

# **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET**

## **Economic Development**

(Draft 9/25/2006)

**Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:**

Regional economic development efforts are inconsistent.

**Committee Recommendation:**

Athens-Clarke County should partner with other area counties (beginning with Oconee County) to create a regional economic development entity responsible for proactively marketing the region to prospects interested in establishing new operations in the region.

**Research/information used to validate this recommendation:**

**Additional information/research needed:**

1. What role or responsibility does the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Corporation have in this regard?
2. Does the regional have a market niche? If not, what are potential niches that are practical for this new entity to pursue?
3. How would Oconee County react to this idea?
4. Are there other regions with similar characteristics to the Athens area where this is working?

**Input from groups/people to help clarify this recommendation:**

- Drew Page, Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Foundation
- Georgia Power Company Economic Development staff.
- Georgia Department of Economic Development staff
- 316 Joint Bio-Tech Authority
- Oconee Co economic development representative

**Actions and Resources Necessary to Implement:**

Political buy-in and funding from participating counties.  
Financial support from private sector.

**Anticipated Reactions -**

- **In Support:** General public; some elected officials; ACCEDF; statewide economic developers; GA Department of Economic Development; University of Georgia; Athens Technical College
- **In Opposition:** Some elected officials; some existing industry;

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## **Economic Development**

(Draft 9/25/2006)

**Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:**

There are inadequate strategies in place to encourage retention and expansion of existing businesses.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Research/information used to validate this recommendation:**

**Additional information/research needed:**

**Input from groups/people to help clarify this recommendation:**

- Athens Area Chamber of Commerce
- Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Foundation
- Local business and industry representatives who have expanded recently or are considering expanding.

**Actions and Resources Necessary to Implement:**

**Anticipated Reactions -**

- **In Support:**
  
- **In Opposition:**

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**Economic Development**

(Draft 9/25/2006)

**Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:**

Athens' economy is not diverse enough.

**Committee Recommendation:**

Encourage/develop bartering network and local economy trade systems

**Research/information used to validate this recommendation:**

**Additional information/research needed:**

Basic information and research from other communities

**Input from groups/people to help clarify this recommendation:**

**Actions and Resources Necessary to Implement:**

**Anticipated Reactions -**

- **In Support:**
  
- **In Opposition:**