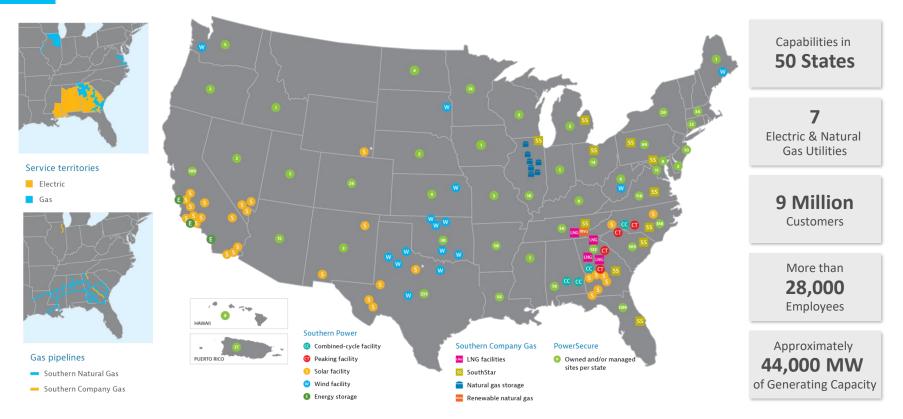


# Shareholder Sustainability Update

February 2024



# We provide clean, safe, reliable, affordable energy and customized solutions



In this presentation, the terms "we", "us" and "our" all refer to Southern Company. Southern Company is a holding company that conducts its business through its subsidiaries. Accordingly, unless the context otherwise requires, references in this document to Southern Company's operations, such as generating activities, greenhouse gas emissions and employment practices, refer to those operations conducted through its subsidiaries.

\*Under development As of February 2024 2

## Southern Company Value Proposition

Strategy: Maximize long-term value to shareholders through a customer-, community-, and relationship-focused business model that produces sustainable levels of return for investors

#### **Key financial objectives**

- Superior risk-adjusted total shareholder return
- A high degree of financial integrity and strong investment grade credit ratings
- Strong, sustainable returns on invested capital
- Regular, predictable and sustainable EPS and dividend growth\*

# 76 years of dividends

equal to or greater than the previous year

# >90% of Earnings

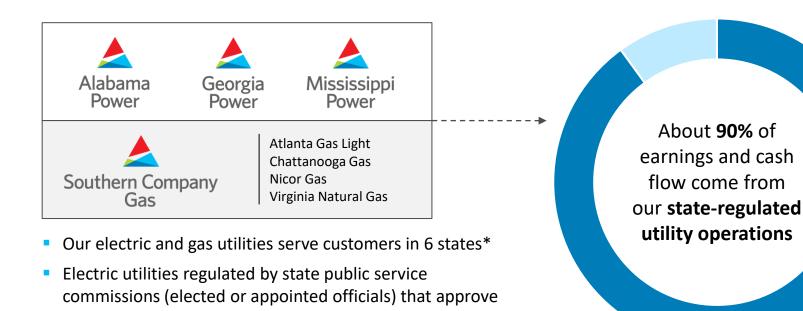
from state-regulated utilities





<sup>\*</sup> Future dividends are subject to approval of the Southern Company Board of Directors and depend on earnings, financial condition and other factors.

# Premier State Regulated Electric and Gas Utilities



Constructive regulatory jurisdictions

cost recovery rates

new resources, retirement of existing resources and related

<sup>\*</sup>Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Illinois, Tennessee, and Virginia

# **ESG Highlights**

#### **Governance (Slides 6-11)**

- Southern Company's leadership changes reflects thoughtful succession planning
- Regular refreshment strengthens our diverse, fit-for-purpose Board
- Corporate governance standards designed to create long-term value

#### **Environmental (Slides 12-19)**

 Progress toward 2030 and 2050 GHG emission reduction goals, including planned retirement of significant coal generation and addition of zerocarbon resources, and expanding disclosures on emissions

#### Social (Slides 20-22)

 Continuing long-term focus on human capital management, moving to equity and just transition

#### Transparency (Slide 23)

Commitment to ongoing disclosure, transparency and sustainability leadership

#### **Appendix (Slides 24-29)**

Supplemental information on environmental and transparency



#### Thoughtful succession planning is a strategic priority for Southern Company



**Chris Womack** 

- Named Southern Company's President effective March 2023 and CEO effective May 2023; Board <u>elected</u> Chris to the role of Chairman effective December 31, 2023
- Served as President of Georgia Power, Southern Company's largest subsidiary, since 2020 and Chairman, President and CEO since 2021
- Prior to leading Georgia Power, served as EVP and President of External Affairs for Southern Company
- A native of Greenville, Alabama, Chris joined Southern Company in 1988 and has held many leadership positions throughout Southern Company and its subsidiaries, including EVP of External Affairs at Georgia Power, SVP and Senior Production Officer of Southern Company Generation, SVP of Human Resources and Chief People Officer at Southern Company and SVP of Public Relations and Corporate Services at Alabama Power
- Co-chair of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Customer Solutions Policy Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of Invesco Ltd. and the Georgia Ports Authority

Tom Fanning, the former CEO, served as Executive Chair of the Southern Company Board of Directors through December 31, 2023; he <u>retired</u> from the Board effective December 31, 2023.

#### Southern Company's Board of Directors has been actively engaged in CEO succession planning for years

- The Compensation and Talent Development Committee oversees the development and implementation of succession plans for senior leadership positions, including the CEO
  - The Board meets potential leaders at many levels across the organization through formal presentations and informal events
  - The Committee completes annual reviews of succession plans for senior management and the CEO
  - Succession planning includes both long-term and emergency scenarios
- The independent Directors annually review the Board leadership structure to determine the structure that is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders

Robust role of the Lead Independent Director and strong independent Directors



- David J. Grain was elected Lead Independent Director in May 2021 by the independent members of Southern Company's Board of Directors
  - Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Grain Management, a private equity firm focused on global investments in the media and communications sector
  - Appointed by President Obama in 2011 to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council
  - Elected to Southern Company's Board in 2012
  - Also serves on the Nominating, Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee

#### Southern Company's Lead Independent Director role is robust and provides strong independent leadership

The Lead Independent Director is elected by the independent Directors to serve in the role for a period of about three years.

- ✓ Working with the CEO/Chairman to set the agenda for Board meetings
- Approving the agenda (with the ability to add agenda items) and schedule for Board meetings
- Approving information sent to the Board
- Chairing executive sessions of the non-management Directors, held at every regular board meeting, with the ability to call an executive session
- ✓ Chairing Board meetings in the absence of the CEO/Chairman
- Meeting regularly with the CEO/Chairman and members of senior management

- Acting as the principal liaison between CEO/Chairman and independent Directors (although every Director has direct and complete access to the CEO/Chairman at any time)
- Serving as the primary contact Director for stockholders and other interested parties
- Communicating any sensitive issues to the Directors
- Overseeing the independent Directors' performance evaluation of the CEO, in conjunction with the chair of the Compensation and Talent Development Committee

#### Focus on regular, thoughtful board refreshment

Jan 2019 October 2023



Janaki Akella Former Digital Transformation Leader, Google LLC



Anthony F. Earley President & CEO. PG&E Corp (retired)



Kristine L. Svinicki Adjunct Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences, U. Michiaan: Former Chair U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission



Chris Womack Chairman, President & CEO, Southern Company



David E. Meador Vice Chairman & Chief Administrative Officer, DTE Energy (retired)



**Lizanne Thomas** Partner, global law firm Jones Day (retired)



Shantella E. Cooper Founder & CEO, Journey Forward Strategies, LLC

Director Additions Past 5 Years

- Board is **committed to regular refreshment** and believes a variety of perspectives facilitates effective decisionmaking, helps drive long-term value, and encourages different views on risk, business strategy and innovation
- Governance guidelines provide that **Board should be** diverse and confirm "Rooney Rule" commitment to actively seek out women and candidates of color to include in the pool from which board nominees are chosen

Independent, diverse and experienced Board

Southern Company's Directors possess a range and depth of expertise and experience to effectively oversee the Company's operations, risks and long-term strategy.







Thoughtful Board oversight of key ESG risks and opportunities

# Full Board regularly discusses key ESG topics as part of its regular agenda, including fleet transition and human capital management

#### Committees take a deeper dive into ESG risks and opportunities and report out to full Board

Compensation and Talent Development
Committee oversees human capital
management strategies, practices and
programs, including talent acquisition,
development and retention; diversity, equity
and inclusion; employee engagement and
well-being; performance management; and

pay equity reviews

Nominating, Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee oversees significant corporate responsibility strategies, programs and practices, including environmental sustainability and climate change, supporting community investment and social justice, advancing supplier diversity, public policy advocacy, political contributions and lobbying and assessing ESG feedback from stockholders and other stakeholders

Operations, Environmental and Safety
Committee oversees reduction of GHG
emissions and fleet transition, including
net zero carbon strategies, resource
planning, emerging technologies and
R&D and the impact on employees and
communities of implementing the

business strategies and operations

Audit Committee oversees the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls, including the development of internal controls for non-financial ESG-related data and disclosures

Finance Committee oversees capital deployment, including alignment of long-term capital allocation strategies with net zero objectives

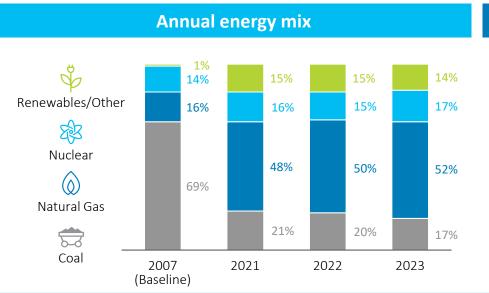
Business Security and Resiliency
Committee oversees cybersecurity,
physical security and operational resiliency,
including issues and policies relating to
climate change and adaptation and its
impact on business resiliency

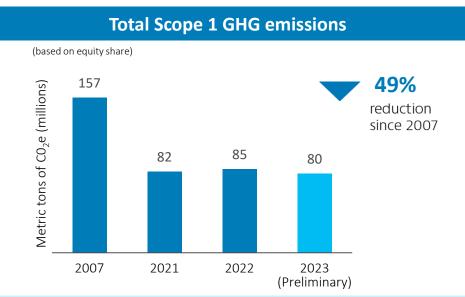
Corporate governance standards and practices designed to create long-term value for our stockholders

<ul> <li>Annual election of Directors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>100% independent Board committees</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Majority voting standard for Director election</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Executive session on agenda at every regular Board and committee meeting</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Proxy access for stockholders</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Regular Board refreshment</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>10% threshold for stockholders to request special meeting</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Commitment to include diverse candidates in pool for new Directors</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Year-round stockholder outreach with Director participation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Annual Board and committee assessments, including third-party facilitations</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>More than 75% of Directors are independent</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Regular executive sessions of independent Directors</li> </ul>
Strong Lead Independent Director	<ul><li>No poison pill</li></ul>

Medium-term GHG Goal: 50% reduction by 2030

Long-term GHG Goal: Net zero by 2050



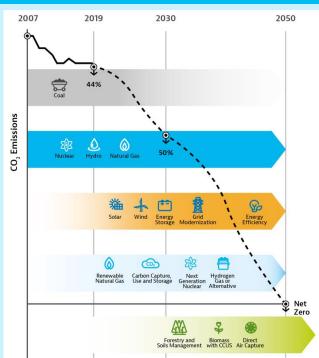


- Annual energy mix represents all of the energy the Southern Company system uses to serve its retail and wholesale customers during the year. It is not meant to represent delivered energy mix to any particular retail customer or class of customers. Annual energy mix percentages include non-affiliate power purchase agreements.
- Renewables/Other category includes wind, solar, hydro, biomass, landfill gas and fuel cells.
- With respect to renewable generation and associated renewable energy credits (RECs), to the extent an affiliate of Southern Company has the right to the RECs associated with renewable energy it generates or purchases, it retains the right to sell the energy and RECs, either bundled or separately, to retail customers and third parties.
- Based on the preliminary 2023 emissions, the Southern Company system has achieved an estimated GHG emission reduction of 49% since 2007. GHG emissions decreased in 2023 when compared to 2022 as coal generation was displaced by lower carbon generation, including from Plant Vogtle Unit 3. Southern Company system management expects to achieve GHG reductions of greater than 50% as early as 2025, five years earlier than the established interim goal, and remain close to 50% through the late 2020s, followed thereafter by continued reductions. In 2022, Southern experienced a slight increase in GHG emissions from 2021 due to increased generation associated with higher electricity sales.

#### Achieving our path to net zero

- We expect our path to net zero to be achieved through:
  - Continued coal fleet transition
  - Utilization of natural gas to enable fleet transition
  - Further growth in portfolio of zerocarbon resources
  - Enhanced energy efficiency initiatives
  - Continued investment in R&D focused on clean energy technologies
  - Negative carbon solutions

#### A path to net zero



#### Coa

While coal has been key to supplying affordable energy to our customers, we are embracing an orderly transition of our coal fleet.

#### **Foundational**

Nuclear, hydro and natural gas are foundational baseload and flexible components of an orderly transition.

#### Expanding

We are expanding our deployment of renewables and energy storage, modernizing the electricity grid and enhancing energy efficiency programs.

#### Emerging

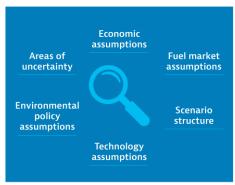
Emerging technologies, such as carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS), renewable natural gas, next generation nuclear and hydrogen, will be key to achieving our emission reduction goals.

#### **Negative Carbon Concepts**

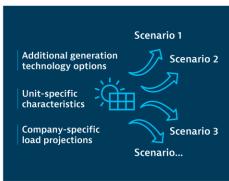
Negative carbon concepts, such as natural solutions, biomass energy with CCUS and direct air capture, must emerge and become cost-effective to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

#### <u>Thoughtful scenario planning process</u> guides fleet transition to achieve GHG reduction targets

#### **Energy Economy Modeling**









Integrated Resource Planning

Retirement analyses

New generation development

- Scenario planning process has been in place since 2008 and serves as basis for integrated resource planning at stateregulated electric operating companies, informing major generation retirement and capital investment decisions
- Our internal integrated resource planning process occurs annually allowing updates to scenarios and associated carbon prices, as well as incorporating the most recent commodity, economic and policy indicators
- Each operating company is committed to reliability and affordability while adopting new technologies as they become available to enable Southern Company's transition to net zero
- Harmonizing decarbonization efforts with reliability and **affordability** at the state level is important for customers, regulators and investors

# Georgia Power 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Update

IRP Update filed in support of Georgia's extraordinary projected economic growth and increased energy demand

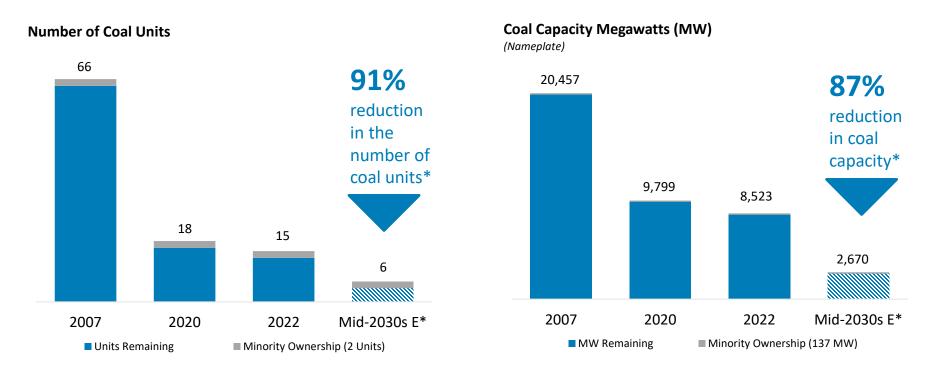
Since the approval of Georgia Power's 2022 IRP, Georgia's economic development efforts have added \$24B+ in projected capital investment and 38,000+ projected new jobs to an already healthy pipeline. This rapid expansion has brought a historic increase in the expected demand for energy.

- >6GW of projected peak load growth by 2030/2031
- Proposed plan helps ensure resilience, reliability, and flexibility on behalf of customers
  - Additional renewables & storage assets
  - New advanced class combustion turbine generation
  - PPAs with existing Southeast resources
- Accelerated execution timeline to meet projected demand



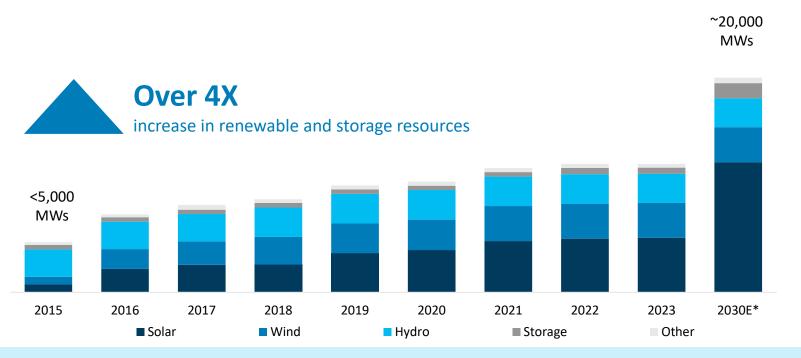
Georgia Power's 2023 IRP Update continues the Company's commitment to responsibly transition its generation fleet to more cost-effective natural gas and zero-carbon resources

Coal retirements since 2007 demonstrate significant fleet transition



<sup>\*</sup>Future estimates depend upon environmental compliance determinations and state regulatory processes. Coal generating unit and capacity reductions are expected to be driven by either retirements or the repowering of units to burn natural gas during peak loads. Minority ownership units are subject to compliance decisions made by majority owners.

Strong historical growth in renewables and storage portfolio, with significant future additions expected



Includes owned and contracted resources including 100% capacity for jointly owned projects. With respect to renewable generation and associated renewable energy credits (RECs), to the extent an affiliate of Southern Company has the right to the RECs associated with renewable energy it generates or purchases, it retains the right to sell the energy and RECs, either bundled or separately, to retail customers or third parties. Other includes biomass and landfill gas.

<sup>\*</sup>Future estimates include owned and contracted capacity that have received regulatory approval. Additional renewable resources could be added prior to 2030 at Southern Power or at our operating companies, should they be proposed and approved through regulatory processes.

Vogtle Units 3 & 4 will provide reliable, emissions-free energy to customers for 60 - 80 years

# Plant Vogtle Unit 3 has entered commercial operation July 2023 and is now serving customers and the State of Georgia; Unit 4 projected in-service date 2Q24

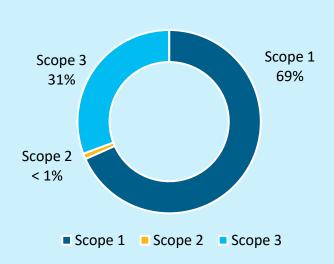
- Unit 3 is the first new nuclear unit built in the United States in three decades
- The units will generate enough zero-carbon electricity each to power 500,000 homes and businesses with an
  expected life of 60-80 years; the carbon-free energy that will be produced by Units 3 and 4 is equivalent to
  removing more than 1 million cars from the road each year
- Once all four units are online, the Plant Vogtle site will be the largest generator of clean energy in the U.S.
- Most of the workforce craft professionals are North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) members



Focusing on the full value chain of GHG emissions

In addition to reducing emissions from operations (Scope 1 & 2), we are committed to driving upstream and downstream emission reductions (Scope 3).

# 2022 GHG Emissions by Scope



Southern Company's GHG emissions are calculated using the equity share approach presented in the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol for all its owned assets.

#### **Scopes 1 & 2 Highlights**

Continued to enhance reporting in our 2023 CDP Climate Change disclosure and obtained limited assurance from Deloitte & Touche LLP for our Scope 1 & 2 emissions for 2021 and 2022; have also obtained limited assurance of Scope 1 emissions for the 2007 baseline year.

#### **Scope 3 Highlights**

- Disclosed 10 of 15 Scope 3 categories in our 2023 CDP response, which comprises <u>all</u> relevant Scope 3 emissions categories (the remaining categories are not relevant) representing leading peer practice
- ✓ Of our Scope 3 emissions, >90% are from Fuel and Energy Related Activities (emissions associated with upstream fuel as well as power purchases for resale) and Use of Sold Products (downstream natural gas customer emissions)
- ✓ We are advancing reductions across the natural gas value chain
  - Founding member of ONE Future, which aims to reduce methane emissions to less than 1% across the natural gas value chain
  - Sponsor of GTI Energy's Veritas effort to develop a standardized, science-based, technologyneutral approach to measuring, calculating, and reporting methane emissions
  - Natural gas local distribution companies have committed to seeking natural gas that has been certified to be produced with lower methane emissions
  - Expanded our residential energy efficiency programs to include all our natural gas local distribution companies

#### Social

#### Strong commitment to human capital management and addressing systemic racism

- Committed to <u>Moving to Equity</u>
  - Building a healthy and diverse culture
  - Committed to be a role model among companies forging change



- Our employees are one of our greatest assets, and our actions demonstrate the value we place on our people
  - Fully committed to attracting, developing, including and retaining an engaged, healthy, sustainable and socially responsible workforce
  - Invest in our employees through total rewards strategy designed to encourage physical, financial and emotional well-being
  - Proud of our partnership with labor unions and support the rights to collective bargaining and freedom of association

Pillars	Key 2023 Highlights
TALENT	<ul> <li>Increased representation for people of color in the workforce and for people of color and women in management roles.</li> </ul>
WORK ENVIRONMENT	<ul> <li>Women and people of color make up a majority of participants in the company's leadership development programs.</li> </ul>
SUPPLIER INCLUSION	<ul> <li>Spending with diverse suppliers reached 29.1% of total spending, up from 28.5% in 2022 and closing in on the company's goal of 30% by 2025.</li> <li>In 2023, \$2.5 billion of contract expenditures went to diverse suppliers, welcoming 57 new partners.</li> </ul>
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	<ul> <li>Sought opportunities to utilize and deploy federal resources across</li> <li>Southern Company to improve our service delivery and enrich our communities.</li> </ul>
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE	<ul> <li>Committed \$201 million since 2020 to community initiatives, prioritizing education equity, criminal justice equity, economic empowerment and energy empowerment.</li> </ul>

### Social

Workforce demographics reflect our commitments (2023 highlights)



Aggregated workforce EEO-1 data is available <u>here</u>.

#### Social

#### We are committed to a Just Transition for our stakeholders

- As Southern Company transitions to a clean energy future, we understand there will be potential opportunities and challenges for our workforce, communities and customers
- Our 2022 Just Transition Report
   outlines the principles guiding us
   and provides examples, based on
   prior coal-fired generating asset
   retirements, of our work with
   employees, labor unions,
   communities and local
   governments to achieve
   a smooth transition



### **Our Just Transition Principles foster:**



Strong governance



Effective stakeholder engagement and transparent communication



Employee support and coordination with labor unions



Ongoing community and environmental commitment



Continued safety, reliability, resilience and affordability

## Transparency

#### Disclosures responsive to investor interest

- **Sustainability Website** available here
- **Key Data and Reports** available here
- **Supplier Code of Conduct** available here



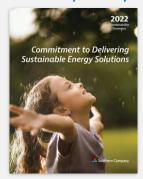








#### **Sustainability Summary**





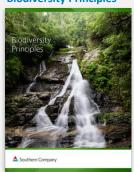
Frameworks & Other -

- SASB Report
- GRI Report
- EEI ESG/ Sustainability
- Reporting **Template**
- EEO-1 Data

#### **Environmental Principles**







**Moving to Equity Report** 



**Just Transition Report** 



**Human Rights Statement** 



#### **Supplier Code of Conduct**



# Appendix

Environmental Transparency



### Appendix – Environmental

Southern Company seeks transformational technologies needed to facilitate the transition to carbon-free energy

Southern Company has undertaken a systematic, comprehensive review of its <u>R&D</u> plan, including the identification of long-term objectives and aspirations and development of a refined strategy roadmap.



# Appendix - Transparency

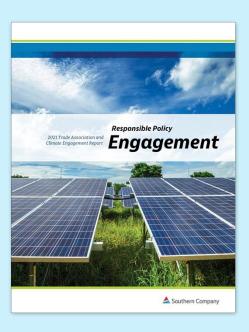
# Ratings and rankings demonstrate commitment and progress

	Scale	Rating
MSCI (2023)	Letter grade CCC – AAA (best) Score 0-10 (best)	A 5.9
Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating (2023)	0 (best) – 100	29.1
ISS Governance Score (2024)	1 (best) – 10	1
CDP Climate (2021 & 2022)	Letter grade	A-
GRESB (2023)	Letter grade Score 0-100 (best)	A 82 (11 <sup>th</sup> of 48 U.S. Utilities)
CPA Zicklin (2023)	0 – 100 (best)	91% Trendsetter Designation

## Appendix – Transparency

Policy engagement and advocacy is aligned with our net zero by 2050 goal

Published <u>2021 Trade Association and</u>
<u>Climate Engagement Report</u> in November 2022 to provide additional transparency on policy engagement and trade associations



- On our <u>website</u> we describe the public policy advocacy positions that we express in our engagements with policy makers
  - Alignment with the Paris Agreement
  - Effective carbon policy
  - Promoting efficiency energy use
  - Protecting customers
  - Environmental justice
  - Promoting research, development, demonstration and deployment
  - Clean energy innovation
  - Advancing electric vehicles and low-emitting vehicles
  - Tax policy flexibility
- In 2022, updated <u>report</u> on Political Engagement
   Expenditure Disclosures to include both federal and state information on lobbying and political contributions (e.g., 501(c)(4) and 527)
- Scored 91 for political disclosure and accountability by <u>CPA-Zicklin</u> and recognized with "Trendsetter" designation

# Appendix - Transparency

Corporate Sustainability Goals Aligned with UN SDGs



Southern Company has mapped our five corporate sustainability priorities to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals framework, indicating our alignment with a sustainable future.

# PILLARS

Serve Our Customers









Advance Clean Energy















Lead Through Innovation

















Our People









Elevate Our Communities





# Appendix – Transparency

Third parties continue to rate Southern Company highly for its ESG leadership and transparency

2022 Wall Street
Journal's
Management 250 List,
Drucker Institute



**2023 Top 50 Companies for Diversity,** *DiversityInc* (8th consecutive year)

No. 1 for Black Executives

No. 3 for Veterans

No. 5 for Supplier Diversity



2023 America's Best Large Employers (No. 15 overall in U.S.), Forbes Magazine 2023 Best Employers for Women, Forbes Magazine



# FORTUNE

**2023 World's Most Admired Companies**, *Fortune* Magazine



2023 Top U.S. Utility for Economic Development,

Site Selection Magazine – Alabama Power & Georgia Power



**2022 Best for Vets: Employers,** The Military Times

**2023 Military-Friendly Employer,** *GI Jobs* Magazine





**2023** Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion, The Disability Equality Index – 100% score (7th consecutive year)



**2023 CPA-Zicklin Index,** political disclosure and accountability (Trendsetter – 91 score)



A- Score, CDP Climate Change Disclosure for transparency and leadership within the thermal power generation sector (2021, 2022)





# Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Certain information contained in this presentation is forward-looking information based on current expectations and plans that involve risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking information includes, among other things, statements concerning Southern Company's financial objectives, the projected in-service date for and expected future operations of Plant Vogtle Unit 4, planned coal retirements or repowerings, projected renewable energy capacity and expected achievement of emission reduction goals. Southern Company cautions that there are certain factors that can cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking information that has been provided. The reader is cautioned not to put undue reliance on this forward-looking information, which is not a guarantee of future performance and is subject to a number of uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside the control of Southern Company; accordingly, there can be no assurance that such suggested results will be realized. The following factors, in addition to those discussed in Southern Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023, and subsequent securities filings. could cause actual results to differ materially from management expectations as suggested by such forward-looking information: the impact of recent and future federal and state regulatory changes, including tax, environmental, and other laws and regulations to which Southern Company and its subsidiaries are subject, as well as changes in application of existing laws and regulations; the extent and timing of costs and legal requirements related to coal combustion residuals; current and future litigation or regulatory investigations, proceedings, or inquiries, including litigation and other disputes related to the Kemper County energy facility and Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4; the effects, extent, and timing of the entry of additional competition in the markets in which Southern Company's subsidiaries operate, including from the development and deployment of alternative energy sources; variations in demand for electricity and natural gas; available sources and costs of natural gas and other fuels and commodities; the ability to complete necessary or desirable pipeline expansion or infrastructure projects, limits on pipeline capacity, public and policymaker support for such projects, and operational interruptions to natural gas distribution and transmission activities; transmission constraints; the ability to control costs and avoid cost and schedule overruns during the development, construction, and operation of facilities or other projects, including Plant Vogtle Unit 4 (which includes components based on new technology that only within the last several years began initial operation in the global nuclear industry at this scale), due to current and/or future challenges which include, but are not limited to, changes in labor costs, availability, and productivity, challenges with the management of contractors or vendors, subcontractor performance, adverse weather conditions, shortages, delays, increased costs, or inconsistent quality of equipment, materials, and labor, contractor or supplier delay, the impacts of inflation, delays due to judicial or regulatory action, nonperformance under construction, operating, or other agreements. operational readiness, including specialized operator training and required site safety programs, engineering or design problems or any remediation related thereto, design and other licensing-based compliance matters, challenges with startup activities, including major equipment failure, or system integration, and/or operational performance, challenges related to future pandemic health events, continued public and policymaker support for projects, environmental and geological conditions, delays or increased costs to interconnect facilities to transmission grids, and increased financing costs as a result of changes in interest rates or as a result of project delays; the ability to overcome or mitigate the current challenges, or challenges yet to be identified, at Plant Vogtle Unit 4 that could further impact the cost and schedule for the project; legal proceedings and regulatory approvals and actions related to past and ongoing construction projects. including Public Service Commission approvals and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission actions; under certain specified circumstances, a decision by holders of more than 10% of the ownership interests of Plant Vogtle Unit 4 not to proceed with construction; in the event Georgia Power Company ("Georgia Power") becomes obligated to provide funding to Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia ("MEAG Power") with respect to the portion of MEAG Power's ownership interest in Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 involving Jacksonville Electric Authority, any inability of Georgia Power to receive repayment of such funding; the ability to construct facilities in accordance with the requirements of permits and licenses (including satisfaction of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements), to satisfy any environmental performance standards and the requirements of tax credits and other incentives, and to integrate facilities into the Southern Company system upon completion of construction; investment performance of the employee and retiree benefit plans and nuclear decommissioning trust funds; advances in technology, including the pace and extent of development of low- to no-carbon energy and battery energy storage technologies and negative carbon concepts; performance of counterparties under ongoing renewable energy partnerships and development agreements; state and federal rate regulations and the impact of pending and future rate cases and negotiations, including rate actions relating to return on equity, equity ratios, additional generating capacity, and fuel and other cost recovery mechanisms; the ability to successfully operate the electric utilities' generation, transmission, and distribution facilities, Southern Power's generation facilities and Southern Company Gas' natural gas distribution and storage facilities and the successful performance of necessary corporate functions; the inherent risks involved in operating and constructing nuclear generating facilities; the inherent risks involved in transporting and storing natural gas; the performance of projects undertaken by the non-utility businesses and the success of efforts to invest in and develop new opportunities; internal restructuring or other restructuring options that may be pursued; potential business strategies, including acquisitions or dispositions of assets or businesses, which cannot be assured to be completed or beneficial to Southern Company or its subsidiaries: the ability to obtain new short- and long-term contracts with wholesale customers; the direct or indirect effect on the Southern Company system's business resulting from cyber intrusion or physical attack and the threat of cyber and physical attacks; global and U.S. economic conditions, including impacts from geopolitical conflicts, recession, inflation, interest rate fluctuations, and financial market conditions, and the results of financing efforts; access to capital markets and other financing sources; changes in Southern Company's and any of its subsidiaries' credit ratings; the ability of Southern Company's electric utilities to obtain additional generating capacity (or sell excess generating capacity) at competitive prices; catastrophic events such as fires, earthquakes, explosions, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and other storms, droughts, pandemic health events, political unrest, wars, or other similar occurrences; the direct or indirect effects on the Southern Company system's business resulting from incidents affecting the U.S. electric grid, natural gas pipeline infrastructure, or operation of generating or storage resources; impairments of goodwill or long-lived assets; and the effect of accounting pronouncements issued periodically by standard-setting bodies. Southern Company expressly disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking information.