

Sustainability Update

March 2014

Federal:

- On March 13th, The Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (the Biggert-Waters Fix Bill) passed, with the following:
 - Reinstates grandfathering of base height, regardless of new mapping.
 - Of Particular interest to the Keys, grandfathering MAY NOT??? affect properties that were below base flood when built, since they weren't assigned a specific height? Elevation certificates are still needed for current maps, and that will affect folks "below BFE" because instead of lumping, it will reflect exactly how below BFE each property is.
 - Flood insurance rates restored to pre B-W levels and raised no more than 15%/year on average.
 - Transfers pre B-W rates to buyers, after which they will rise, but not by more than 18% per year.
 - Gives refunds to buyers who purchased post B-W.
 - Requires a 5% minimum annual increase on pre-FIRM primary residence policies not at full risk.
 - Creates a mandatory surcharge to put into a reserve fund.
 - Funds Affordability Study, to be completed in two years.
 - Returns "home improvement threshold" trigger from 30% of fair market value to historic 50%.
 - Allows monthly payment plans.
- The CEQ is planning to hold a listening session in south Florida in conjunction with the Four County Compact to ask about specific rule changes they can do to help local governments adapt. This will happen sometime in the next few months.
- The [Newly Improved Energy Star Portfolio Manager](#) is launched! We have been waiting on truly using this free service until much needed improvements were made. Now we can go forward with both City buildings and asking businesses to register their commercial buildings as well.

State:

- Sea Level Rise Legislation Delegation Follow Up: The Four County Compact is working with Senator Dwight Bullards office to organizing a follow up meeting in Tallahassee on Thursday, Feb 20th. Commissioner Teri Johnston is attending on behalf of the City.

Regional:

- The [Final Seven50 summit](#) was held on January 15th – you can read the [final report here](#).
- The SE FL Regional Climate Change Compact is receiving the "Green Innovators" from Dream in Green on April 1, 2014.
- Upcoming Four County Compact Workshop Dates Include:
 - ✓ Workshop 3: Communications: Feb 13/14
 - Workshop 4: 10 Year Water Supply: April 17/18
 - Workshop 5: Stormwater: June 24/25
 - Workshop 6: Adaptation Action Areas: Aug 27/28
 - Workshop 7: Tri Rail Coastal Line, Sept 17/18
 - Workshop 8: TBA: Nov 18/19
- "[Tropical Green](#)" is a new venture by the South Florida Chapter of US Green Building Council, focused on communicating best practices for building in our humid, temperate environment. They held their inaugural one day conference in [September 2013](#) and staff is looking to find out lessons learned.



County:

- PACE: After almost two years of delay in the County going forward, Alison met with County and PACE representatives to plot out some forward momentum. The County prefers that the City's go forward first as

it's been found to be easier if the cities go first because County Tax Assessors "have" to follow what cities ask for. It was likened to be a "client vs family" scenario, where we as the client make it easier by default for the County as family to move ahead. It's also become the preferable method to not choose one third party company over the other because they each have strengths and niches and competition is good. Alison will see that the other Cities get on board via the Keyswide Planners Forum and host a discussion to feel out if flood adaptation is a viable extra to our cart.

- Solid Waste Contracts: See R4
- The Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Council is also looking to host more public invited, workshop-style meetings in 2014. Tentative dates include:
 - Feb 18 Workshop
 - April 29 Workshop
 - KW will present Climate Element discussion results from Planners Forum.
 - June 4 Workshop
 - Aug 13 Workshop
 - Oct 8 Workshop
 - Dec 15 Workshop
- RESTORE Grant Local Pot: No updates.
- Canal Restorations – See Water Quality

Municipal:

City of Key West

- **BV Garden Grant** – Tentative new spot at Truman Waterfront, 200% bigger, but will cost more money to do right. Reported to BVRAC this in Dec and have their okay for new site choice, will work up budget for larger ask at future BVRAC meeting. Still have to present to the Truman Waterfront Advisory to get their okay for the space. Found partnerships for free water and fill from upcoming drainage improvements to Geraldine Street and Angela. Am creating grant calendar to find more potential funding.
- **Green Jobs and Futures Grant:** Passed City Commission last week! Have been in meetings with teachers and Habitat to get a schedule up and running.
- **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant:** Got it! Am working on schedule (See Priorities)
- **USFWS Urban Habitat Grant** – With 3 days turnaround, applied for a grant to completely underwrite the Frederick Douglas Learning Garden, which would free up funds for the Community Garden.
- **LDR's** – The RFP for the LDR consultant team should go out this month, now with additional funding for an Adaptation consultant! Would the SAB like to formally advise?
- **INTERN:** An update of the GHG inventory is sorely needed, but will take significant grunt time. I would like to be able to advertise for a low-wage paid intern for the summer. Can we use the Positive Step interns?
- **DATE FOR EARTH DAY ADDRESS???** Won't make April 1st, so May 6th or 20th Presentation?

GLEE – After a long hiatus, the GLEE board has reformed and is reinventing itself as a fiscal sponsor organization. After receiving requests for 501c3 umbrella assistance for worthwhile community projects such as a Marathon Community Garden and the Got Your Bags program, the GLEE board has decided to make its name, administrative time and seed money available to assist grassroots efforts Keyswide. For pilot projects, they have decided to take on the BV Community Garden and Edible Orchard. Stay tuned.

Water Quality – February was Water Quality Month!

- The City held a Clean Marina Workshop for 8 local marinas.
- Conch Harbor Marina was the first private marina in Key West to receive its Clean Marina designation on Jan 23rd. They were recognized at the Feb 19th City Commission Meeting during the Water Quality Month Proclamation.
- Alison presented to the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) on Feb 12th to seek advice on additional LDR measures to improve water quality in Key West. A team has been formed.

- A representative from WQPP spoke at Key West Green Drinks the night of Feb 12th
- OMI ran its Water Quality psas on US1 Radio. New Extension Service Agent Shelly Krueger talked about WQ on Bill Becker.

Transportation –

- KWDOT was approved for 3 Clean Diesel busses and one hybrid bus at the Feb 19th, City Commission meeting, committing to a minimum 25% hybrid ratio for all new bus purchases.
- New bike racks were installed at KW Botanical Gardens and Smathers beach. Per David Fernandez, we still need to come up with a bike parking plan before we purchase HARC approved corrals for old town and new single bollards with FY14 monies. We will talk about this at the next TCT meeting.
- The Transportation Coordination Team will be working on its budget recommendations this month.
- Transportation Month Activities include:
 - Free Bus Day (St Pattys)
 - Freewheelin Fridays
 - Walks with Commissioners
 - Teri Johnston, Sat, March 22nd: Glynn Archer & Lift Plant
 - Jimmy Weekley: Friday, March 28th: Truman Waterfront

Water – April

The Planners Forum heard an update on the FAWCETT program, including a municipal by municipal breakdown of water use. The group will be moving forward soon in advising on a Keyswide Level of Service / Per Capita Use Goal on water.

Water Conservation Month Activities will include:

- Friday, April 25th: Indigenous Park / Wild Bird Center Cistern dedication / tour & Arbor Day Planting,
- April 10th: FKAA Strategic Goals: Presentation to SAB on
- Rainbarrel Workshop?
- KW High School Video of Water Conservation Actions.

Youth Leadership - May

By May, the Green Jobs and Futures program will be halfway through its 150 Bahama Village homes, and have some stats and videos to share. We'll also highlight the winners of the Botanical Gardens Go Green Science Fair again for the City Commission Proclamation.

Green Business – June

- The best option for a Green Business Certification is the [Florida Green Energy Works online](#) program, which is free for all Florida based businesses. The only unfortunate thing is there is no oversight to ensure that the reported green measures are in fact in place and followed. By June we will set up a system to locally verify and certify.
- In June we will start up a “Top Employers” Team via a summit of sorts with the top ten largest employers in Key West to work with them on specific calendar challenges surrounding our themes.

Green Building – July

The City & Keys Branch of USGBC hosted an overview of the Building Permit Allocation System. We now have a list of training opportunities which offer more in depth green courses for local contractors.

- March 28th: HERS Rating
- April 30: Reclaimed Wood Seminar
- May 2-4: ARCSA Certification Course
- June: Florida Green Building Council
- July: LEED for Homes

Healthy Living: August

No update

Land Conservation: September

- HOB received 156 more native trees and shrubs to its parking lot area bordering George Street. The majority of these plants were chosen because they are White-crowned pigeon and other migratory bird forage. There will be one more plant purchase from the grant, which will mainly be street trees for our Urban Foresters priorities for Arbor Day/ Earth Day events.
- **“Natures Notebook” Citizen Science:** Kim Gabel from the Monroe County Extension Service held a workshop to involve local residents with collecting data about changes to our natural areas by tracking bloom dates, pollinators, etc. on Thurs, Feb. 20 at the Gato Bldg.

Energy – October

- Johnson Controls held another meeting with KES and the financials are looking better. It is highly likely that we can ask for an even better deal and need to write a formal letter.
- Tim Root got permission from Lynne Tejeda to send a person to our SAB meetings. I think we should plan on how to best use their and our time.

R4 – November

- **City Recycling:** See Waste Diversion Report
- **County:** Sadly, the County has chosen short term price over sustainability at every turn. The Yard Waste burning discussion will be picked up again at the next BOCC meeting on March 19th, 2014.
- **Horse Compost:** Two giveaway days have been held and a reoccurring schedule will hold others on the first Saturday of every month (Noon-2pm), hosted by and benefiting local gardening groups. Plans for the new Mounted Horse Stables are in development, and will include a manure composting area. The roof will be incorporated into the new BV Community Garden.

Green Gifts – December

No Update