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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **City, Atlanta Gas Light Mark Achievements of Civic Center as part of the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge**

*Flagship energy efficiency project creates 89 construction jobs and saves \$200,000 in utility costs*

**ATLANTA** --- The City of Atlanta and Atlanta Gas Light, a subsidiary of AGL Resources (NYSE:GAS), today celebrated the completion of energy enhancements at the Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center as part of the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge. The challenge, launched in 2011 by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, is led by the city's Office of Sustainability in conjunction with Central Atlanta Progress.

The local effort is part of the Better Buildings Challenge; a national initiative of the Obama administration and the U.S. Department of Energy. Its main goal is to make commercial buildings 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020, while accelerating private sector investment in energy efficiency projects. Today, the Civic Center became Atlanta's first building to complete the challenge and reduce its energy consumption and improve water efficiency.

Today marks a milestone for the city in its effort to reduce energy and water consumption through the Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge," said Mayor Reed. "Not only will the savings for building owners and operators be significant, but this investment also will help Atlanta become a more sustainable city. I am grateful to AGL Resources for its commitment and support by upgrading the Atlanta Civic Center with the SEED program" added Reed.

In June 2011, Atlanta Gas Light received approval from the Georgia Public Service Commission to implement certain energy improvements at the Atlanta Civic Center to reduce utility costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of its contract with the City of Atlanta under the Georgia SEED program.

With the completed improvements, the Civic Center is expected to achieve annual source energy savings of 25,000 British thermal units (MMBtus), or more than \$200,000. The city should realize a cost-savings of approximately \$3.57 million over the term of the fifteen-year contract.

Once an all-electric building that ranked in the top 12 out of nearly 750 City of Atlanta buildings in terms of total energy consumption, the Atlanta Civic Center, a 230,000-square-foot facility, underwent a complete energy overhaul with improvements including the installation of high-efficiency, individual-zone-controlled HVAC systems utilizing both natural gas and electric power. Additional installations include web-based automation controls of space temperatures, shutdown/startup, and demand-controlled ventilation; high-efficiency natural gas-fired water heating systems; the replacement of inefficient lighting with high-efficiency LED and florescent lighting; and the installation of controls to prevent operation during unoccupied periods.

The Mayor's Office of Sustainability served as project managers on the city's behalf, and plans to execute projects with similar energy efficiency best practices applied across the city's portfolio of buildings.

#### **About the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Sustainability**

The Mayor's Office of Sustainability is focused on instituting environmental protection practices into Atlanta city government. It aims to do so by improving the city's environmental programs and policies such as water and energy conservation, solid waste and emissions reduction and recycling. To fully expand its commitment to sustainability, Mayor Kasim Reed has pledged that the City of Atlanta will become one of the top 10 most sustainable cities in the United States. To that end, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability utilizes Recovery Act funding across 16 different programs. These programs are designed to motivate and support community efforts that aim to enhance environmental quality, while supporting jobs and long-term economic growth. For more information about Atlanta's efforts to create a more sustainable city, please visit the Office of Sustainability's page at [www.atlantaga.gov/sustainability](http://www.atlantaga.gov/sustainability).

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