Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Sunday, August 6, 2023



Transportation not only sector where state must reduce emissions

Based on existing reports, it appears that Georgia's so-called climate plan, actually an emissions reduction plan, funded through the federal Inflation Reduction Act, is already being misguided by political motives.

Emphasis is placed on reducing transportation emissions by hastening the conversion to electric vehicles. While transportation generates more emissions than the other Georgia sectors, according to online sources it is only marginally worse than our power-generating industry. Yet, there's scant mention of converting to clean energy among initial comments reported about the state's emissions reduction plan.

In Georgia, many electric vehicles will be recharged with power produced by burning natural gas, which is linked to methane leaks having far worse heat-trapping effects than carbon dioxide. Unjustifiably, using natural gas to produce electricity is a mainstay in Georgia Power's 20—year plan, approved by the Public Service Commission last year.

Considering dangerously accelerating temperature extremes, emissions must be minimized as soon as possible. Burning natural gas while continuing to impede rooftop solar undercuts that vital goal.

David Kyler Center for a Sustainable Coast Saint Simons Island