

STAYING current

New Secretary of Energy

In December, the Senate confirmed Dan Brouillette to serve as secretary of energy, taking over for Rick Perry, who resigned after serving for three years. Brouillette had served as deputy energy secretary since 2017.

Vogtle Update

Further milestones were achieved in December in the construction of Plant Vogtle units 3&4. The 2-million-pound roof of the Vogtle Unit 3 shield building was set into place. The shield building is a unique feature of the AP1000 reactor design, providing an additional layer of safety around the containment vessel and nuclear reactor to protect the structure from any potential impacts.

The shield building roof measures 135 feet in diameter, 37 feet tall and weighs more than two fully-loaded jumbo jets. This placement follows the setting of the Unit 3 containment vessel top head from earlier this year. Soon after the shield building roof was placed, the main control room for Vogtle Unit 3 became operational and began testing plant systems, marking another significant milestone.

Best State for Business

Site Selection magazine named Georgia the best state to do business in for an unprecedented 7th consecutive year.

GridEx V

In November, MEAG Power was among the more than 425 government and energy sector organizations in North America that took part in the two-day GridEx V, a biennial exercise designed to test how individual utility companies and the industry as a whole would react to a coordinated cyber and physical attack on the North American electric grid.

Goals of the two-day exercise include practicing incident response plans, enhancing lines of communication, and sharing lessons learned within organizations and throughout the industry. The exercise is organized by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and hosted by its Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC).

GUEST COLUMN

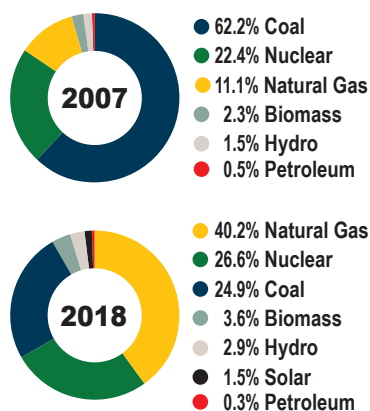
GEORGIA POSITIONED WELL AS U.S. DEBATES ENERGY FUTURE

By David Gattie As the U.S. continues to debate the future of its electric power sector, much of the discussion has revolved around carbon emissions and climate change. And as the conversation has evolved from “should the U.S. transition to a low-carbon economy” to “how should the U.S. transition to a low-carbon economy,” there has been no shortage of policy proposals: Clean Power Plan, Paris Climate Agreement, Green New Deal, 100% Renewable Energy and a carbon tax, to name a few, with each focused on reorganizing the U.S. power sector around carbon reductions.

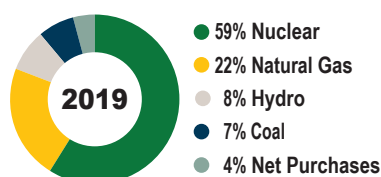
Because this transition will have implications for Georgia’s power sector, it’s necessary to keep the issues in context to better inform the debate and work toward policy recommendations that align with realities rather than agendas.

At the global level, carbon emissions increased over 10,000 mmtons from 2000-2018, with 89.9% of the increase originating in emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific region. During this same period, U.S. carbon emissions decreased 721 mmtons. In Georgia, from 2007-2018, electric power sector CO2 emissions decreased 43% to levels not seen since 1990. This was largely due to the state diversifying its portfolio.

Georgia Fuel Portfolio



MEAG Power Fuel Portfolio



67% Clean/Emissions-Free Energy Delivered in 2019

Moreover, in 2018, Georgia’s average electricity rate across all sectors was 9.62 cents/kWhr, while the U.S. average was 10.53 cents/kWhr. By comparison, average rates in New York and California were 14.83 cents/kWhr and 16.58 cents/kWhr, respectively. Those two states are aggressively moving toward increased dependencies on renewable energy and transitioning away from coal, natural gas and nuclear. While a transition from coal and natural gas may align with carbon-reduction objectives, a transition from zero-carbon nuclear does not.

Georgia is transitioning differently to a low-carbon future by offsetting coal with natural gas to maintain reliability and diversity and by strategically integrating solar PV to increase renewables penetration. Georgia is also increasing its nuclear capacity with the two new reactors at Plant Vogtle. On schedule to come online in 2021 and 2022, these reactors will provide Georgia with over 2,200 MW of zero-carbon, high-capacity-factor baseload electricity for over 60 years, while providing a hedge against carbon-constraining policies.

Portfolio diversity, carbon reduction, low rates, reliability and new nuclear capacity—this diverse set of energy policy attributes is unique to Georgia and is possible because of the regulated structure of the state’s power sector. This has

afforded Georgia the capacity and flexibility to strategically plan generation assets around multiple long-term objectives rather than short-term marginal profits alone, as is the case with deregulated merchant markets such as those in New York and California. Moreover, deregulated markets cannot accommodate investment in a resource with long-term value and stability, such as nuclear power. In fact, several nuclear plants are scheduled for premature closure in deregulated markets.

The outcome of America’s debate over its power sector will have broad implications. And while climate change must be accounted for, it remains a global issue that cannot be solved solely by the U.S. electric power sector. It remains critical to engage in national- and state-level debates from well-informed positions in order to ground conversations in realities and bring those realities to bear on pragmatic policies that meet multiple objectives of diversity, reliability, affordability and low carbon emissions—all of which Georgia already has achieved.

David Gattie is an associate professor of engineering in the College of Engineering at the University of Georgia, and a Senior Fellow in the University of Georgia’s Center for International Trade and Security. Prior to UGA, he worked 14 years in private industry as an energy services engineer and an environmental engineer. The opinion expressed here is his own.

Adel The city was among five communities chosen for the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing, which collaborates and offers technical assistance related to housing and community development.

Marietta The city’s smart traffic system, which allows emergency vehicles to more quickly and safely cross intersections, earned Marietta the Technology Innovation Showcase award from the State of Georgia.

Moultrie The Downtown Moultrie Development Authority has received a \$25,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Grant to improve area safety.

Newnan Goodyear Tire and Rubber announced a new 1.5-million-sq.-ft. distribution and warehouse facility covering more than 34 acres and expected to bring 250 jobs.

Thomasville The city won the Georgia Economic Developers Association’s “Deal of the Year” for Check-Mate Industries, expected to create 230 jobs and invest more than \$16 million in a new manufacturing location.



2020 MAKE A NOTE



- MEAG Power Board Meeting**
March 19, 2020
- MEAG Power Participant Orientation**
March 25-26, 2020
- Participant-Hosted MEAG Power Dinner & Board Meeting**
April 15-16, 2020 (Cartersville, Ga.)
- MEAG Power Annual Meeting**
July 13-15, 2020
- MEAG Power Mayors Summit**
November 6-8, 2020

MEET YOUR *colleagues*



Jim Thornton
Mayor
City of LaGrange

Mayor Jim Thornton is a lawyer by profession and a champion of his community by avocation. First as a LaGrange council member and now as a second-term mayor, Thornton is a seasoned civic leader who is ardent about citizen engagement.

What are some highlights of the job?
I am excited to be part of the group that helped create a council of high school juniors and seniors to get them involved in civic decision-making. The LaGrange Youth Council is an advisory board composed of local youth that provides advice and counsel to the local governing body. It gives our community youth a more formal role in the local decision-making process, offering real-world experiences with elected bodies. Today, 24 junior and senior high school students serve on the LaGrange Youth Council.

I am also proud of helping with the development of LaGrange 101, a six-week class for citizens to get an inside look at city governance, typically with a waiting list to join. Indeed, The Thread, a 26-mile multi-use trail, began with a citizen-led plan.

What is the best part of being Mayor of LaGrange?
It’s a vibrant city, and I like the fact that our citizens feel our community is on the move. Being part of this spirited, positive attitude is certainly one of the best parts of being its mayor. And one of the most interesting things about being mayor is what I have learned about running a utility business.

How would you describe LaGrange’s relationship with MEAG Power?
MEAG Power is an invaluable resource in helping us identify best practices and understanding the wholesale electric market.

EVs & Charging Stations

Volvo upped the ante on electric vehicles, saying it aims for 20% of its new-vehicle sales in 2020 to be plug-in EVs, and 50% by 2025. Meanwhile, Ford announced that it will offer the FordPass Charging Network, the largest North American network of EV charging stations. Ford is working with EV charging companies Greenlots and Electrify America, which is building its network using funds from a multibillion-dollar settlement the U.S. EPA, states and car owners reached with German carmaker Volkswagen after its recent diesel emissions scandal. Earlier in 2019, General Motors and construction giant Bechtel announced that they would build their own nationwide charging network.

Cybersecurity Portal

MEAG Power and ECG have joined together to provide opportunities and resources to improve Participant communities’ cybersecurity posture. The new Cybersecurity Portal was established to assist Participants with acquiring the essential tools and resources to become more secure. The Portal consolidates links to numerous industry sites and helpful tools. It can be accessed at: <https://ecoga.org/resources/cybersecurity/>

MEAG POWER **current** COMMUNITIES

LAGRANGE, GEORGIA

Jim Thornton

Mayor

mayor@lagrangea.org

Meg Kelsey

City Manager

mkelsey@lagrangea.org; 706-883-2010

Scott Malone

Economic Developer

smalone@lagrangea.org; 706-883-2049

Patrick Bowie

Utilities Director, MEAG Power Board

Member

pbowie@lagrange.net; 706-883-2065

lagrangea.org



LAGRANGE

A Place to Be

The City of LaGrange is one of the state's West Georgia star communities. In 2018, LaGrange received the Live, Work, Play Award presented by the Georgia Municipal Association for its community assets, innovations and quality of life.

The city is rich in cultural and recreational amenities, with museums, the 26,000-acre West Point Lake, Sweetland Amphitheatre and Great Wolf Lodge Georgia adventure park, to name a few.

There are more than 100 manufacturers in the area, 41 of which are international companies from 18 different countries. Eight are suppliers to the KIA Motors Manufacturing Georgia plant in neighboring West Point, Georgia. The community's 10,000-acre Georgia International Business Park, stretching along Interstate 85, pledges infrastructure for environmentally conscious businesses. For future workers, Thinc College and Career Academy focuses on real-world learning in a business-driven environment.

Visitors and hometown residents alike feel the energy of LaGrange.

*More than 100
manufacturers in the
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FAST FACTS LAGRANGE

POPULATION: 30,472

TROUP COUNTY: 69,786

UTILITIES: Electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, water/sewer and solid waste

TRANSPORTATION: LaGrange has easy access to Interstate 85, and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is just 55 miles from LaGrange

NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:

- Milliken & Company—textile and chemical manufacturer
- Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia—auto manufacturer
- Mountville Mills Inc.—mat manufacturer
- Jindal Films Americas LLC—packaging manufacturer
- Great Wolf Lodge—indoor water and adventure park
- West Georgia Health—medical center
- InterfaceFLOR LLC—textile manufacturer
- Kimberly-Clark—manufacturer of towels, wipes and dispensers
- CW Matthews Contracting Co. Inc.—cement-mixing plant
- Troup County School System—educational system

“My vision for LaGrange is that it is a thriving city, a safe city and a fun city.”

Mayor Jim Thornton

LaGrange Notables:

- **Sarah B. Marbry** established a hosiery mill in LaGrange shortly after the Civil War. Marbry was one of a few female mill entrepreneurs of the time. Her products were shipped as far away as New Orleans and Philadelphia.
- When **Marquis de Lafayette**, a Revolutionary War hero, visited Georgia, he remarked on the similarity between the west Georgia countryside and his wife’s estate in France, LaGrange. Leadership named the city for that remembrance. Today, a French fleur-de-lis icon embellishes the LaGrange brand.
- Born in the early 1800s, **Horace King** learned bridge building as a slave and became a sought-after bridge builder and architect along the Georgia-Alabama border. King was freed in 1846 and later served two terms in the Alabama legislature while continuing to build covered bridges and buildings. He moved to LaGrange in 1873.
- **Great Wolf Lodge Georgia** is an indoor water and adventure park for the entire family. The resort features kid-friendly activities, dining options and adult-friendly amenities, all under one roof. The 93,000-square-foot water park’s pools and slides are kept warm at 84 degrees year-round. It is the only one of the company’s 16 U.S. properties located in Georgia.

Follow the Thread

The city of LaGrange has a rich history with the textile industry. The early era of spinning cloth came and went, largely lost to overseas competition. But the vision and leadership of LaGrange textile titans left a legacy that is still very much alive today. It is a thread that weaves through every aspect of city life.

In 1895, Fuller E. Callaway risked his entire life savings to make Dixie Cotton Mills a LaGrange success. With investors from the Northeast and Atlanta, Callaway invested \$10,000 to replace the antiquated machinery in the factory on Greenville Street to weave cloth. As he built personal wealth, he crafted a life of philanthropy. He told an early journalist that he was “making American citizens and running cotton mills to pay expenses.”

Today, the Callaway Foundation Inc. ensures that its benefactor’s dedication to community development remains a part of the fabric of LaGrange.

Southbend Park, a downtown greenspace, was funded by the foundation. It is flanked by a wildly popular city-financed skate park and the nearby entrepreneurial gathering place, Wild Leap Brewery. Across the city, municipal leadership, along with private investors and philanthropic dollars, creates abundant opportunity for living, working and playing.

Visionaries imagined a 26-mile multi-use trail winding through the neighborhoods of LaGrange. With a nod to the city’s textile history, the trail network was named The Thread. Over seven miles of The Thread have been built so far, using SPLOST funds. A cadre of volunteers serve on its board, and corporate sponsors underwrite its maintenance.

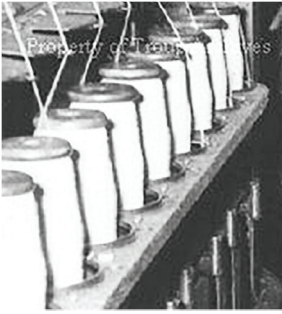
LaGrange’s 21st century business roster carries on Callaway’s community focus. Milliken & Company, a global company with a floor covering plant in LaGrange, has been a city partner and key employer since 1968, when it purchased Callaway Mills. Milliken & Company amped up its community commitment by repurposing a

143,000-square-foot administrative building into a distribution center and plans a \$70 million investment in its LaGrange operations.

InterfaceFLOR LLC, an international textile manufacturer known for its revolutionary carpet tiles, was founded by a local, Ray Anderson, in 1973. The company has been an innovation leader not only on the manufacturing side, but also environmentally. In 1994, Anderson formulated a plan to make Interface an environmentally sustainable and restorative company before sustainability was a movement. Having accomplished its goal of zero environmental footprint, known as Mission Zero®, the company now works toward “giving back” to the environment more than it takes.

LaGrange is indeed a city inspired, with a common thread of innovation and community dedication linking its past and present.





Historic Photo, Spindles of Thread



Courtesy of Great Wolf Lodge



Courtesy of Sweetland Amphitheatre

More About HOMETOWN LAGRANGE

- Located less than 15 minutes from the heart of the city is West Point Lake, which provides 26,900 acres of bass and game fishing, boating and camping, plus a 6,397-acre wildlife management area. Just 17 miles away is Callaway Gardens, a four-star recreation and nature resort with golfing, tennis, horticulture and butterfly conservatories surrounding a conference center that hosts groups of up to 1,000.
- In 2018, the LaGrange Development Authority officially launched the Georgia International Business Park. This LaGrange park is the largest business park in the Southeast and the fourth-largest in the country. The city also boasts Callaway South Industrial Park, a 1,600-acre development that is home to four Fortune 50 and seven Fortune 500 companies. Located three miles from I-85 and I-185, adjacent to the region's Callaway Airport, and a designated CSX Select Site, it was the first industrial park in LaGrange.
- Hills & Dales Estate was the home of textile magnate Fuller E. Callaway, Sr., and his family. The property features the historic Ferrell Gardens, which are one of the best preserved 19th century gardens in America. The gardens were created by Sarah Ferrell between 1841 and 1903 and include extensive boxwood plantings, fountains, an herb garden and a greenhouse. The centerpiece of the 35-acre estate is a beautiful Italianate villa designed by the noted architects Neel Reid and Hal Hentz, which was completed in 1916. A major restoration of the house was completed in April 2010, and all three floors of the home are open for guided tours.
- From lively dramatic theater to symphonic classics and ballet, the arts are showcased in the \$2.5 million LaGrange College drama theater, a facility that is greatly appreciated and enthusiastically attended. The works of outstanding and emerging artists are displayed at the Lamar Dodd Art Center and the Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum.