

Sustainability Board

Annual Priorities FY14/15 & 15/16

Preface:

In 2009, the City Commission passed the City of Key West Climate Action Plan (CAP), setting in motion a wide range of goals and tasks to reduce the entire islands greenhouse gas footprint by the end of 2015. One of the early tasks on that list was the hiring of a Sustainability Coordinator to work with all City departments, but also the residents and businesses at large to achieve those goals. The Sustainability Board pushed for this position as a priority, and the City Commission approved the position for the FY12/13 year. Since that time, a great many goals have been reached and the frameworks for change have been identified and established.

It is important to note that the Climate Action Plan did not and cannot rely on the skills of one position alone. Specifically, the Plan calls for the hiring of an Energy Manager (CAP 6.4.1 & 10.9.3) in the second year to take on the energy audits and retrofits of the City's buildings, which are 18% of the City's greenhouse gasses and amount to \$900,000 of our operational budget. Also, the Plan instructs the Sustainability Coordinator to work with the Bicycle / Pedestrian Coordinator on beneficial projects, not to become the Bicycle / Pedestrian coordinator. Too many titles/hats heaped on one person, no matter how productive the person is, will lead to bottlenecks and inefficient operations.

In setting these Annual Priorities, the Sustainability Board revisited the CAP, as well as the City's Strategic Plan (SP), the Southeast Florida Climate Compact Regional Action Plan (RCAP) and past Sustainability Board priorities (SAB). Each board member chose their top ten actions to focus on, which were given weighted ranking, compiled, and then discussed at the December 11th Sustainability Board meeting. It became clear that some of the areas where the Board felt needed more action, were the exact areas where a different skill set and/or dedicated person was crucial:

Priority 1: Reduce Carbon Footprints of Buildings

Sources: CAP 6.4 Buildings, 9.1 Commercial Challenge & 10.9 Facilities; SAB 14/15 Priorities

Tasks / Projects Accomplished/In Progress:

- Key West Energy Plan to address low-cost, high applicability actions.
- Formation of Green Business Leadership Council composed of 15 largest employers in Key West to learn about and act on high impact changes together.
- Building Permit Allocation System: energy efficiency elements.
- LED Street Lights pilot in the Meadows.
- LED Lights Challenge for commercial buildings, including retrofitting of Old City Hall.
- LED's at the Park N' Ride, under contract now.

Tasks / Projects Needed:

- Complete professional energy audits of all City buildings
- Shepherd Key West LED Street Lights project from financing to implementation.
- Calculate and prioritize best actions for each building, including capital costs, and return on investment.
- Oversee implementation of upgrades and summarize total costs/benefits annually.
- Create and Coordinate Commercial Challenge events.
- Policy changes via Land Development Regulations updates.
- Partner with Keys Energy Services to identify additional energy efficiency incentives.
- Find intern:
 - Enter all City owned buildings (including leased) and utility bills into Portfolio Manager
 - Update Greenhouse Gas Count

Crucial Step Needed: Hiring of Energy Manager

Priority 2: Decrease Carbon Footprint of Transportation

Sources: CAP 6.3 Transportation & 9.4/9.5 Community Challenges; RCAP SP-29 Transit Commuting, SAB 14/15 Priorities.

Tasks / Projects Accomplished/In Progress:

- Interdepartmental Transportation Coordination Team to review and prioritize projects.
- Chosen by League of American Bicyclists as priority local government to receive technical assistance.
- Green Fleet 5 Year Plan
- Cost / Share program for bike rack parking.
- Non-vehicular planning for large events via City's Event Application.
- Partnerships with FDOH for more walking / biking community events,
- More efficient busses and updated routes for public transit.
- Comprehensive Plan overhaul.
- Summary & Goals / Grant applications (still unfunded) for a Bicycle / Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Advocacy of non-vehicular traffic actions via Development Review Committee team.

Tasks / Projects Needed:

- Strong Bicycle and Pedestrian safety program, utilizing known best management practices to scour the City for upgrade opportunities.
- ADA Transition Plan
- Policy changes via Land Development Regulations updates.
- Work with Police Department and other community organizations to ensure knowledge of bike laws.
- Work with Parking Department to increase use of Park and Ride garage.
- Create and Coordinate Transit Challenge and Bicycle Challenge Community events.
- Create Bike Share program, linking Lower Keys Shuttle with easy access bike rentals.

Crucial Step Needed: Hiring of Bicycle / Pedestrian Coordinator

Priority 3: Lead By Example

Sources: SAB/CAP 10.4.1 Become Green City Certified & 6.5/6.6 Implement Administrative Actions; SP Goal 4: Utilize sustainable practices in City operations.

Tasks / Projects Accomplished/In Progress:

- Comprehensive Plan overhaul.
- Key West Energy Plan to enact low-cost, high applicability opportunities.
- Three City employees now certified with LEED.
- 8 hybrid vehicles in use and three clean diesel and one hybrid bus on order.
- LED lighting at Key West Historic Seaport
- Green Building Certifications at all new City buildings.
- Operational upgrades at Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Solid Waste Master Plan
- Constant grant writing to help reduce costs of sustainability actions and upgrades.

Tasks / Projects Needed:

- Policy changes via Land Development Regulations (LDR) updates.
 - Sea Grant Climate Change Adaptation Grant
 - Keyside Planners Forums to agree on goals & language for LDR's
 - Regional leadership in and founding of Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact
 - New Municipality Working Group

Crucial Step Needed: Already in Sustainability Coordinators Annual Workplan
Identify & involve intern assistance for better efficiency.

Priority 4: Education and Outreach to Residents and Businesses

Sources: CAP 7.1 Education/Outreach/Marketing/Advertising; SP Goal 1: Environmental Education

Tasks / Projects Accomplished/In Progress:

- Partner with outside organizations on special Events / workshops in the 12 Sustainability Themes.
- Proclamations recognizing steps made by citizens and businesses in the 12 Sustainability Themes
- Monthly Educational Presentations in the 12 Sustainability Themes
- Maintain Facebook presence and eNewsletter outreach.
- Recommend grants to outside organizations that further sustainability goals.

Tasks / Projects Needed:

- Coordinate Green Leadership Business Council
- Cohost 7th Annual Summit of the SE Florida Climate Compact (Fall 2015)
- Coordinate and Graduate 1st class of Sustainable Floridian volunteers with the Extension Service.
- Coordinate with GLEE to begin Green Business Certification 2.0

Crucial Step Needed: Already in Sustainability Coordinators Annual Workplan
Identify & involve intern assistance for better efficiency.

Priority 5: Advance Adaptation Planning

Sources: CAP 8.3 Adaptation Success Planning,

Tasks / Projects Accomplished/In Progress:

- Height Referendum
- Comprehensive Plan Overhaul.
- Multiple grant applications (SFWMD, RESTORE, FDOT, USDOT, FDEP, NEA, Audubon, etc)

Tasks / Projects Needed:

- Host Planners Forum Workshops
 - White Paper on Financing Floodproofing options.
 - Incorporate Community Rating System points into LDR rewrite.
 - Complete Water Supply Plan Element
 - Enact Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program keywise.
- Pilot Residential Floodproofing Project with FEMA

Crucial Step Needed: Already in Sustainability Coordinators Annual Workplan
Identify & involve intern assistance for better efficiency.

It is important to note that these priorities do not include most of the ongoing activities of the Sustainability Coordinator, including, but not limited to:

- Leadership in Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee
- Leadership on staff steering committee of SE FL Regional Climate Compact.
- Coordinating BVRAC/TIFF projects: Community Garden and Green Jobs & Futures.
- Staffing Sustainability board meetings, Transportation Coordination Team, & Complete Streets Action Committee.
- Tracking and advising on:
 - Green Certifications of City's new building projects
 - Green opportunities via Development Review Committee process.
 - Sustainability grant opportunities.
 - Sustainability actions/events by other organizations / individuals
 - Building Permit Allocation System
 - Clean Marina Certification regulations, hitting in 2015.
- Other special projects as needed.