

Sustainability Update – 5/3/13

A) Waste Diversion Progress

Will Thompson will report to the Board

The City, County, Village of Islamorada and City of Marathon met last week to discuss varied options about going out to bid together on a solid waste contract via a Master RFP. The group will sit down again soon to discuss next steps.

Horse Manure Composting Shed: A tentative date has been set for Saturday, May 18th, with two shifts of:

- 8:30-1pm shift: For the powertool inclined, we'll be putting together the wood frame and roof.
- Noon to 4:30 shift: Can be less mechanically skilled folks, as this is the mortar and concrete block phase.

There will be a separate workday with the Just4Kids to paint the slats with a mural after the mortar dries. That will be our photo op day, TBA.

B) Transportation Coordination Team

An internal staff team has convened in order to better coordinate and promote transportation related projects within the City. Besides offering an annual budget recommendation, the group will also be taking on the rewriting of the City's ordinances as they pertain to all things transportation. To see the list of medium term projects the team will be discussing, see other attachment emailed to SAB.

A new project the team has taken on is to green the City's own transportation footprint. This plan includes "right size" purchasing (starting with this FY's vehicle order of Prius' for Parking Enforcement) the Fleet Greening plan also includes an increase in biodiesel blends, enforcement of anti-idling policies, mpg challenges, synthetic motor oils and other activities to decrease our own footprint. As an addendum to the plan, the report will include a plan to reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) throughout the whole city. It will be ready for the next SAB meeting.

C) Comprehensive Plan and subsequent Ordinance changes

The City Commission heard the final reading for the Comprehensive Plan and it has now been received by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (used to be DCA). If everything stays on track the Notice of Intent will be posted on the DEO website and the amendments will become effective, unless otherwise challenged, during the first week of May 2013. The North Roosevelt multi hotel project at the entrance to Key West will have to follow the new rules.

D) Building Permit Allocation System

In light of the new building permits allocated to the City of Key West by DEO recently, I have been assisting Nicole Malo with the new permit allocation ranking system. Currently, staff is recommending prerequisites of lowest tier green building, with mandatory cisterns and native landscaping, as well as building 1.5' above FEMA 100 year flood plain. Because it is a ranked system, additional points allow you to move up on the allocation list. Other sustainability points being recommended include: Higher Tiers of Green Certification; Stub Outs for future electric vehicle charging; 70-90% native landscaping; High reflectance of non permeable surfaces; Donations to the Parks Fund, Sustainability Fund, Tree Fund, etc. We hope to put this in front of the City Commission in the next month or so, and roll it out this summer, perhaps for Green Building Month in July.

E) Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan: Accepted by the County Commission on March 20th. The plan has gone to staff to come up with a plan for implementation.

F) Bahama Village Community Garden

The TIF funds have been in limbo while BVRAC and staff figure out what to do with the Nelson English & Willie Ward Park underfunding. We hope to know on Wednesday whether the money is secure or not, but the community garden money is expected to be left untouched. Meanwhile, we have been meeting with our partners at the Monroe County Dept of Health and Key West Housing Authority to build a leadership team from the neighborhood. Our first meeting to help design the space should happen soon after the funds are approved.

G) GLEE

We have been given permission to assist Keys sustainability non-profit [GLEE \(Green Living “& Energy Education\)](#) with a “Wake Up Workshop” to help supply the group with fresh leadership and volunteers, which will in turn help the City with its sustainability goals. Stay tuned for a chosen date.

H) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): This has taken longer than expected to get any traction. The City managers like it, but I’ve been asked to go forward with the County, who has had other priorities. I am still pushing to get it moving for June Green Business month.

I) Preserve Island Life Campaign

Overall, the campaign is growing. Thanks to great exposure in the press and on facebook and from partners, our events have been attended by many folks new to conservation. Our facebook exposure is growing as well,, with 181 total likes (21 since last month!) as well as some peak viewing by between 276 and 324 people because of shares and comments. The most action (views, shares, likes) was from the announcement of Commissioner Yaniz’ resolution to support a proposed Florida bill to stop banning plastic bags.



i) May is Youth Leadership Month

- In partnership with USFWS, we planted some trees at HOB school for Arbor Day and will be revisiting the newly formed Tree Club in May for some further landscape design and planting. The Principals are interested in becoming wildlife habitat certified.
- We will also have a booth and be a judge at the KW Botanical Garden’s Go Green Science Fair on May 17th.
- We are hoping to showcase the KWHW Alternative Energy students, but have not heard from their new teacher.
- Will tie in with activities for the Youth Garden project of the Frederick Douglas Black Educators Memorial Project next to the Band Room.

ii) June is Green Business Month

- We will be doing some introductory classes for green business in June. Date TBA.
- We are currently working with a couple of local businesses to take GLEE’s Green Business model to the next level ([See the video here!](#)). If you know someone with a business in any of [these sectors](#), but especially automotive repair, apartments, apparel, construction, cleaning services, consulting, dentistry, dry cleaning, events, restaurants, government/agency, fitness/gym, landscape services, nursery/greenhouse, photography, real estate, and service/hospitality. We intend to highlight these efforts during the launch of the the public program during June, which is Green Business Month. Send any suggestions to ahiggins@keywestcity.com

iii) July: Green Building

- Nicole Malo and Alison Higgins will be taking their tests for the next level of LEED.
- Plan to hold a workshop about Adaptation in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy
- Plan to hold a workshop with USGBC on Green Building (includes permeable pavement).
 - Hope to hold some actual certification trainings for local contractors.
- Multiple meetings about greening new City buildings (Sextons House, Truman Waterfront, Dockmasters Office and Glynn Archer) have been held in the past months.

iv) August: Healthy Living

We will be working with many partners to learn about the impact of our diets on our waistline and planet. We will do classes on gardening to get people ready to plant in October. We will feature the CSAs. We will try to get our veggie/vegan restaurants green certified.

v) September: Land Conservation

We will work on native plant issues. GreenThumb Certification. Butterfly and Bird plants. Etc.

ii) RECAP: April: Water Conservation Month

- April 11th: Nicole Malo and Alison Higgins passed their LEED Green Associates exam and attended the South Florida Water Management District water conservation expo on the 12th.

- April 15th: The City hosted planners from Monroe County, Islamorada and Marathon, along with partners at SFWMD and Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority to look into crafting new ordinances aimed at reducing potable water use per capita. This will help us save money by avoiding or delaying the increased cost of regular operation of the Reverse Osmosis plant. The group agreed that it was a good idea to work together and is slated to hear details about the two top water certification programs on May 17th.
- April 19th: The Keys Chapter of USGBC hosted a water conservation workshop on April 19th by the local chapter of the US Green Building Council and fundraiser for GLEE afterwards at the Bottlecap.
- April 27th: 18 residents attended a rainbarrel workshop held by the Monroe County Extension Service.
- Still to be scheduled is the tour of the Stock Island Desalination Plant.

J) Grants

The Cisterns have been ordered. The slab is being poured. Plans for the salt water well will begin soon.

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