

## Sustainability Update – 12/10/12

### **A) Climate Marketing: Preserve Island Life**

The Preserve Island Life posters went up in bus shelters over the weekend. We are currently working with Andy Griffiths charters to host our campaign “launch” on one of his boats, to see if we can make a “splash” with a larger news audience.

We will start our first eNewsletter in January. Take the [12 Step Pledge](#) to sign up to receive it!



### **B) December is Green Gifts Month**

On our 12 Step Program theme calendar, December is green gifts month. In the future we will be teaming up with the Chamber, TDC and others to highlight both local experiences, food, and handicrafts that don't add to the waste stream. Read more on our website about [your buying power](#).

Another big push will be to highlight and promote green businesses like those who have achieved GLEE Green Business, Clean Marina or Green Lodging Certifications. 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](mailto:ahiggins@keywestcity.com)



### **C) Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Summit: Dec 6 & 7th, Jupiter**

The annual Climate Compact Summit was held last week in Jupiter, Florida. Now 4 years old, the joint effort of four counties (Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach) has created a [Regional Climate Action Plan](#) and included four cities into the core team, of which the City of Key West is a now an [official partner](#).

Many elected officials took part in the Summit, including our Mayor Craig Cates, County Mayor George Neugent and Village of Islamorada Vice Mayor Ted Blackburn. All heralded the power of working together towards a common goal, especially when representing an area with a population larger than 30 other states. It was interesting to note that one of the possible joint projects that came up was finding a reuse potential for glass!

As a testament to the groups importance, at least five legislators sent staff to the meeting, including Representative Patrick Rooney Jr., Congressman Alcee L. Hastings, Senator Maria Sachs, CFO Jeff Atwater, Congressman-Elect Patrick Murphy, and Senator Rubio.

It was also announced that in recognition of the groups importance as the only such group in North America united to tackle Climate Change, the Kresge Foundation had **awarded our partnership ~\$900K** over the next three years to help reach our goals.



Mayor Craig Cates (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and Monroe County Mayor George Neugent (8<sup>th</sup>) share their thoughts with other city and county elected officials during a Summit Panel on Friday.

#### **D) Waste Diversion Progress**

**Solid Waste Master Plan:** On Dec 4th, the City Commission decided to accept the negotiated 2 year changes to the existing Waste Management collection contract and start preparations to go out for bid on the contract for 2014.

The existing contract will now include the delivery of new, larger, wheeled recycling carts, 80% revenue sharing from recycled metals and major appliances (white goods), addition of a one day a week pick up for yard waste and removal of one day a week for trash, eWaste events on the first Saturday of every month at Indigenous Park, single stream for businesses, monthly reports to staff, an educational program, and working with staff towards the implantation of the rest of the Phase II recommendations from the Solid Waste Master Plan.

Staff continues to research yard waste composting and glass reuse in partnership with the County for economy of scale savings. I am working on a grant to help with all of the above, due December 30.

Horse Manure Composting: We are still fundraising to meet our \$2,100 goal to buy materials for the three-bay horse manure composting shed. Thus far, only GLEE has come forward with funds, but the boards of the Key West Garden Club and Key West Botanical Garden are meeting soon to discuss helping the project. If anyone knows anyone else who might like to contribute, please let me know.

#### **E) Pedestrian Mall for Duval?**

Also at the December 4th City Commission meeting, staff were given 180 days to research best management practices for pedestrian malls and give the Commission an opinion on where, how and if it would work for Duval. Of particular importance is not to further degrade the transportation level of service on the side streets of Simonton and Whitehead.

#### **F) Sustainability Board Presentations, Thursday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, Old City Hall**

- **City Manager Bob Vitas:** CM Vitas will speak at a future meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Board meeting with a presentation on his vision for how his office will lead the sustainability movement.
- **Glass Reuse:** The glass reuse presentation from Nov 8<sup>th</sup> will be posted as soon as I finish editing the video.

#### **G) Utility Tracking Project**

As a pending updated contract with FKAA will greatly increase the City's water bill, I have been tasked with examining our meters with the highest water use and propose behavior and technology changes to increase efficiency. At the moment, we are sorting through a lot of billing issues as many irrigation only meters have been incorrectly assessed with sewer charges.

One synergistic project has popped up, that of the City's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest water bills: Indigenous Park. At first glance, one wouldn't think they would have a large bill, but when you consider that:

- 1) The Key West Wildlife Center is required to drain, clean and refill their 4 bird rehab ponds daily (600 gallons/day);
- 2) The Bocce court leagues have 50-75 players that use the bathrooms four nights/week;
- 3) The park has an old, PVC based irrigation system spread throughout that is probably leaking; it all adds up.

Serendipitously, one of the grants we were awarded is helping with the Wildlife Center as we speak. A 7,000 gallon cistern will be re-appropriated from the about to be demolished from the old waste to energy plant and reinstalled next to the giant roof of the Bird Center. Also, a salt water well will be installed since the shorebirds are used to saltwater anyway. This will enable some of the rainwater collected to also be used in street sweepers and landscape watering trucks as well.

While we haven't taken a hard look at the rest of the water uses, an upgrade of water efficient toilets and faucets as well as a dismantling of unneeded irrigation should help get that particular water meter under control and save the taxpayers money toward the next sustainability project.

#### **H) Green Building**

- According to Florida Statute, all public buildings must be built to meet green certification standards. While we have already given suggestions for LEED Gold for the upcoming Public Transportation Building, smaller projects like the Tennis Pro shop in Bayview and the Sextons House are also going to be greened up soon.

Initial discussions with the Truman Waterfront Master Plan consultants design team highlighted water capture, no irrigation landscaping, community gardens and other green design features. Stay tuned!

- US Green Building Council - Keys Branch: The LEED Green Associates accreditation prep training course: Core Concepts and Strategies (a requirement for the exam) will be on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact Nicole Malo at [nmalo@keywestcity.com](mailto:nmalo@keywestcity.com) for more information.

The Government and Sustainability presentation by the Keys branch of USGBC is Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **D) Grants**

- **Bahama Village Community Redevelopment Agency:** The [proposal for a community garden](#) presentation scheduled for Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> was postponed.
- **EPA – [Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities](#):** Our application for a “Walkability Audit” was not awarded. There will be more chances in February as well.
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [Environmental Solutions Grant](#):** A full proposal was not requested, but we recently received word that the group was awarded \$4B from the BP settlement, so we expect to have another chance in the future.
- The **HUD-[Southeast Florida Regional Partnership](#)** – No change
- **Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services: \$5K [Community Gardens Grant](#). **WON!!!**** by Sigsbee Charter school.
- **Audubon/Toyota [Together Green Innovation Grant](#):** \$28,500: [Climate Adaptation Planting](#) **WON!!!** We are working on site plans for the Cistern at Indigenous Park. Mid term report is due mid December.
- **ClimateWise Partnership:** [The Geos Institute](#), a non profit that helps regions predict, reduce and prepare for a changing climate, has gotten a green light from NOAA to submit a full proposal and intends to include the Keys. Dubbed [ClimateWise](#), their program involves public workshops and risk assessments to identify vulnerabilities and prioritize adaptation strategies.
- **Dept of Energy – [South Florida Regional Planning Council](#):** \$500,000: This project prepares South Florida region's communities for successful and accelerated deployment of plug-in electric vehicles and infrastructure.
- **The Funders Network [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#):** Expected to be announced in late fall.

**J) Greening the Key West Airport:** no change

**K) Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan:** No change.

**L) Energy Contest:** No change.

**M) Green Business Certifications:** No change

**N) LED Lighting:** no change

**O) New Sustainability Intern:** No change

**P) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE):** no change

**Q) Educational Partnerships:** no change

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