

Maurice Carter on Community Climate Action: A Climate Digest Interview

Summary

How much can a volunteer-run nonprofit with no staff actually accomplish? Quite a lot, it turns out. In this conversation, Maurice Carter, co-founder and president of Sustainable Newton, joins host Eriqah Vincent to talk about how the Drawdown Georgia framework helped his all-volunteer organization prioritize solutions, how partnerships with university students have multiplied their impact, and why meaningful dialogue is the most valuable tool in community climate work.

Key Takeaways

- Sustainable Newton, founded in 2018, is an all-volunteer nonprofit with no paid staff that works with households, local governments, and businesses on practical, Newton County-specific climate solutions.
- The Drawdown Georgia framework and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trackers helped Sustainable Newton prioritize which of the 20 solutions to focus on and back up their advocacy with local data, like the fact that transportation accounts for roughly 54 percent of Newton County's emissions.
- Partnerships with graduate students at Georgia Tech's Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business, Yale, and the University of Georgia have let Sustainable Newton tackle projects, like analyzing the City of Covington's vehicle fleet, far beyond what their volunteer team could manage alone.
- The organization has worked to center equity through projects like a rooftop solar installation for a nonprofit serving disadvantaged families, and a walking audit of the Elm Street corridor done in partnership with Go Georgia.
- Maurice's advice for aspiring local climate advocates: lead with solutions, not doom and gloom, be realistic but don't underestimate your reach, and remember that meaningful dialogue is one of the most powerful tools available.

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Eriqah Vincent: Thank you all so much for joining us again for this Drawdown Georgia Climate Interview series. My name is Eriqah Vincent, and today we're really grateful to be joined by Maurice Carter, who is the co-founder and president of Sustainable Newton. Hi, Maurice, thanks for being here with me. I'd love for you to start out by telling us a little about yourself, and the work Sustainable Newton is doing in the community.

Maurice Carter: Hi, Eriqah, it's great to be here. Personally, I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak with the audience, and our organization, Sustainable Newton, appreciates all the work you and everybody at Drawdown Georgia does, allowing us to be part of a great mission together.

I'm a native of Atlanta, Georgia — my wife and I have been married for 44 years. We moved to Covington, where she's from, in 2004. I had a 33-year career in IT, strategic planning, and business consulting, and retired from that nine years ago, which is hard to believe. But even ten years before that, I was becoming involved in nonprofit leadership. Moving to a smaller town like Covington — we're about 40 miles east of Atlanta — it's so easy to get involved in a lot of different things. I helped found a cycling club, reinvigorated a trails organization, worked with an after-school learning program, and various other things. But in 2018, we founded Sustainable Newton. We're a nonprofit, all volunteer, no staff — we have enough budget to do the things we do, but we're not big into raising lots of money, we're into doing things. That's how we got started — a group of people all concerned about climate change, about the impacts on ourselves, our children, our families, our community. But we weren't into fretting and worrying, and we didn't get together to commiserate — we got together to do something. So from the beginning, we were focused on solutions, and on how we bring those solutions into Newton County, where we live. We work with households, we work with local governments, and we work with local businesses, small and large, on climate action, helping them take action and helping them understand.

When we started, it was, how do we get people engaged, how do we inform them why we're concerned, how do we get them interested? And then it became more, how do we get them involved in activities? Eventually, our goal became, how do we enable people to take action? So we did a Solarize program, as an example. We've worked with our local governments on a number of different programs. It's always about the end result — the action people can take, and the actions we can take in our own lives, supporting each other in that.

Eriqah Vincent: That's wonderful. I'm not a native of Georgia, which I've talked about often on this show — I'm from New Jersey originally, but I've been here, goodness, it'll be 20 years next year, still learning even after 20 years — but Newton is on my side of town, I'm in DeKalb County, just west of y'all. I love what you said about a small community of folks who wanted to get together and do something — you didn't necessarily feel like you needed to be staffed up, but you still felt like you could do really great work with that kind of volunteer-based organization. Sustainable Newton has really taken advantage of Drawdown Georgia's trackers, tools, and the frameworks of the 20 climate solutions that Drawdown Georgia is committed to, to guide the work you're doing, which has been phenomenal. Can you give us some specific examples of how these resources have been useful to your organization?

Maurice Carter: Sure. It's been such a fruitful relationship for us, to have access to expertise, deep knowledge, and data we can work from. When we started, again, we were about solutions — but what solutions, especially when you're trying to make it relevant in the community where you live? We got Paul Hawken's book on Project Drawdown — here's 100 things we could do — and, geez, they're kind of complicated. We had a couple of science professors from Oxford College, a two-year college of Emory, on our board, so we had some scientific background, but turning that into actionable solutions at a local level was a struggle in our first year. Somewhere — I think it was the first Georgia Climate Conference — one of our board members heard about this thing called Drawdown Georgia that was going to be launched the following year, I guess it was 2019 by the time we heard about it, and we were geared up and ready when the framework came out.

What it's done for us is help us simplify — where do we prioritize? But it also made it easier for us to explain ourselves, because even though you've got 20 solutions versus 100, most organizations are focused on one thing — we promote composting, or we promote renewable agriculture, we promote solar. To go from one day working with somebody on how to compost in their backyard, to another day with a local business on how to leverage renewable energy, or cogeneration, or demand response, and then somebody else on how to roll out EV infrastructure — people could almost think, wait a minute, what are you guys? The framework gave us something we could always point back to, and say, this is how to understand it. It also gave us a way to dial it in for a particular audience — when we go to an event, we always have our literature and who we are, but somewhere on our table is the framework, so we can say, maybe this isn't relevant, you don't own a home, so these things don't matter to you, but we could all waste less food, we can all use less energy, or walk instead of drive, bike instead of drive. The framework did that for us.

And then, as the Drawdown Georgia program evolved, and as we grew more competent in what we were trying to do, things like the Greenhouse Gas Tracker gave us data to back up our conversations, when we tried to explain, for instance, why electric vehicles are an important part of what we need to do in Newton County, and walking and biking. We don't have transit, per se, other than some bus service in and out of the county. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gases in Georgia — I think it's around 54 percent of our local emissions, because we're right on I-20, so it's a lot of commuting. It helps to say, we're not just picking this solution because everybody's doing it, we're picking it because it directly addresses an issue we have here. We've worked very hard around the home energy efficiency incentives of the Inflation Reduction Act, trying to help households in Newton County take advantage of those things — we can point back to the emissions related to energy in the residential parts of our community, and even things like preserving forests and green space. Newton County was one of the ten fastest-growing counties in America in the late nineties, into the run-up to 2008, until the crash — in fact, we were hit hard by the housing collapse in 2008, because so much of our economy was tied to that. So you can see, we were losing those trees, which also had an impact on our emissions — they weren't absorbing what the cars were putting out. We love having those kinds of tools. You can't start every conversation with that, but when you get somebody interested, whether it's a local policymaker or a business leader, you can show them — we're not scientists, I'm not a scientist, but we're connected to really smart people who are doing really cool things.

I'd say a large part of what Drawdown Georgia has done for us is position us in a space where we're with other people, and so we're inspired by them, and we hope, sometimes, that we inspire them too. One of our proudest moments was the first Ray Day event we went to, down at Serenity, three years ago now. Ray C. Anderson Foundation trustee Phil Lankford said, "Oh, I've been wanting to talk to you guys — you get it, I love what y'all are doing." And then his wife, Harriet, came over, and together we all talked, but it let us know, we are seen, it matters — so many other people and organizations, we've become part of a community. It gives us ideas, it gives us direction, but it also keeps us inspired on the days when maybe it's not so wonderful, and it seems like we're not getting anywhere — we look back and say, actually, yes, we are.

Eriqah Vincent: I love the community that Drawdown Georgia, the Ray C. Anderson Foundation, and our partners are creating. I was nodding my head vigorously when you said, we're right on I-20, trees being cut down, because, again, we are neighbors, and it's the same for us.

Maurice Carter: That's one of the cool things about the trackers too — you can compare, and you can find your fellow counties that face the same challenges, maybe with a slightly different

wrinkle — a different industry, or other things — but we all have a very heavy transportation impact, and also the threat to preserving trees in the face of growth.

Eriqah Vincent: It's such a catch-22, right — we want our neighborhoods to grow, we want growth in our communities, and also want to preserve that nature space, not only for green space in general, but also to capture some of those greenhouse gases. I totally agree. My next question — are there other folks in other parts of the state, and other parts of the country, interested in starting the kind of small community organizations that don't really need a whole lot of buildup, don't really need a lot of bells and whistles? What advice do you have for climate advocates across Georgia who are interested in starting their own local organization to advance the climate solutions we've talked about, and others?

Maurice Carter: Well, I think the key for us — where we originally started — it's just talking to one another. Finding people, maybe — a couple of the folks, I got involved because I reached out to a couple of friends who had organic farms. I'd been trying to compost in my little downtown Covington city lot, a quarter to a third of an acre, and I figured out I can make the compost, but I've got nothing to do with it — I don't mind making it, I don't want to put my food in the trash, does anybody need this? So we talked about that, and they said, maybe not, maybe we can't take that, but we have this group that's been meeting for a while, we'd love to have you join the conversation. So it was talk — I think we have a saying in our culture that talk is cheap, but meaningful dialogue is the most precious thing we have. Katharine Hayhoe, the author and climate scientist, she'll tell people the most important thing you can do to address climate change is talk about it. So take that to heart — that doesn't mean every conversation is going to go the way you want, but don't be afraid, there's plenty of people out there who share your concern. Don't just talk about the problem, talk about solutions — what do you know about? Drawdown Georgia has helped us become more informed and conversational, but lead with the solutions. We don't want to feel worse, we want to feel better. We had to start by convincing people we had a problem, but we spend most of our time now talking about solutions. Our goal is to actually enable people, help them — what gets in the way, what would you need — and growing more of a community of early adopters, in solar and heat pumps and energy conservation, who can become resources to help other community members.

Be realistic, don't try to go beyond your reach, but also don't underestimate your reach. I think what we've found, more than anything, is we've gone a lot further than we thought we could, and had a bigger impact than we thought we could. One of the things people looking for a magic secret often ask about — I'll give ours away, because I think it's probably not utilized as much as it could be — again, we're all volunteer, we don't have staff, we don't have a lot of budget, but we've gotten a lot of things done by finding smart people who can be resources. At Georgia Tech, the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business — we did our first project with them, I think, in 2020, but we've done five or six with them since. Michael Oxman is the managing director of the consulting practicum there. You have to present the problem you want them to help you solve, and make it compelling enough that it can be a learning experience for them, an important enough problem — they have graduate students already working in consulting for big firms who spend a semester working with us.

Our first project — we have a green fuels facility our city put in years ago, for compressed natural gas for their vehicles, and the idea was to sell it to the school system and so forth. It had been somewhat successful, but it was kind of stalled, and we had a new mayor come in who really wanted to ramp that up. Our thought was, well, that's fine for certain types of use, but much of your fleet can really be electrified in a much more cost-effective manner, and the

emissions will be lower. So we reached out to the mayor and said, would you be willing, if we can bring in some students to work with you, to let them do a study? So we did, and we got a team of three really sharp students who analyzed the city's entire fleet, gave recommendations on which vehicle classes should use which type of fuel, here's what you'll save in maintenance and operations, here's what you'll save in greenhouse gases. It didn't cost us anything, other than – you have to be respectful, you have to remember this is an important part of their education, so I don't just throw them at anything.

Another project – we looked at how we could bring back drop-off glass recycling for city residents, and that's been implemented now. On that first project, the city has a couple of EVs in their fleet now, they've installed, I think, four to six Level 2 chargers in the community, and one or two DC fast chargers, and they're about to do eight more through a GEFA grant the city got last year.

Another study we did was to survey and interview our small and medium businesses – not the big corporations – using the Drawdown Georgia framework's 20 solutions, and asking, which of these are you interested in, would benefit your business, which are you actually trying now, and, most importantly, what roadblocks are you facing, what barriers, how could we help you? From that, we found great interest in composting, recycling, energy conservation, and energy-efficient vehicles, which gave us focus on what we can do that's really impactful. Last fall, for the first time, we also did a project with the University of Georgia – UGA has a certificate in sustainability, so another group of students. We've used, for a long time, the work Yale does through their Program on Climate Change Communication – they have a partnership program, and I'd been using their reports for a long time, but I went to a session about the partnership program, and at the end they said, if you're interested in working with us – I had to be honest up front and say, look, we're just a bunch of volunteers, we don't have staff, but here's an idea – there's this program at UGA, I'll submit a proposal there, we'll try to get students in marketing, sustainability, and business. So we did, we got three very bright students, and they worked with our partner at Yale. Our goal was to survey our audience – who are we reaching today, and how? What do they feel right now about climate change, how worried are they, how supportive are they of solutions? And we found that 75 percent – not surprising, but still, 75 percent – of the people we're reaching are either alarmed or concerned about climate change. What that tells me is, I don't need to keep telling them every day how bad it is, because they already know, and they're already stressed – but are they taking action, do they know how to take it? One of the students from last semester has now volunteered to help me implement the recommendations they made.

So, again – it's the Ray C. Anderson Center for Sustainable Business at Georgia Tech, it's UGA's cross-disciplinary sustainability certificate, we have Oxford College here too, though the challenge there is the students are only there two years, but we still have students from there who work with us, particularly ones interested in how they can help us reach out to our high schools and middle schools. That's what I'd say to your question about recommendations – don't limit yourself to what you can do with your own arms and legs. More arms and legs, and smarter minds than my own – young people – it's so good to be around that kind of energy and enthusiasm. You have to have a compelling proposal, since this is part of their learning, and make sure you can get them access to city officials in one case, or businesses in another, to do the work they're going to do.

As we've gone out to the community, we always try to think, how can we help people solve their problems? We want them to be more energy efficient, we want them to reduce their greenhouse

gas emissions, but we need to put it in a way that means something to them. When we were founding the organization, what did we mean by sustainable? We went back to the triple bottom line — people, planet, and profit. Our vision was building a world where people and planet are as important as profit, and where future generations matter. So when we go to a business owner, we say, well, we know you need to make money, and in fact, if you don't make money, that's not sustainable either. Same with a government official — if you're putting in a program that can't pay for itself, or that taxpayers aren't willing to pay for, or that we can't sell the benefit of, then we're wasting our time. So we always try to make sure we're not saying, don't worry about the money — we're saying, think about the money in the context of what we're doing to the people who live here, and the world we live in today, and also the world our children and their children inherit. It changes the dialogue — it's not just environmental sustainability, it's sustainability in every sense of the word.

Eriqah Vincent: I love what you said, that was so helpful. And I love what you said about utilizing the energy of students — I've preached that for a long time. I don't agree with hiring young folks and not compensating them, however, I've also really admired the folks at Georgia Tech — I'm familiar with Michael, he and I were in IGEL together, and the other folks at Georgia Tech are great. I've heard of the Yale sustainability communication folks, and the work they're doing up there is really phenomenal. So utilizing what you said is so important — not thinking about the reach of just what you can do with your own arms and legs, but how you can utilize the energy and knowledge of other folks. Young folks want to be part of these types of practicum projects — this is great, on-site, hands-on, valuable learning, not just superficial things, but things they can really apply to the work they're passionate about.

Maurice Carter: And a great benefit for me personally is, you meet these students, get to know them, connect on social media, connect on LinkedIn, and then you watch them go through their education, watch them graduate, watch them go into their profession. We've had more than one student come back to speak to other students. It's really building, putting us into a fabric of wonderful stuff, and I get to see the great things they do — I had one small, tiny bit in nudging them in a good direction.

Eriqah Vincent: Yes, that's so powerful. I also wanted to plus what you said about helpful and valuable dialogue — I think that's something we're losing in society, that important dialogue with each other. The silos that get created, for all different reasons, are robbing us of helpful, valuable dialogue, where sometimes the conversation won't end up like you wanted it to, but even if you've sparked one thing in this person's mind to think about a little further, it's not a complete loss. I think that's a really valuable point you made, about dialogue being important, even with folks you think you definitely won't agree with.

Maurice Carter: When the students did their survey with the Yale diagnostics, our primary goal was just to say, who are we reaching? In other words, I want to know where they're at, and then I'll know how to tweak my message — there's no point surveying people who already agree with everything I'd come out with next, they won't get anything new. But I did go off on my own and point some friends toward it and say, would you take this survey? Because I knew they weren't — they were skeptical, they were doubtful, maybe cautious, maybe thinking, okay, I think something's happening, I don't know if it's us causing it. So that was important too — the students needed to hear from those folks, I didn't want them to think the whole world already agrees with us. So I told them, I know who those people are.

Eriqah Vincent: It really doesn't help us to only be talking to, and only engaging with, the folks we know for a fact agree with us. It's going to be necessary for us not to always just preach to the choir, so I think that's really valuable that you told them to do that. We've been talking about the work Sustainable Newton has been doing to intersect with young folks and other populations of people — how does the work being done by Sustainable Newton intersect with issues of equity in your community? How is Sustainable Newton working to engage residents in diverse communities in Newton County?

Maurice Carter: Well, in the ways Drawdown Georgia helped us with our beyond-carbon focus — we had Michael Oxman and David Eady, who also works at the center down there, come speak with us. David is the mayor of Oxford here in our county — David's a friend, but his day job is at Georgia Tech, where he leads the Drawdown Georgia Business Compact. We had Michael and David come to one of our early webinars, when COVID hit — we just went all virtual, because we said we're not stopping, but we don't want to lose the momentum, so we got great people like them to come talk to our audience. Michael talked a lot about equity, and all the ways we have to think about it — it's not enough to just have solar, renewable energy, or EVs, or other things — are they available to everybody, are they accessible to the people? So that focused us there, and we've tried to always keep that focus.

We actually applied the first year the Drawdown Georgia Climate Solutions and Equity Grant was available — we put together a proposal with our Covington Housing Authority and one of our solar installers, to propose putting solar into one of the housing authority's communities, where it would have greatly reduced the energy burden for those folks. We didn't make it to the final selection, and when we saw who did, we understood why, but the point was, it made us go through that process — we also forged relationships with the housing authority, and looked at other ways we could help their residents, their community. In 2023, I'm also on the board of what was Georgia Bikes, now Go Georgia, and we partnered with them to come in and help us do a walking audit of the Elm Street corridor, which runs from downtown Covington up to our housing authority. You don't have to drive through there often to see people walking with bags of groceries, people in wheelchairs, just so many things. The walking audit, which they'd been trained in, brought in officials from our transportation department in the City of Covington, and from our community improvement district that manages the Highway 278 corridor, and we all walked it together, saying, man, look at that, and look at that — these were simple things that could be fixed. Just getting somebody to walk a street you normally just drive through — you don't even see those people otherwise. So that's part of an aspect of equity — we focus on walking and biking because they're lower emissions than driving a car, but we feel a responsibility to make it safe, to make it enjoyable, to make it comfortable — things like shade and trees — and we try to always look at these things, not just from our own perspective, but from the perspective of everyone.

We've been working for a while — I mentioned earlier — on helping residents take advantage of the clean energy incentives in the federal Inflation Reduction Act, weatherization, heat pumps, EV charging, induction cooking, and so forth, but a lot of that, up until now, has just been tax credits, which not everybody can benefit from if you don't have enough income and tax burden to offset. And even if you do, can you afford to do something now and get paid back for it next year? The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority is piloting now, and will roll out by March, the rebate portion, which is directly targeted toward low- and moderate-income households. We see our responsibility as working with other public officials locally, reaching out and making

connections with the people who can most benefit from that, making sure they don't miss the opportunity. So it's very important to us.

We had a grant from Meta, their community action grant, and we'd applied to do rooftop solar for a local nonprofit. When we started the process, we said, we don't want it to be just any nonprofit, we want it to be an organization directly on the front lines serving disadvantaged communities, at-risk communities. So we screened everybody — there's the obvious things, do you have a roof, do you have a building with a good roof, do you use a lot of electricity, and would you save by doing this? But we also wanted to help an organization that's helping others. We settled on a local nonprofit, the Macintosh Trail Early Childhood Development Council — they have sites all over the metro Atlanta area, but we selected their campus in Newton, and that went live in February, I think, of last year, so they're just coming up on one year. We reached out and said, can you give us some information, has it been beneficial? They said, we could not believe how much it saves, and how much we've been able to put that money back into serving families, serving children, serving pregnant mothers, so they said, we're so excited, we're trying to figure out how we can do this on all our campuses.

We obviously want to help them because they're doing good work, but as advocates for clean energy, we get tired of hearing that EVs and things like that are for rich people — you know, it's nice that you can have that, and certainly there are barriers we have to work to remove, but we know that ultimately the most benefit, and the most climate benefit, goes there too, because they're the ones least likely to have a place to go when it's 105 degrees, or when we've got 20 inches of rain, or a storm blows through. So we're doing this for everybody, and we're trying to educate and engage everybody, but ultimately we're trying to be real deliberate — the work the students did with the Yale survey for us, we also believe will be a useful tool. We need to rethink how we communicate, so we're making sure — and it's not just race and ethnicity, income level, but sometimes it's just young and old, sometimes it's just geographic diversity within our county. We know the people we know, and the places we live, but through this survey, we're finding people — there's somebody out there in the southwest part of the county, almost in Henry County, who has put solar on their home, or has an induction cooktop, or a heat pump. It has to be an ever-present part of how we look at things, and we try — nobody's perfect, but we try.

Eriqah Vincent: Yes, it sounds like you all are doing the best you can, and at this point, that's all we can do. I also really appreciate the project you talked about with the Go Georgia folks — we talked to John Devine, the Executive Director of Go Georgia, who was one of our guests on the show, and he was wonderful. We had a great conversation about equity, and about what trails look like, and the reasons they changed from Georgia Bikes to Go Georgia — thinking about walking and biking, but also about people in electric wheelchairs, and folks with other transportation needs, thinking about how these trails, these walking spaces, are safe and comfortable. You talked about shade — we know we have a heat island problem here in Atlanta and the metro, and all those things. So I love that you all did that, just walking that space and saying, okay, what is this, how can we not only beautify it, but also make sure it's a safe space to travel in additional ways that aren't just in your car.

Maurice Carter: Just curb cuts, and things where they were tilted at an angle — you walk across it, but you're imagining, if I was rolling through here in a wheelchair, I could tip over, or be suddenly turned out into the road, and you just don't see that driving by.

Eriqah Vincent: Right, so that's so important for equity. As somebody who's done climate and environmental justice work for over 15 years, race and ethnicity is certainly very prevalent for

me, but we know that class, that economic status, is just as prevalent, even if it's not something people talk about as much — it is just as prevalent, especially in the metro, and especially in this part of Georgia, and we have to be cognizant of that when we're thinking about equity. Everything you said has been really helpful today, so I want to thank you again for being on the show with us. We always like to close with our favorite question — what is giving you hope around climate in Georgia?

Maurice Carter: Well, there are a lot of things, but one would be all the young people we get the opportunity to work with — their enthusiasm, their passion, their intelligence, their creativity. It's realizing that I, as one person, can only do so much, but if I can play a small role in helping a whole group of young people down that journey, and getting them to believe in their power and agency to make things happen, I feel a whole lot better — someday, when I leave here, I'll know I made a difference. For me personally, it's taking action and knowing I have agency — nobody can take that away. We can worry about what happens to this incentive or that program, but in the last three months, my wife and I did an energy audit, installed spray foam insulation in the attic and crawl space, and last week installed a heat pump to replace our 20-year-old forced-air furnace and air conditioner. I'm fortunate that we can do that, but I also feel good that I did it, and I hope it's leading by example, that somebody else will say, okay, well, he can do it, I can do it. That's how I ended up with an EV — I had a friend who seemed like she could go everywhere and do everything, and find a way to charge, so I thought, she can do it, I can do it. It's just all the little stuff, but it's being part of something bigger, and knowing that on the days I'm not feeling so good, somebody else is, and on the days they're not — I guess it's hard to feel hopeless or sorry for yourself when you're thinking, no, that person needs me, I can't let her down, I can't let him down. I met a filmmaker who lives in Minnesota — I forget where I first saw her, featured in a blog — but we became good friends, and she'll call me every once in a while, out of the blue, and just say, I'm really feeling down, make me feel better. So I get hope by realizing I'm not going to let somebody else go without hope. That's where I get my hope from.

Eriqah Vincent: That's beautiful, and I totally agree with you, especially with young folks — it's very easy to get bogged down in this work, your blinders on, trying to get your work done, and feeling hopeless, so when you're seeing folks benefiting from the work you're doing, and hearing about the story of that work, that's helpful to get you back on track. Absolutely, Maurice, thank you so much, this has been a great conversation, I've loved hearing about the things y'all are doing at Sustainable Newton — it sounds, as I said, familiar, like familiar problems having familiar solutions, all of us over here on the east side of the metro. I really appreciate the work you all are doing, and the time you took to talk to us today. Thank you so much for being here.

Maurice Carter: It's been great, I really appreciate the opportunity. I also appreciate all the other conversations you've been bringing to us, and I look forward to hearing more.

Eriqah Vincent: Thank you all so much for joining us. Definitely join us next time — we'll have another great Georgia leader working on climate solutions here in our state. Thanks, everybody, take care.