

Sustainability Update

September 2015

International News:

- In December, the United Nations will hold a Climate Change Conference in Paris as a follow up to report progress on the Kyoto Protocol. [Read More Here](#).
- In preparation for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference, Pope Francis has laid much groundwork. In June, he released a Papal Encyclical on Climate Change, laying out a [192-page argument](#) for a new partnership between science and religion to combat human-driven climate change. In early October, he addressed the United Nations calling for actions and in late October, he got Catholic patriarchs, cardinals and bishops representing five continents together for an [unprecedented joint appeal](#) to climate negotiators to approve a “transformative” and fair, legally binding agreement that sets global temperature limits and goals for eliminating fossil-fuel emissions. As expected, regional Archdioceses are stepping up too. The Archbishop of Atlanta announced the first Catholic Climate Action Plan to help bring the Encyclical to the 69 counties in its jurisdiction. The Archbishop of Miami, who covers the entire area of the Compact, [also went public](#) on supporting climate change action as a moral issue. We hope to work with the Miami Archdiocese across the Compact Region.

Federal/National News:

- President Obama announced Friday morning (Nov 6th) that he has denied TransCanada’s permit application to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline in the U.S. Tar Sands. [Read More Here](#).
- In October, the Obama Administration and private-sector leaders announced commitments and progress in addressing the most potent of Greenhouse Gases, hydrofluorocarbons (HFC’s). HFCs are factory-made chemicals that are primarily used in air conditioning, refrigeration, and foam insulation, and they can be up to 10,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to climate change. In July the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program rule was finalized to prohibit the use of certain HFCs where safer and more climate-friendly alternatives are available. 16 large companies throughout the HFC supply chain stepped forward to phase out or phase down the use of HFCs and transition to alternatives. [Read more here](#).
- In October, the Obama Administration launched initiatives and policies to protect and preserve two new marine sanctuaries (tidal waters of Maryland, and Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan waters). As part of the 2nd Annual international “Our Ocean” conference, they also announced new steps to tackle illegal fishing. [Read more here](#).
- In September, the Obama Administration launched the [Every Kid in a Park website](#) to allow 4th graders to obtain a pass that provides free access to students and their families to all federally managed lands and waters – including national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries. The pass is valid for the 2015-2016 school year. [Read more here](#).

State News:

- Local Tampa Bay residents joined over a dozen groups in the People’s Climate Movement’s National Day of Action to demand action on climate change and link local action to global action in Paris this December. Dressed in life vests and pool floaties, the group included frontline communities, labor unions, immigrants, students, and faith communities, to call on Senator Marco Rubio to be a climate leader, not a denier. [Read more here](#).

Regional Efforts:

- 7th Annual Compact Summit: Key West, FL!!! Dec 1-3 @ Casa Marina
 - Registration is closed. Two open tickets are available for segments.
 - Help Needed: Sponsorships: <http://files.ctctcdn.com/19f335a2401/b4b0a29b-f9cf-4319-a5d0-9855b01bc0c6.pdf> & Silent Auction

- Resilient Redesign II Workshop: Key West, Del Ray & Hollywood
- Working Groups: New Municipality Working Group! Quarterly meetings.

County Efforts:

- **Monroe County Sustainability Dept**
 - [Sea Level Rise Modelling Workshops](#) (Oct 10th)
 - Sustainability Action Plan Goal Development (Oct 19th)
 - Presentation of Draft Sustainability Action Plan (County Commission - TBA)
- **Monroe County Climate Change Action Committee:** Letters of support for Commissioner Carruthers Bag Ban and Light rail letters.
- **High Tide Outreach Program:** In the month of October, the County ran a Nuisance Flooding outreach program, asking residents to send in high tide flooding photos. [The pictures can be found here.](#)

City of Key West

- **Interns:** Through a recent partnership with USF's Patel School of Sustainability, we will get 3 Grad Student interns in Summer 2016, working on Green Business Certification, Car Free Key West and one other undetermined program. We will also be exploring the City becoming one of the United Nations Sustainable Tourism Monitoring Station.
- **BPAS:** Third Year BPAS applications just closed. We have revisited the rules for Year 4 to allow for more scalability and for more affordable incentives.
- **Preserve Island Life Communications:** Our FB page now has 925 friends (up 36 from last report), and our email database has ~1,890 local contacts (up 160).
- **Bike / Ped:** The Bike/Ped Coordinator position survived. Will be posted this month.
- **Green Business Certification:** The Green Business Portal is set up: <http://www.gbb.org/key-west/> and the stickers will be printed soon. Will be piloting with at least 20 local businesses that are already green in order to showcase at December Climate Summit.
- **LDRs:** Four workshops regarding the Land Development Regulations have been held, dealing with Transportation, Affordable Housing, Landscaping, Urban Design, Green Building, and Climate Adaptation. The presentations are available online at: http://keywest.cgasolutions.com/?page_id=192. The next steps are to take the comments given (you can still comment at KeyWestLDR@cgasolutions.com) and flesh them out, illustrate them, etc. Hopes are that the draft workshops will be held in December with Planning Board and City Commission coming in the spring (April Earth Day?).

Grants:

- **Urban Forestry:** WON!!! \$20K. 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. Will start in the new fiscal year.
 - **NEA Our Town Grant:** Won! \$75K. Art In Public Places board is seeking to hire a coordinator to handle. First event will be an EcoArt Workshop.
 - **Florida Transportation Alternatives Program:** WON!!! \$250K!! For Fiscal year 2016-17.
 - **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant (LDR's):** The LDR meeting regarding Adaptation was on 9/3/15 and you can see the presentations here: http://keywest.cgasolutions.com/?page_id=192
 - **BV Garden Grant** – Trees and pathways installed at Learning Garden. Working on dates for community planting day for the shrubs. Bruce Neff got a grant to do historical signage. For the Community Garden, we need to go back before BVRAC to confirm whether it wants a temporary garden or permanent garden before we begin plans for the current Truman Waterfront spot.
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Themes:

Land Conservation: September

- Green Drinks hosted the Wildlife Center, Botanical Garden and the City's Urban Forester to talk about our natural areas.
- We are working with the Audubon Society of the Florida Keys to designate the City of Key West as both a [USFWS Urban Bird Treaty City](#) (We'd be the first in Florida) and an [Audubon's Bird City USA](#).
- Alison will be working on the canopy cover estimates over Thanksgiving break. We will be tracking island wide changes in canopy cover since 1995, and calculating present day canopy cover for sub-areas in order to help increase the canopy. The GIS dept is helping us on this.

Energy – October

- **LED streetlights:** Still working with Keys Energy on LED Streetlights.
- **Energy:** Write ups on the energy walk throughs are still being completed.
- **PACE** (Property Assessed Clean Energy):
 - The Florida Bankers Association appeal that had tied up PACE in the Florida Supreme Court, was recently dismissed for lack of standing. The court affirmed the circuit court's amended final judgment validating the Florida Development Finance Corporation special assessment revenue bonds. The court also remanded to the circuit court with instructions to require FDFC to amend the bond documents to remove all references to judicial foreclosure as a remedy and remove all references to the FDFC having, or being delegated, authority to levy the non-ad valorem assessments. They directed that the amended documents be filed in the circuit court following approval of the amendments by the governing board of the FDFC.
 - Will go forward with just Flood Raising mechanisms (see City: FEMA / CRS Ratings)

R4 – November

- **November Recycles Day!** To celebrate America Recycles Day, the City of Key West is hosting an R4 Fair, showcasing how you can reduce, reuse, recycle and rot!
 - Waste Management is sponsoring a Recycled Art Contest for Key West School Students! The winning student in each category will take home a \$20 gift card for themselves and a \$100 gift card for their classroom teacher or school! The theme is Robots and the rules are reused and recycled materials only except for duct tape, nails, screws, and glue.
 - There will also be an art contest for adults. Awards will be given to the winner of each category. Same rules and no theme!
 - There will be a yard sale. Entry fee \$10. Booths space must be set up by 7:30 am in a 10x10 space. Local vendors can also register to set up a booth as long as all products are reused or recycled.
 - We are also looking for volunteers to work at art booths during the event and working with the Green Team to make this a Earth Friendly Event!
 - If you are a green business or an environmental group wanting to set up a display booth or activity ... your registration is FREE!
 - We would also love to have artist who can build musical instruments from reused or recycled materials with kids at the event. We are hoping to have a "play along!"
 - For more information or to register to participate contact the City of Key West Recycling Operations at dgreen@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
- **Horse Compost:** Still 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....

Sustainable Fisheries (January) – *Also Resolutions....*

- Would love to do a Sustainable Fisheries Dinner...
- Will also do a Resolutions Drive to sign up citizens to make a difference somewhere...

Water Quality (February)

All Marinas in City Limits must become Clean Marinas by 2016. Stay tuned!

Transportation (March)

- The City's TCT Team is working on a priority based plan to reduce congestion and increase safety and ease for walkers and bikers. Stay tuned.

Water (April)

Youth Leadership - May

Green Business – June

Green Building – July

- We are also discussing partnering with the Keys Realtors for a workshop about Greening the MLS and incorporation FEMA flood info.

Healthy Living: August

- Great turn out at the Healthy Living Green Drinks in September. Lots of new faces!
- We did a Veggie Seedling Giveaway at the Health Fair at the Douglas Gym in October, and last weekend at the Artisan Fair. Over 2,000 veggies given out!
- The City is teaming with the Monroe County Health Dept to become a "Healthy Weight Community Champion 2016".