

# MARTA Sustainability Newsletter: Summer 2023

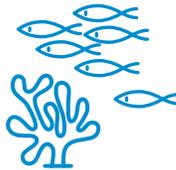
Transit-Related Articles on Sustainability & Resilience



## From Rail to Reef

MARTA is working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to upcycle old railcars by sinking them off the coast of Savannah to create artificial reefs. Before they're sunk, these railcars will be stripped down to the bare railcar shell and any hazardous materials will be removed. These artificial reefs provide a stable habitat for marine life and are

enjoyed by fishermen, divers and snorkelers. MARTA is currently preparing two railcars for deployment in August and have identified six other potential railcars for the future. 



## MARTA Rapid



In June 2023, MARTA held a [groundbreaking celebration](#) for MARTA's and the region's first bus rapid transit (BRT) line. The high-capacity transit line will have new electric buses and operate in 85 percent dedicated lanes with transit signal priority. Fourteen BRT stations along the route will feature off-board fare collection so you can pay before you board, real-time service information, and level boarding. MARTA committed to gold standards for the BRT service, which include center-running station platforms, mostly dedicated center transit lanes, state-of-the-art amenities, ticket machines, and additional safety measures. The gold standards are designed to make BRT a more attractive option for passengers by providing a fast, reliable, safe, and environmentally friendly system. 

## Speeding Up Our Renewable Energy Transition

MARTA began its transition from diesel buses to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses in 2005 to reduce emissions. The current MARTA revenue fleet consists of 345 CNG buses fueled and operated from three division locations. MARTA currently uses approximately 700,000 MMBtu of CNG per year.



In 2022, MARTA continued to progress on its goal of reducing its energy costs while promoting greenhouse gas emission reduction and maintaining the highest possible degree of reliability and quality of its natural gas. As part of this, MARTA established a **Renewable Natural Gas Revenue Sharing Program** utilizing the US Environmental Protection Agency's RIN (Renewable Identification Number) program for biofuels. MARTA's program began in July 2022 and has brought in over \$545,000 in revenue while promoting the use of renewable energy.

- **MARTA has committed to 100% zero-emissions buses by 2040.**

- MARTA reclaims 90% of the water we use every day, which saves an estimated 3,500,000 gallons of water each year.
- MARTA has recycled a total of 223 tons of metal and 32 tons of oil since 2020 as part of the elevator and escalator rehabilitation program.
- All MARTA facilities are ISO 14011:2015 certified.

You can learn more about sustainability efforts at MARTA by reading our [annual Sustainability Reports](#) or by reaching out to our Office of Sustainability.

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**



## Sustainable Summer

Summer is the perfect time to take a dip in the pool, gather for summer cookouts, and travel to visit family and friends. It's also a great time to think about reducing your environmental impact! Here are a couple of sustainable summer tips:

- **Mindful Water Usage**
  - Irrigation – Water your lawn and gardens during the coolest times of the day (morning and evening) to minimize water lost to evaporation. Also be aware and follow regional water restriction guidelines.
  - Collect the rain – A rain collection system, such as a rain barrel attached to your gutter system can be a great way to conserve water. The collected water can be used to water plants or wash the car!
- **Recycle Right!** – Check with your recycling vendor to confirm what can and cannot be recycled, especially when it comes to plastics. “Wish-cycling” is when you place items in the recycling bin even though you’re not sure whether your city or town recycles them. This practice should be avoided as it contaminates the recycling stream, reducing efficiency and increasing recycling costs.
- **Buy Locally Sourced products** – Locally sourced food is fresher, has less environmental impacts and supports the local economy. Check out a [MARTA Market](#) at select MARTA stations or your local farmers market for some local options!
- **Environment on your Mind** – Look for simple ways to positively impact our environment such as keeping MARTA stations and bus stops clean.
- **Sustainable Procurement** – Is there a more sustainable product available on the market? Collaborate with suppliers and professional service providers to implement and identify sustainable best practices.

If you have a sustainable project idea you'd like to submit, please do so at [sustainability@marta.com](mailto:sustainability@marta.com) OR call MARTA's Office of Sustainability Hotline at 404-848-4434

## + Mercedes Benz Stadium Sustainability Tour Atlanta United Game | August 26

Join USGBC Georgia for a one-of-a-kind event that combines sustainability, sports, and fun!

During the Sustainability Tour, attendees will have the opportunity to see first-hand the sustainable features that make Mercedes-Benz Stadium\* one of the most environmentally-friendly sports facilities in the world. From its 4,000 solar panels to its water conservation measures, attendees will learn about the innovative sustainability initiatives that have earned the stadium its prestigious certifications. Following the Sustainability Tour, attendees will receive a ticket to the Atlanta United vs Nashville game.

\* Closest MARTA rail station is the [CWCC/Phillips Arena/CNN Center Station](#).

## MARTA Sustainability Initiatives

**MARTA Sustainability Training:** Thank you for everyone that completed the MARTA Sustainability Training and congratulations to the 20 winners of the prize pack for completion!



In this course you will learn basic sustainability and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) terminology and principles, review what drives sustainability and ESG at MARTA, discover how MARTA incorporates sustainability into policy and programming, and identify how YOU can contribute to sustainability at MARTA.

Haven't taken the course yet? Please take a moment to register and complete this 30-minute course, and reach out to our Sustainability Director, Richard Thomas, at [rthomas5@itsmarta.com](mailto:rthomas5@itsmarta.com) with any questions or feedback.

Check  
out our new  
**Sustainability  
Dashboard!**



**Envision Framework:** [Envision](#) provides consistent, consensus-based framework for assessing sustainability, resiliency, and equity in civil infrastructure. The Envision rating system can be used to evaluate all types of public and private infrastructure projects and is an excellent sustainability resource for MARTA employees. Twenty candidates have completed the Envision Training with the goal of more each month.



**Climate Action Resilience Plan:** The Office of Sustainability is in the process of developing a Climate Action Resilience Plan that focuses on reducing GHG emissions and improving system and operational resilience to future climate change impacts. The Plan is expected to be complete by June 2024. Stay tuned for more information!