

# Sustainability Update

March 2015

## Federal News:

- [USDOT Mayors Challenge](#) for Safer People, Safer Streets. The Kickoff is in DC March 12<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Johnston is leading the charge. Signing up for the Challenge means the City will take action across the following seven challenge areas: 1) Take a Complete Streets approach; 2) Identify and address barriers to make streets safe and convenient for all road users; 3) Gather and track biking and walking data; 4) Use designs that are appropriate to the context of the street and its uses; 5) Take advantage of opportunities to create and complete pedestrian and bicycle networks through maintenance; 6) Improve walking and biking safety laws and regulations, 7) Educate and enforce proper road use behavior by all.
- The White House and India concluded negotiations on a [five-year MOU](#) on Energy Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change. The MOU includes increasing renewable energy, cooperation in clean energy, continuing the successful U.S.-India Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE) umbrella program, and we will expand policy dialogues and technical work on clean energy and low greenhouse gas emissions technologies. It is expected to be signed soon.
- In January the White House announced a new goal to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40 – 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025, and a set of actions to put the U.S. on a path to achieve this ambitious goal. [Read more here.](#)
- As of March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Senate has failed to override [President Obama's veto](#) on a measure to approve the [Keystone XL pipeline](#) project.

## State News:

- Florida Bag Bill: Senate Bill 966 and [House Bill 661](#) allow for local governments with populations smaller than 100,000 to enact a “Municipal pilot program for regulation or ban of disposable plastic bags”. The pilot program may not include any new taxes or fees on use or distribution. At the March 4<sup>th</sup> City Commission meeting 6 of 7 Commissioners sponsored a [Resolution](#) to support the bills. Rep. Goodson (Titusville Rep & Chair of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee) probably still needs to put the Bill on the agenda for it to be considered. The website says that a First Reading occurred at 10:30pm on March 3<sup>rd</sup> Subcommittee meeting.
  - Great articles from Washington Post on the [Plastic Bag lobby](#) and [Why 5 Cent surcharges work.](#)
  - On March 25<sup>th</sup> for Florida Coasts & Oceans Day, Surfrider and Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition are teaming up to make the bag bill a big deal.
  - The petition, “[Support FL House Bill 661 & Senate Bill 966; Plastic Bag Regulations](#)” with almost 2,000 signatures and targets state representatives.
  - Many other local governments are supporting, but also asking to be able to assess a fee.
- Florida House Bill 7003, weighing in on Florida water quality and quantity, passed by a wide margin despite objections by Everglades Foundation, Sierra Club, Audubon Florida, 1000 Friends of Florida, the Florida Springs Council and Earthjustice. At its heart were no deadlines for Okeechobee cleanup and a switch from a permitted, measured phosphorous limits to a best management practices compliance. The Senate bill 918 provides broader protection zones for natural springs, and no easing of regulations for Okeechobee landowners. The Senate bill will be heard next week.
- New leaks coming out that Gov. Scott’s DEP chief had an unofficial memo for staff to not use the words climate change: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/state/florida/article12983720.html>
- Local Amendments to Building Code re: water conservation (House Bill 525, Senate Bill 592)
- Solar legislation
  - SJR 400/HJR 865 (joint resolutions) and SB 402/HB 867 (implementing legislation)- Commercial/tangible personal property tax
  - SB 1118 – “third party sales” with some poison pills
  - Floridians for Solar Choice ballot initiative

- Go SOLAR Florida - Solar Financing Action Plan – seeking resolutions of support from all Florida counties and Municipalities welcome, too!. Informative, not prescriptive - “could” or “can” rather than “should” or “must”
- EPA Clean Power Plan (HB 849/SB 1076): ALEC-authored bills requiring “legislative authorization”

### Regional Efforts:

- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Compact Summit: Key West, FL!!! Early Dec 2015. Help Needed!
- Working Groups:
  - [RCAP Health Assessment](#)
  - Shoreline Resilience Working Group:
    - [Nature Based coastal Defenses in Southeast Florida](#)
  - New Municipality Working Group! Key West as Co-Lead.
    - [2014 Municipal Implementation Survey Report](#)
    - Webinar inclusion
    - What do Cities need help with? Specific workshops....
- Upcoming Four County Compact Workshop Dates Include:
  - ✓ Communications: Feb 13/14
  - ✓ [10 Year Water Supply](#): April 17/18
  - ✓ [Resilient Redesign Workshop](#): Aug 11
  - ✓ [Adaptation Action Areas](#): Aug 28
  - ✓ [Compact Summit](#): October 1/2
  - ✓ Stormwater: January 22
    - Financing Floodproofing (TBA)
    - Tri Rail Coastal Line (April 30)
    - Resilient Redesign II (July)



### County Efforts:

- RESTORE Monies: The local projects were ranked in December by a committee and passed by the County in February. The top ranked were:
  1. \$1.18M: [Coral Reef Restoration](#) of 52,000 staghorn corals and 34,000 boulder corals from Key Largo to Dry Tortugas by The Nature Conservancy
  2. \$2M: [Canal Water Quality Improvement Pilot Projects](#) in unincorporated Monroe County
  3. \$6M: [Canal Water Quality Improvement Pilot Projects](#) with other Keys cities.
  4. \$630K: [Invasive Lionfish Control](#), by Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF).
- Yard Waste Gassification: In February, Monroe County Commissioners approved a Contract to turn the unincorporated county's ~40,000 tons of yard waste into energy. Energy3 is a company that specializes in gasification, vaporizing (*not* incineration) the yard waste and converting it to synthesized gas. The process produces twice the amount of energy that a standard incinerator plant does, with negligible pollutants. The proposed new plant would generate 13 megawatts of power every hour, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week.
  - You can watch the October 2014 Gassification presentation on demand on MCTV: <http://view.liveindexer.com/ViewIndexSessionSLMQ.aspx?indexPointSKU=iUwf1%2bfYBu6nuwM80jnIlg%3d%3d>
  - See the February 2015 Vote Discussion Here: <http://view.liveindexer.com/ViewIndexSessionSLMQ.aspx?indexPointSKU=94ZyBKNtXW6hvC89IqUFRg%3d%3d>
- Monroe County & Islamorada Sea Level Rise Modelling Workshops
  - Wed, Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-5pm, [View on demand](#)
  - Wed, Oct 9: [Key Largo Community Workshop #1](#)
  - Wed, Nov 5: Key Largo [Community Workshop #2](#): “How To Prepare”: Vet/discuss 3 potential adaptation strategies for further analysis.
  - Dec 9: [Key Largo Community Workshop #3: Implementing Strategies](#)

- Presentation from Islamorada's Workshop:  
<http://view.earthchannel.com/PlayerController.aspx?PGD=ismrada&eID=219>
- Spring 2015: Sustainability Action Plan Goal Development
- Spring 2015: Presentation of Draft Sustainability Action Plan
- The [GreenKeys Mindmixer](#) Site continues to ask great questions.
- Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Council workshop dates: March 9

## Municipal:

### Village of Islamorada ([www.islamoradamatters.com](http://www.islamoradamatters.com))



	Benefit/Cost Ratios – Using High Cost Estimate	
	Low SLR	High SLR
Action 1: Elevate & Floodproof	5.24	7.46
Action 2: Construct Breakwater	1.59	1.65
Action 3: Voluntary Relocation		
10% Participation Now, 100% in 2030	0.12	0.02

- Sea Level Rise Plan Workshops: (Oct – Dec 2014)  
Summary Report: <https://app.box.com/s/71vzl8bkd9i3m5pm5g8v6ygapgdi4h18>  
#1: Sea Level Rise Risks: [Presentation Slides](#) & [Recorded Meeting](#)  
#2: How To Prepare: [Presentation Slides](#) & [Recorded Meeting](#)  
#3: Implementing Strategies: [Presentation Slides](#) & [Recorded Meeting](#)
- Updated their [Environmental Sustainability Plan](#) in September 2014.
- Working with GLEE on “Got Your Bags” Program

### City of Key West

- **Height Referendum** – Passed Planning Board 2/19. Will have 1<sup>st</sup> reading at City Commission on 3/17. Then will go to FL-DEO.
- **Intern:** Still needed. Will also be asking Sustainable Floridians class.
- **SAB:** We now have a full complement of Advisors! Welcome to Joanne Tarantino and Blake Feldman!
- **Glynn Archer:** We are still in the Gold range, but cutting anything will jeopardize that standing. We are looking at as many grants as we can to help supplant the costs.
- **Frederick Douglass Gym:** Will meet basic FL Green Building Council Green Building Standards. Will also include flood proofing as a resiliency measure.
- **BPAS:** First Year BPAS was passed by the Planning Board on 2/4: 65 unit applications (43 market, 22 affordable) for 43 permits (36 market, 7 affordable). Second Year BPAS is open and will end on **March 20, 2015**. There are 36 Market Rate and 39.1 Affordable Units available for Year 2.
- **Development Review Committee:** Because of past conditions set by the Sustainability Coordinator during DRC meetings, the Marker Hotel is in the process of obtaining it's FGBC Gold Certification and will be joining the FDEP Green Lodging Program within the year.
- **Preserve Island Life Communications:** Our FB page now has 731 friends (up 68 from last report), and our email database has ~800 local contacts. Since last report Green Drinks hosted Dock To Dish at our February meeting, and is heading up a whole slate of Transportation events for March (see Transportation below)
- **Bike / PAC Committee:** The Wounded Warrior Ride went really well and now we're gearing up for the Pride Ride from 9-11am on June 13<sup>th</sup>, starting at Bayview Park and ending at the Street Fair.
- **Sustainable Floridian:** This Thursday will be our last of seven classes for our 13 graduates! Like Master Gardeners, the certified graduates of the course will give back by volunteering for sustainability education events across the community.
- **Green Business Certification:** Great News! Will Thompson has budgeted outreach money to develop the Green Business Certification 2.0!!! Stay tuned!

## Grants:

- **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant (LDR's):** The consultant, Calvin, Giordano & Associates, has been picked and has started researching. There will be a series of community meetings announced soon.

- **BV Garden Grant** – We did not get the ArtPlace Garden grant, but are looking for more options. The area is currently being used as a construction zone for sewer work, so we're not sure how to proceed. The Learning Garden, however, is now part of the Frederick Douglas Gym Major Development Plan and will kickoff with a brief visioning tour with Comm. Clayton Lopez on Sat, March 28<sup>th</sup> and an Arbor Day Tree Planting on Sat, April 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - **SFWMD Grant:** Applied to South Florida Water Management District for three stormwater projects, one cistern project (Glynn Archer) and one irrigation project (soil moisture sensors on all 5 Key West owned/managed recreational fields). No Updates.
  - **NEA Our Town Grant:** With a 26% chance of award, we applied for an Art Master Plan of Truman Waterfront, including Green Infrastructure and a design of the Admirals Cut bridge.
  - **Green Jobs and Futures Grant:** Still on hiatus while the team figures out next steps.
  - **Rural Energy for America (REAP):** USDA Rural Business Cooperative Service: Due April 30<sup>th</sup> For rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption via grants and loans. The City can apply to administer locally. SALT and Monroe County hosted a workshop in Marathon that can be viewed here: <http://view.liveindexer.com/ViewIndexSessionSLMQ.aspx?ecm=635604928694021250&indexSessionSKU=/1dAQklV0ut6z0gppWw6DQ%3D%3D&siteSKU=qoO9+8C6gRWyzrz1siMncQ%3D%3D>
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## Themes:

### **Water Quality (February)**

- We honored Ocean Key Resort and Marina via Proclamation for Water Quality Month in Feb 2015. They became the 2<sup>nd</sup> private marina in the City to become a Certified Clean Marina by FDEP.
- Dock to Dish was our featured speaker for Green Drinks, drawing a large crowd.

### **Transportation (March)**

- Transportation Month kicked off on March 1<sup>st</sup> with a featured event at the Key West Artisans Market. We had bike helmet fittings, free safety swag, bike registration paperwork, and a custom bike show. Over 3 pages of new email contacts were gathered as well as 2.5 pages of Bike Ped advocacy signatures.
- Also on March 1<sup>st</sup>, Commissioner Teri Johnston led a walk around the grounds of Glynn Archer, with ~50 citizens in attendance. We are still on track for Gold certification.
- Sat, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11am, Commissioner Tony Yaniz will lead a bike ride of Little Hamaca Park.
- St. Patty's Day, Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> is also Free Bus Day! Please celebrate by riding!
- The new bus routes reduced the big loops and increased service to every 30 minutes. Ridership has been up, but it's hard to tell if it's just because we are in season.
- The Green Commute Challenge will run from Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and involve the 15 largest employers on the island. Prizes are needed!!!!

### **Water (April)**

- Based on the success of our "Mosquito-Free Cistern workshop in December, the City is again partnering with the local US Green Building Council and Mosquito Control on a second workshop for the Key West Realtors on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- There will also be a rainbarrel class sometime in April, TBA.

### **Youth Leadership - May**

- Keys Energy Services asked the City to help them find suitable student energy projects to fund. They will be sponsoring the KW High Schools Audio Visual club to produce energy reduction videos.

### **Green Business – June**

- See GRANTS: USDA Rural Grants – REAP Program
- Will Thompson will train interested volunteers to approach businesses for recycling. We will develop a sticker that recognizes them.
- Will also has outreach money that can be used for Green Business Certification 2.0. Stay tuned!

### **Green Building – July**

The City & Keys Branch of USGBC is working on its next season of regular educational workshops for professionals and residents. They will focus on CEU's in order to draw in folks outside of the choir.

### **Healthy Living: August**

- Bill Irwin's Aquaponics Demonstration System at FKCC is coming along.
- Dock to Dish is a new Community Supported Fisheries effort (1<sup>st</sup> in Florida, very new in nation) that just unveiled at the Ibis Bay Hotel / Stoned Crab Restaurant. Read more here: <http://docktodish.com/>
- It would be great to recognize restaurants that buy from local fish houses.....

### **Land Conservation: September**

- The City has been re-anointed as a Tree City USA. We will have stats on the successes of the Tree Commission program by Arbor Day, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Energy – October**

- **LED streetlights:** Still working with Keys Energy on LED Streetlights.
- **PACE** (Property Assessed Clean Energy):
  - Tied up in court. Florida programs on hold....

### **R4 – November**

- **City Recycling:** See Waste Diversion Report
- **County:** See County section.
- **Horse Compost:** Word has gotten out and citizens are getting the compost regularly and leaving donations for the Mounted Horse Patrol.

### **Green Gifts – December**

- We are supporting local gifts and experiences in general. I want to explore a green gift certificate option to help recognize green businesses. Any input is welcome....