ General Core Course

Weatherization for New & Existing Homes

Energy auditors and existing contractors wishing to become certified weatherization technicians.

Technical Colleges in Georgia are already offering these courses.

Where are the jobs?

Comparing Job Creation from Energy Efficiency and Coal Plants

the **Ochs Center** for metropolitan studies I march 2011

Energy Efficiency vs. Plant Washington

Energy Efficiency

- 9,975 years of direct employment during implementation
- Implementation sustained over a 14-year period
- Job creation across 43-county area during implementation
- Indirect and induced economic activity is highly local – work on energy efficiency benefits the local economy

Plant Washington

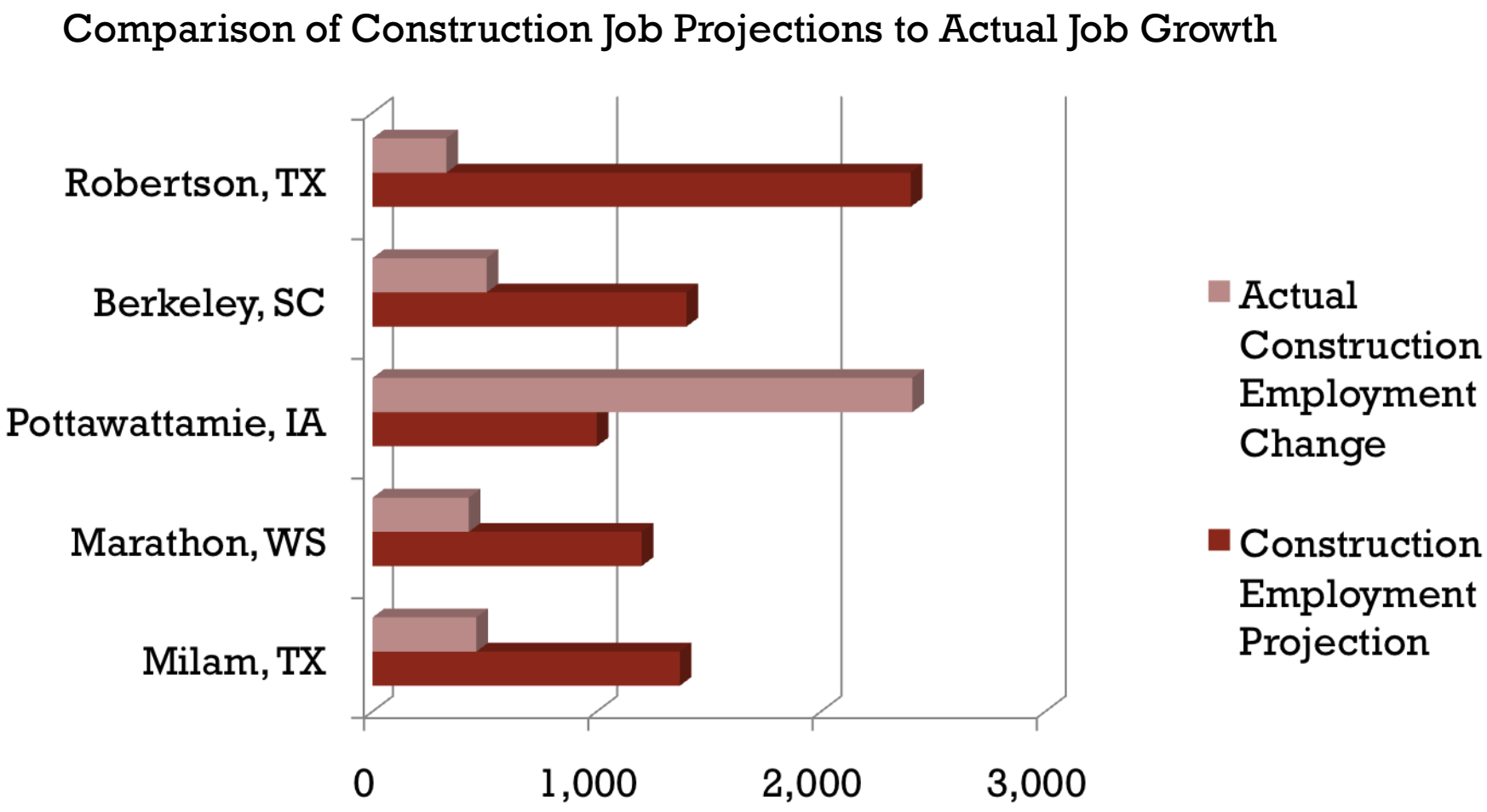
- 3,750 years of direct employment during construction
- Construction over a 5 year period and relatively few permanent jobs
- Job benefits will be geographically concentrated
- Little sustained indirect and induced economic activity in the region

Methodology

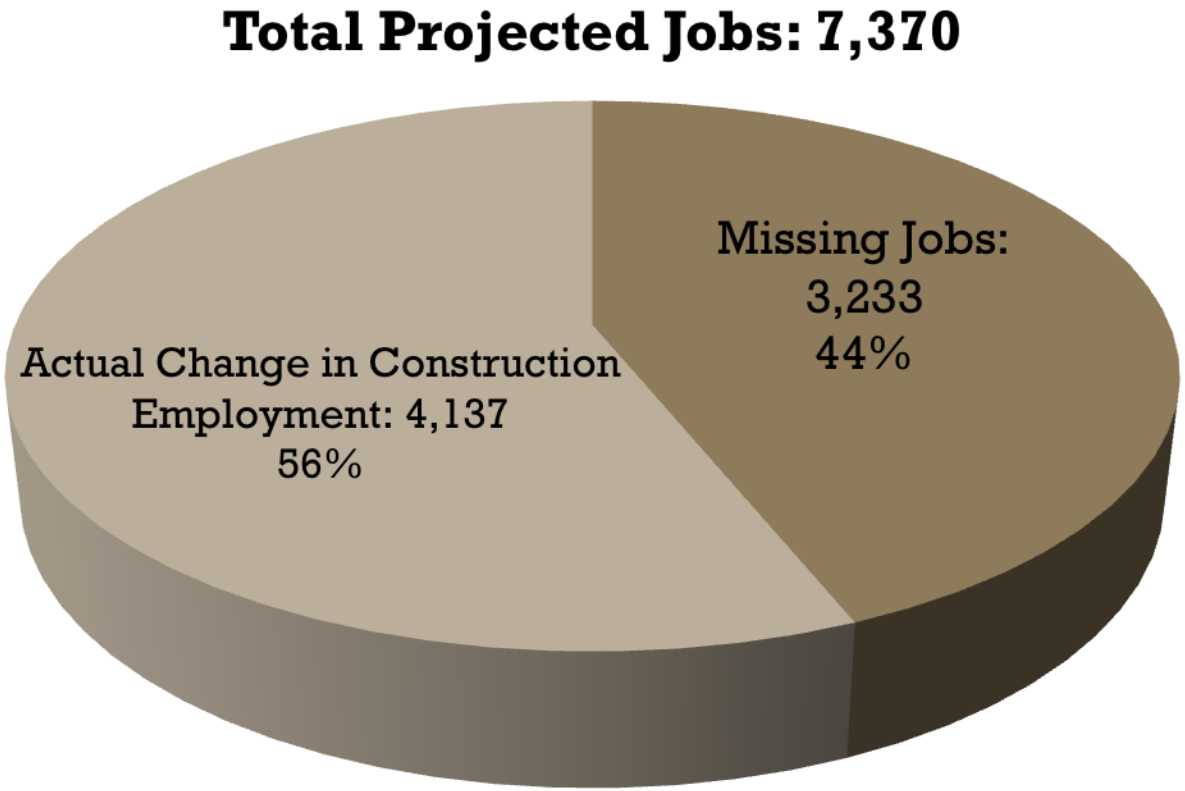
- Identified six plants, all over 500 MW, and examine economic indicators to measure job growth.

PLANT	COUNTY	STATE	PLANT SIZE
Sandow 5	Milam	Texas	581 MW
Nebraska City 2	Otoe	Nebraska	682 MW
Weston 4	Marathon	Wisconsin	525 MW
Walter Scott 3&4	Pottawattamie	Iowa	790 MW
Cross 3&4	Berkeley	South Carolina	600 MW
Oak Grove 1&2	Robertson	Texas	817 MW

Coal Jobs Case Study



Coal Jobs Case Study



Coal Jobs Case Study

- Overall employment grew in all six counties, but the growth failed to meet plant projections.
- Only one county experienced job increase equal to or greater than projections
- 4 cases, coal plant construction only 27 percent of what was promised
  - 1,730 jobs not projected increase of 6,370 jobs
- Local job retention rates in all 6 counties declined during construction
  - suggests that many new jobs went to workers from outside the county

What will coal fired Plant Washington bring to our area?

- Fewer jobs than promised
- Very risky investment for Washington EMC members and Washington County taxpayers, property owners
- Reduced land values for nearby property owners (coal emissions don't see county lines)
- Poor air quality (pushing some counties into non-attainment), limiting future business recruitment
- Increased health problems like asthma, cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer, developmental disabilities for children
- 13-16 million gallons of water a day sucked out of stressed river and groundwater resources
- landfill directly over our groundwater resources filled with toxins like mercury and arsenic dumped on a liner that must be monitored for leakage. These heavy metals NEVER GO AWAY

Lets work together

- FACE, Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL), Georgians for Smart Energy, HTS Enterprises, the UGA Extension Service, and other partners want to help homeowners, churches, and civic groups save money and energy.

- We invite you to participate in an energy audit, along with your churches and local homeowners, and learn how each of you can reduce your energy costs, use less energy, and perhaps qualify for funding to put better windows, doors, insulation, etc. in place

- We also want to teach our children how to eat healthier and be better Earth stewards by using information readily available from GIPL, Georgia Organics, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and many others.

It’s easy to find us!

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