

Sustainability Update – 2/11/13

A) Waste Diversion Progress

The new Recycling Coordinator, Will Thompson has been hired and the purchase of recycling carts has been approved! The beginning of 1-1-1 service is tentatively slated for June/July. The City also sent a letter to the Monroe County Administrator to express formally the City's desire to work with them on both an RFP for a new waste contract as well as a composting facility.

Thanks to good press in the Key West Citizen by Gwen Filosa, the **Horse Manure Compositing Shed** is 100% funded! We have also received permission to coordinate a less onerous liability waiver with Sunrise Rotary to help with building it. We hope to finish in May, in time to paint a mural on it for Youth Leadership Month.

B) Transportation Coordination Team

An internal staff team has convened in order to better coordinate and promote transportation related projects withing the City. Besides offering an annual budget recommendation, the group will also be taking on the rewriting of the City's ordinances as they pertain to all things transportation. To see the list of medium term proects the team will be discussion, click here.

C) Comprehensive Plan and subsequent Ordinance changes

The City Commission heard the final reading for the Comprehensive Plan and it has now been received by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (used to be DCA). If everything stays on track the Notice of Intent will be posted on the DEO website and the amendments will become effective, unless otherwise challenged, on May 2, 2013.

It is highly likely that the North Roosevelt multi hotel project at the entrance to Key West will have to follow the new rules.

D) Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact:

The Florida Legislative delegations for Palm Beach, Broward, Miami Dade and Monroe met on February 13th to discuss threats posed by "the rise of the Atlantic Ocean". County Administrator Roman Gastesi attended. Good press ensued:

- Here is WLRN coverage of the meeting: <http://wlrn.org/post/tallahassee-lawmakers-hear-how-rising-seas-threaten-south-florida>
- Here is an editorial in the Sun Sentinel: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/opinion/editorials/fl-dlyons-editorial-climatechange-20130215,0,3116798.story>

The Compact partnership received a grant from the Kreske Foundation: \$975K/3 years for four primary objectives:

- RCAP (Regional Climate Action Plan) Recommendation Implementation Convenings (12 to 15 over 3 years), starting with:
 - Recommendation SP-2: Compact/RCAP/Climate Change Guidance for local & regional planning processes (this includes: SP-19 transport, SP-21 related to TOD, SP-27/32 bike networks, and RR-3 emergency mgmt, among others) – this convening to be scheduled for July/August 2013
 - Recommendation SP-12: Incorporating SLR into 100-year flood mapping as revised in 2014 and subsequent years – this convening to be scheduled for September/October 2013.
 - Recommendation EF-1/4: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – this convening to be scheduled for December 2014
- Compact website support, further development and Compact outreach
- RCAP Innovations Catalyst
- RCAP Learning & Evaluation

The City's participation in the compact secured us a stipend to attend the [National Adaptation Forum](#) next week in Denver. Over 300 local governments are convening to better address adaptation to climate change.

The League of Women Voters has a new lower keys chapter, which has been a great help in educating the public about sea level rise and the efforts of our Climate Action Plans locally and regionally. We look forward to working with them into the future. You can find them on facebook here: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/LowerKeysLWV?fref=ts>

E) Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan: Accepted by the County Commission on March 20th. Will go to staff to come up with a plan for implementation.

F) Bahama Village Community Garden

While the final appropriation has not been finalized by the City Commission, it is expected to pass. Meanwhile, we have been meeting with our partners at the Monroe County Dept of Health and Key West Housing Authority to build a leadership team from the neighborhood. Our first meeting to help design the space should happen soon.

G) Utility Tracking Project

The UtilityTrac software that will help us get our bills in line and flag problems for us to fix has been given the green light from both Asst City Managers, and is awaiting legal review of the contract before it goes to the City Manager for final approval.

H) Earth Day

Our Sustainability Intern Stewart Johnson will be working on updating the ICLEI Greenhouse Gas software for an **Earth Day report** scheduled for the May 7th City Commission meeting. Also planned for that commission meeting will be a “shared revenue” plan (to help incentivize energy and water savings in house) and a roadmap to become [Green City certified](#).

We have been given permission to assist Keys sustainability non-profit [GLEE \(Green Living & Energy Education\)](#) with a “Wake Up Workshop” to help supply the group with fresh leadership and volunteers, which will in turn help the City with its sustainability goals. The annual fundraiser at the Bottlecap will be held on April 19th, with the Wake Up Workshop scheduled for April 20th.

I) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): Plan to have in place by late May.

J) Preserve Island Life Campaign

Overall, the campaign is growing. Thanks to great exposure in the press and on facebook and from partners, our events have been attended by many folks new to conservation. Our facebook exposure is growing as well, with 160 total likes as well as some peak viewing by between 276 and 324 people because of shares and comments. The most action (views, shares, likes) was from the announcement of Commissioner Yaniz’ resolution to support a proposed Florida bill to stop banning plastic bags.



i) March: Transportation Month

After individual chats with partners, the first Transportation Coordination meeting will be held on Valentine’s Day. We’ll be working on integrating our individual efforts in pedestrian, bicycle, driving and parking issues to benefit transportation ease as a whole.

The first meeting will address the short term plan of Transportation Month events (10,000 Steps Get Outdoors community walking days; Biking: Updated bicycle maps, bike tuneup days; Transit: Free bus day for St. Patty’s Day, New routes announcement). We will also address medium term projects like a Bicycle Master Plan, Walkability Audits for the Glynn Archer City Hall area, upcoming Land Development Regulation Updates and new Parking options for employees and residents.

ii) April: Water Conservation Month

Although all events have not been secured, the Water Conservation team is pulling together some important projects! On April 11th, Nicole Malo, Alison Higgins and Stewart Johnson will be taking their LEED Green Associates exam, then will attend the South Florida Water Management District water conservation expo on the 12th. Upon return the City will be hosting planners from Monroe County, Islamorada and Marathon, along with partners at SFWMD and Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority to craft new ordinances aimed at reducing potable water use per capita. This will help us save money by avoiding or delaying the



increased cost of regular operation of the Reverse Osmosis plant, slated for 2015-2016.

Also on the calendar, a water conservation workshop on April 19th by the local chapter of the US Green Building Council and fundraiser for GLEE afterwards at the Bottlecap. A rainbarrel workshop will be held by the Monroe County Extension Service on April 27th. Still to be scheduled is a tour of the Stock Island Desalination Plant. You can hear more about these events by liking our facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/preserveislandlife>.

We also aim to complete the cistern project at Indigenous Park and be able to forecast monetary savings. Lastly, we intend to work with our Community Services team to come up with water conservation changes to our top 5 highest consumption water meters.

v) May is Youth Leadership Month

No movement on this yet, but will reach out to schools and youth groups soon to assess what they are already doing and what they are interested in. Definitely will tie in with activities for the Youth Garden project of the Frederick Douglas Black Educators Memorial Project next to the Band Room.

vi) June is Green Business Month

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

vii) July: Green Building

Multiple meetings about greening new City buildings (Sextons House, Truman Waterfront, Dockmasters Office and Glynn Archer) have been held in the past months.

vii) February: Water Quality Month

The Water Quality team consisted of partners from the Sanctuary, Reef Relief, Nature Conservancy, OMI, City Marinas, Key West Wildlife Rescue, Monroe County Extension Service, FDEP and more. The group prioritized three main actions for citizens: 1) Fish Cleaning into Marinas/Canals, 2) Appropriate Fertilizing & 3) Protecting Stormwater Drains.

Between all partners, the group secured new radio PSA's, held 4 radio interviews, posted information onto the City and County's TV channels, and worked water quality messages into three presentations.

K) Greening of Mosquito Control?

Alison Higgins was asked to be a keynote speaker and to participate in a two day Sustainability Summit hosted by the Florida Keys Mosquito Control on March 12/13. Facilitated by a professor from Case Western University, the event was one of the first times that the employees were asked to envision the future of the agency and help create the path to get there. There were seven main working groups that came together, three of which were focused on greening the group: Green Facilities (namely a new Key West facility once they move from Stock Island); Green Fleets (proposed piloting of electric vehicles for Key West surveys); and Waste Elimination (a new cistern at their hangar in Marathon which would provide for the washing of all aircraft and vehicles).

L) Grants

- **New Grant Writer:** The City Commission authorized the City Manager to negotiate a contract with Langton Associates to be our new grant writers. They will work directly with Carolyn Sheldon who has taken on the role of the City's grant administrator. Very soon the team will be visiting our departments to learn of our programs and goals.
- **National Adaptation Forum stipend:** **WON!!** \$2,000 - (See SE Florida Climate Compact)
- **Bahama Village Community Redevelopment Agency:** **WON!!!** Recent meetings with partners have led to the [following timeline](#). The Monroe County Health Department has shown a keen interest in helping us with this project, which may allow for the delay of hiring the City employee, which would absorb the grant reduction deficit.
- **Audubon/Toyota [Together Green Innovation Grant](#):** \$28,500: [Climate Adaptation Planting](#) **WON!!!** Mid Term report was turned in and Florida Keys Audubon has received its second payout for the project. The cisterns will be

ordered shortly and the gutters will be handled in house. The RFP for the salt water well drilling will follow shortly. Sites for tree planting chosen thus far include HOB and the Bahama Village Youth Garden.

- **ClimateWise Partnership:** [The Geos Institute](#), a non profit that helps regions predict, reduce and prepare for a changing climate, partnered with the County and Key West to put in an application to FEMA's Community Resilience Innovation Challenge. 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. No update.
- **Seven50.org** –Summit documents are still forthcoming, but available for viewing are: Monroe County Road Show in October 2012 led [the following three priorities](#) and [Passenger Rail update](#) for Southeast Florida.
- **Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services:** \$5K [Community Gardens Grant](#). **WON!!!** by Sigsbee Charter school.
- **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 Funders Network [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#):** Expected to be announced in late fall.

M) Greening the Key West Airport: no change

N) Energy Contest: No change.

O) LED Lighting: no change

P) Educational Partnerships: no change

Alison Higgins

Sustainability Coordinator

City of Key West

O: 305-809-3726

C: 305-923-1783