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Read the full 2019 Report at: <https://www.gawater.org/clean-13>

Award VIDEO <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv3kLKhqcBE>

**Leading Water Protection Coalition Presents  
Clean 13 Water Heroes Award to Fulton County**

Today, Georgia's leading water protection coalition presented its Clean 13 Water Heroes Award to the Fulton County Commission.

Aside from climate change, probably no other environmental challenge has received more public attention recently than the plague of plastic pollution fouling our waterways and oceans. In July 2019, the Fulton County Commission became the first local governing body in Georgia to take a stand against plastic pollution, adopting a resolution aimed at eliminating single-use plastics in all government properties.

To bring statewide recognition to this bold leadership, the Georgia Water Coalition included Fulton County's achievement in their 2019 Clean 13 report. The annual report highlights individuals, businesses, industries, non-profit organizations and governmental agencies whose extraordinary efforts have led to cleaner rivers, stronger communities and a more sustainable future for Georgians.

"As a native Atlantan, I'm so proud that Fulton County is the trailblazer," said Rena Peck, Executive Director of Georgia River Network who presented the award to Chairman Rob Pitts Thursday. "It took a lot of guts and tenacity by the commissioners and staff. It's hard to count how many times the resolution went back to the board for examination, but Fulton County has taken the lead in curbing the stream of plastics into our waterways."

The 13 water heroes recognized in the Clean 13 report were slated to receive their awards at a the Clean 13 Celebration in Atlanta on March 12. Unfortunately, the event was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on large gatherings of people. As the COVID -19 crisis continued to escalate over recent months the Georgia Water Coalition permanently cancelled the event and instead chose to recognize these inspiring water heroes at locally organized small outdoor ceremonies.

The Georgia Water Coalition is a consortium of more than 260 conservation and environmental organizations, hunting and fishing groups, businesses, and faith-based organizations that have been working to protect Georgia's water since 2002. Collectively, these organizations represent thousands of Georgians. The Coalition annually publishes the Clean 13 list not only to recognize these positive efforts on behalf of Georgia's water but also as a call to action for our state's leaders and citizens to review these success stories, borrow from them and emulate them.