



# News Release

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## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR CARBON REGISTRY SET FOR ATHENS, STATESBORO, AND TIFTON**

The Georgia Forestry Commission is seeking input from the public on a plan designed to help protect Georgia's environment through a new Carbon Registry. Three public meetings will be held to gather verbal and written comments:

- February 5th; Athens Public Library Auditorium; 2025 Baxter Street, Athens, GA 30606
- February 12th; Georgia Southern University Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building; Statesboro, GA 30458
- February 15th; Moultrie Technical College Conference Center; 52 Tech Drive Tifton, GA 31794

All meetings are scheduled from 6-8 pm. Comments may also be submitted online or by mail. The proposed Carbon Registry protocol will be posted on the GFC website at [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org) through February 15, 2007.

"The Georgia Legislature authorized the development of a Carbon Registry in 2004," said Nathan McClure, Forest Energy and Development Director for the Georgia Forestry Commission. "The Registry plan we've developed describes the standards for project eligibility, registering projects, processes and procedures. It also describes the accepted methods for calculating carbon sequestered in projects." McClure said similar systems have been developed in California, Maine, Oregon and other parts of the world. Its implementation in Georgia could allow the carbon sequestration services of Georgia forestland to be traded to emission-dependent companies.

Georgia's proposed Carbon Sequestration Registry quantifies services provided by growing forests, which remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a byproduct of burning fossil fuels, from the air. Trees store the carbon in wood fiber, and release oxygen. When trees capture and store carbon in forest vegetation, soil and forest products, it is called "Carbon Sequestration." Carbon Sequestration is also considered an emerging market opportunity for southern forest owners as they seek reasonable returns for the nature services they provide.

"We look forward to receiving the input of Georgians on this important plan," said McClure. "A thoroughly executed plan will encourage forest growth, help landowners realize increased income, and be instrumental in protecting Georgia's environment."

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