

Sustainability Annual Report 2017

Transportation:

- **Transportation Alternatives Fund:** \$1/hour raise at parking meters. Begun mid Dec 2016, raised enough money in 2017 (\$760,000) to launch the Duval Loop, a wish list item of the City Commission for decades. The 1\$ raise also raised 518K for affordable housing, and gave an additional \$2M boost to City coffers.
- **Duval Loop:** Auspicious beginning (weekend before Irma). Grew ridership by 791% from Sept 17 to present: 29,000 riders. Averages 25 riders per hour, and a peak of 50 per hour.
- **Bike Ped Master Plan:** The hired Consultant biked and inventoried all City streets, investigated 5 years of police crash reports, and queried hundreds of people online and in front of grocery stores. The final result? A Safe bike network, infrastructure and maintenance plan & budget, education plan. Funding potentials. Should be done this fall.
- Creation of **Parking Alternative Transportation Group:** Very excited for the ideas coming out of that group and we hope you take them seriously.
- **South Florida Commuter Services:** Free Technical support from FDOT ~\$200K of services, bus wraps and Duval Loop brochures. Their efforts on **Car Free Key West campaign** won them an award.
- **Green Commute Challenge:** 10 employers, 977 employees, 4,100 commute trips: 66% of all trips were self power (bike/walk/other). In fact, 338 commuters used self power every day that week.
- Lost **Bike Ped Coordinator.** Sad note. But became Multimodal Transportation Coordinator: Yet to be hired? We are interested in finding out what department it will be under?

Green Building

- **Green City Hall Tour:** Just after move-in, we hosted an open to the public Green Tour of City Hall. It highlighted the largest solar system in Key West, as well as the things most don't notice: the 18% improvement in permeability, 4,000 native plants, or the 95% diversion from the waste stream. Did you know that the sawdust became bedding for the Police horse stables and the dug-up asphalt became part of the Overseas Heritage Trail on Big Pine?
- To date: **BPAS** continues to lead the way in green building. While only bronze level is required for a residential building permit, only 25% of our BPAS permits are for bronze. 119 are silver, 128 are gold and 14 are platinum. Other BPAS stats are sprinkled throughout this report.
- **Adaptation:** The City continues to rise to the challenge of Sea Level Rise and flooding, helping to lift all boats. BPAS requires new homes to be built higher than state standards, partnerships with FIRM help existing homeowners understand their options for floodproofing and raising buildings. The upgrade of our Community Rating System status saved residents 15% off flood insurance bills in 2017.

Water

- **FPL Turkey Point Plume:** Commission backed FKAA in opposition to the expansion of Turkey Point due to FPL's failure and violations in preventing a large saltwater plume from expanding 4 miles toward our drinking water, now only 10 miles away.
- Through **BPAS** 187,000 gallons of cisterns have been permitted, which helps not only conserve drinking water, but also reduces stormwater during every rain event, which improves nearshore water quality. As many learned, cisterns are also great resources post hurricane.

Land Conservation

- Our Florida Forest Service Grant helped us map the size, species and health of more than 3,000 street trees as well as charted our canopy coverage over the past 3 decades. While it's sad to realize that Irma just stole much of our 30% canopy cover, it is good to know that the canopy had more than doubled since the effects of Wilma in 2005. Policy recommendations from this grant will be considered at the upcoming Tree Commission workshop.

Energy

- Energy Manager: Very excited for our long running priority, that of hiring an energy manager was enacted in 2017. Terry Justice in Engineering was the perfect choice to start looking at the energy the City uses, which costs us just under \$1M annually. As predicted, he has already saved the City more than his salary.
 - 19% improvement in energy use over last fiscal year (7 months of data).
 - Street lights: 15% cost reduction by fixing billing errors.
 - City Hall: Utility-supplied energy consumption at City Hall is now approximately half of what it was when we initially occupied the new facility.
 - Solar Panels: Saved the equivalent of 2,000 trees / negated 328,000 miles of driving.

R4

- The Solid Waste Master Plan is a 10 year plan to achieve 75% waste diversion. The plan had 3 phases, as well as specific recommendations for problematic areas. 2017 marked the midpoint, and we are currently 58% complete with the actions. 3 big projects for 2017 included:
 - Commercial recycling service was finally made available on the weekend! Because of space issues, most businesses would still have to put their recycling out on on weekends, but it would be collected as trash. Saturday Recycling started on Earth Day: 4/22. Sunday will start soon.
 - Events recycling plan: An extensive New Years Eve study of downtown recycling led to an overhaul of how the City coordinates events recycling. Changes include City collection of recycling at events to verify uncontaminated recyclables, new rules for events organizers, and a much greener Fantasy Fest.
 - Business Outreach: The Master Plan calls for education and outreach to businesses before enacting mandatory commercial recycling. Approximately 75 businesses were personally contacted and coached to the green side, saving them 50% for every pound diverted!

FY18/19 Priorities:

1) Reduce Waste Stream

- a. Begin a mandatory commercial recycling program
- b. Ban single use plastic items, especially plastic bags, straws, etc
- c. Begin outreach/education for Pay As You Throw program
- d. Pilot curbside organics collection

2) Less Cars on the Road

- a. Hire Multimodal Transportation Coordinator immediately
- b. Pass and implement Bike Ped Master Plan
- c. Support Transit KWIC & Transit Development Plan
- d. Outreach to Tourists to not bring cars into town

3) Obtain Gold FGBC Green Government Certification

- a. Budget \$4,000 in FY18-19 to obtain certification
- b. Provide intern for Sustainability Coordinator, to assist in documentation
- c. Complete sustainability LDR's as directed by Comp Plan

4) Reduce energy use

- a. Support Energy Managers FY18-19 budget items
- b. Begin in-house audits/adjustments of City buildings