

Sustainability Update

March 2015

Federal News:

- President Obama visited the Everglades on Earth Day, using it as a backdrop to score his point that “Climate change can no longer be denied. It can’t be edited out. It can’t be omitted from the conversation. In conjunction, the White House released a [fact sheet](#) on “New Steps to Protect People, Places and Local Economies from Climate Change”. [Video of Speech Here](#).
- On the heels of the [India negotiations](#), the White House has also released a joint announcement with China on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation. Primary goal is to reduce US pollution by 26-28% from 2005 levels and China’s pollution by 20% by 2030. [Press Release here](#).
- The EPA’s Clean Power Plan will be finalized by mid summer 2015. It is the first-ever national carbon pollution standards for America’s existing power plants. [Fact Sheet Here](#).

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 4th City Commission meeting 6 of 7 Commissioners sponsored a [Resolution](#) to support the bills.
 - The bill was filed on Feb 9th and referred to 4 committees for review, but only had a 1st reading with the Agricultural & Natural Resources Subcommittee. Unfortunately, the Florida Legislature ended the session early, and without taking the bill further. This is the farthest this bill has ever made it.
- Governor Scott recommended nearly \$1.6 billion in funding dedicated to the protection and preservation of Florida’s natural and water resources. The Governor’s “KEEP FLORIDA WORKING” budget includes funding dedicated to key environmental projects, such as \$150 million for Everglades restoration, \$50 million for springs protection and improvements, more than \$150 million for the acquisition and management of conservation lands, \$50 million for water supply development projects and \$50 million for improving wastewater treatment in the Florida Keys. [FDEP Press Release Here](#).
- The [Central Florida Cities Coalition](#) received the national USDOE’s “Most Improved Petroleum Reduction” award for enacting a 247% increase in petroleum reduction in 2013 compared to the previous year.

Regional Efforts:

- 7th Annual Compact Summit: Key West, FL!!! Early Dec 2015. Help Needed!
- Working Groups:
 - New Municipality Working Group! Key West as Co-Lead.
 - Kickoff: Friday, June 12th 8:30-12:30, Marathon
 - [2014 Municipal Implementation Survey Report](#)
 - [RCAP Health Assessment](#)
 - Shoreline Resilience Working Group:
 - [Nature Based coastal Defenses in Southeast Florida](#)
- Four County Compact Workshops 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
 - ✓ Tri Rail Coastal Line (April 30)
 - Resilient Redesign II (July)
 - Financing Floodproofing (TBA)

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 Gasification:** No updates.
- **Monroe County Sustainability Dept**
 - Sea Level Rise Modelling Workshops: Middle Keys June 2, **Lower Keys June 3 (FKCC 5:30-7:30)**
 - Summer 2015: Sustainability Action Plan Goal Development
 - Fall 2015: Presentation of Draft Sustainability Action Plan
- **Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Council** workshop dates: June 4: Health Risks of Climate Change



City of Key West

- **Interns:** Two regular interns lined up for summer: **Ripley Raubenolt & Tim Yakubowski**
 - **Energy Interns: Plan to have announcement done before end of month.**
- **Height Referendum** – Passed City Commission in April, sent to FL-DEO.
- **BPAS:** Second Year BPAS application deadline ended March 20, 2015, and clarification letters have been sent back out. There were 81 Market units applied for, but only 36 available; Affordable had 2.56 applied for out of 39 available. We are looking into LDR density changes to help create more incentives for affordable.
- **Preserve Island Life Communications:** Our FB page now has 792 friends (up 61 from last report), and our email database has ~1,100 local contacts (up 200).
- **Bike / PAC Committee:** Next event is the Rotary Family Bike Ride on Friday May 29th. We got a lot of contacts from the Aritsan Fair Bike event, as well as the Commissioner Bike Rides. We need to get out support for the Bike / Ped position.
- **Sustainable Floridian:** Many of our volunteers helped at the Bike Rodeo at Sigsbee. They are great!
- **Green Business Certification:** We are working on getting the Green Business Online portal set up. At best, we will be announcing it for Green Business Month in June. We are working on a new Green Business Certification Placard to show business progress towards Certification, starting with Recycling. The Sustainable Floridians will help with outreach.
- **FEMA/CRS:** The City worked with the County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Workgroup on updating their LMS 5 Year Plan. As part of that Plan, a project list will be ranked, with funding opportunities only available to projects that made the list. The City turned in __ projects, including not only the customary six stormwater projects, but also some proactive projects: Revolving Loan Fund, Post Disaster Recovery Plan, Outreach/Education, LDR rewrites, Residential Floodproofing Pilot, & Repetitive Loss Property Mitigation Consultant. For the Consultant, Scott Fraser is talking with FIRM to see if they could be the 3rd Party partner to help run the project, which will cut down on bureaucracy.

Grants:

- **Urban Forestry:** Asked for a Tree inventory detailing species, health and height, and a Canopy Master Plan which sets canopy percentage goals for subareas of Key West and allows us to guide mitigation plantings there.

- **Florida Transportation Alternatives Program:** Asked for Bike / Ped Master Plan.
 - **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant (LDR's):** LDR kickoff meeting was March 4th. [You can watch here](#). The first orders of business will be transportation connectivity and density.
 - **BV Garden Grant** –The Frederick Douglass Learning Garden got 5 new trees on Arbor Day and had all the rubber mulch towed away. Next steps are a water line for the shrub layer for the next community planting. The Community Garden is on hold until Truman Waterfront infrastructure work commences in the new fiscal year, so that the construction material currently being staged there will be moved.
 - **NEA Our Town Grant:** No update.
 - **Green Jobs and Futures Grant:** Cancelled...for now :(
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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 2nd 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 1st 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 1st, 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 14th, from 9-11am, Commissioner Tony Yaniz led a bike ride of Little Hamaca Park.
- St. Patty's Day, Tuesday, March 17th was Free Bus Day!
- The Green Commute Challenge ran from Monday March 23rd through Sunday, March 29th and attracted the following employers: City of Key West, Florida Dept of Health, Mosquito Control, Spottswoods, Southernmost, First State Bank, Coast Guard, Lower Keys Hospital.

Water (April)

- Great speakers slots with US Green Building Council and Mosquito Control at Key West Realtors "Get to Know Monroe" workshop on March 19th. It was standing room only and we got over 70 new contacts
- Hosted Rainbarrel Workshop with the Extension Service April 26th. 750 more gallons of capacity are now on the island! ☺

Youth Leadership - May

- Keys Energy Services is sponsoring the KW High Schools Audio Visual club to produce energy reduction videos.
- Hope to do Youth Leadership Proclamation and Show and Tell at May 19th Commission meeting.

Green Business – June

- Outreach money will go towards the Green Business Certification materials and website, as well as a professional booth for outreach events.
- Sustainable Floridians will be approaching businesses for recycling.
- One SFL is working on a Green Dining report and series of articles, set to come out in June.
- We hope to do talks in front of the Chamber and Lodging Associations in June.
- Hyundai might do a promo travel spot for its new plug in Sonata, helping showcase our greenness.

Green Building – July

- The City & Keys Branch of USGBC hosting CEU's workshops in order to draw in more folks outside of the choir. The next one will feature a historic restoration project (TBA, late May)
- We are also discussing partnering with the Keys Realtors for a workshop about Greening the MLS and incorporation FEMA flood info.

Healthy Living: August

- See Green Dining bullet in Green Business....

Land Conservation: September

- The City has an estimated 900 Trees on public property!
- The Tree Commission and Urban Forester were responsible for the replacement, transplant and/or mitigation of over 350 trees (public and private) in 2014.

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....
 - Will go forward with just Flood Raising mechanisms (see City: FEMA / CRS Ratings)

R4 – November

- **City Recycling:** Interviews started. New candidate should be picked soon. Trash cans may be phased.
- **County:** Will Thompson has started at the County! ☺
- **Horse Compost:** In demand! ☺

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....