

# Who is Drawdown Georgia? Meet the People Behind the Movement

## Summary

Drawdown Georgia is a "leader-full" movement, not a single organization, made up of researchers, businesses, congregations, and everyday Georgians working to scale climate solutions across the state. In this short video, John Lanier of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation, Blair Beasley of Drawdown Georgia, Dr. Beril Toktay of the Drawdown Georgia Business Compact, Jasmine Crowe of Goodr, and Codi Norred of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light introduce themselves and explain what brought each of them to this work.

## Key Takeaways

- Drawdown Georgia began with a conversation within the Ray C. Anderson Foundation about how the family foundation could make the most meaningful difference on climate change, leading them to focus their efforts in Georgia, where their network and roots already were.
- The Drawdown Georgia Business Compact, coordinated by Georgia Tech's Beril Toktay, is a statewide consortium that gives businesses a platform to take individual and collective action on their carbon dioxide emissions.
- Jasmine Crowe joined the Business Compact with Goodr, her food waste reduction company, in part because she wanted to see more women, and more Black women specifically, at the table shaping climate solutions in Georgia.
- Georgia Interfaith Power & Light partners with Drawdown Georgia to help congregations put all 20 climate solutions into practice, whether through on-site programs or through advocacy and policy work.
- A Drawdown Georgia Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracker now lets communities see where emissions are coming from at both the state and county level, reflecting the idea that you can't manage what you can't measure.

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John Lanier: Drawdown Georgia got its start, in many respects, because of a conversation I had with my family, with the rest of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation. We were grappling with the question of what we could do on the issue of climate change.

Blair Beasley: I had the privilege of serving on the Drawdown Georgia research team, helping identify promising climate solutions for Georgia, and now I work with the foundation to help bring that research to life.

Beril Toktay: We took the lead in launching the Drawdown Georgia Business Compact, and we're now coordinating it. It's a statewide business consortium that creates a platform for businesses all across Georgia to take individual and collective action to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, and to help put our state onto a just, sustainable, and prosperous path.

Jasmine Crowe: Goodr joined the Drawdown Georgia Business Compact because we wanted to stand at the forefront of leading this change.

Codi Norred: Georgia Interfaith Power & Light has partnered with Drawdown Georgia to help create practical pathways for congregations to implement all 20 of the climate solutions, either on site through programs, or through advocacy and policy change.

Jasmine Crowe: We've been invested in reducing food waste, leading that work here in the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia, so when this compact came to us, we thought it was really important to join forces with so many other partners throughout the city and the state, to say that we're going to draw down on our climate solutions and make sure we're putting our best foot forward.

John Lanier: We felt like we could do the most good by focusing here in Georgia. It's where we are, it's where our network is, and it's a rich state in so many respects, primed to do so much good.

Blair Beasley: We now have a Drawdown Georgia Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracker that lets us see where emissions in our communities are coming from, at both the state and county level.

Codi Norred: This is an extension of a congregation's mission, it's an opportunity to serve the community, and you get a payback you can reinvest in the community.

Jasmine Crowe: I wanted to see more women at the table. I wanted to see more Black women at the table, involved in climate solutions. I also wanted to represent what I was building at Goodr, as a solution to reduce food waste throughout the state.

Blair Beasley: As the old adage reminds us, you can't manage what you can't measure.

Codi Norred: And that's money and resources that can be reinvested. How can we do the most good?

Beril Toktay: One of the things I find really compelling about this movement is that it acknowledges there's a role for everybody. There's a role for individuals, there's a role for businesses, small and large, there's a role for nonprofits and community organizations, and for local governments as well.