

Sustainability Update – 2/11/13

A) New Sustainability Intern: Stewart Johnson will be volunteering 40 hour weeks during her time off between just finishing her undergrad in Urban Planning and starting her Masters in Urban Planning in the fall. She will be working on Transportation, Water Conservation LDR's, an update to our Greenhouse Gas Emission report and writing up information sheets on our latest energy projects.



B) Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact:

The Florida Legislative delegations for Palm Beach, Broward, Miami Dade and Monroe are meeting on February 13th to discuss threats posed by “the rise of the Atlantic Ocean”. Although careful to not say climate change or even Sea Level Rise, the willingness to talk about adaptation is huge. More later.

C) Preserve Island Life Campaign

i) January Green Resolutions Month went very well as the kickoff for Preserve Island Life. Four presentations were given and over 90 contacts were added to our database.

Also, on our Facebook page, we are up to 127 “likes” and will be using this page as our primary outreach tool to let folks know what is going on from week to week.

You can help grow our effort in three ways:

- 1) [Take the Pledge yourself](#). When you receive the eNewsletter, forward it to friends.
- 2) [Like us on Facebook](#) and invite your friends to like us as well.
- 3) Let me know if there is a group that might like a speaker!

ii) February Water Quality Month

The Water Quality team has met twice and come up with a great slate of activities for this year and a whole host of ideas for next year as we grow this effort. With 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.

As a start, the group has already prepared radio PSA's, set up 2 radio interviews, created powerpoint slides for the City and County's TV channels, and worked water quality messages into two presentations this month and at least one upcoming newspaper story. [For the latest update on the working plans see here.](#)

iii) March is 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.



iv) April is Water Conservation Month

While this group has yet to convene, partners from SFWMD and FKAA as well as other local governments have expressed an interest on working together on new Land Development Regulations as well as incentive and education programs to help reduce the growing demand for potable water in the Keys. The goal is to avoid a shift to the daily use of the Aqueducts Reverse Osmosis plant (currently forecasted to occur between 2015 & 2016) which would be very cost intensive.

We also hope to start and finish the cistern project at Indigenous Park and be able to forecast monetary savings.

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

D) Waste Diversion Progress

The new Recycling Coordinator position has hit a snag and may be reposted. The contract amendments with Waste Management are slated to appear in front of the City Commission on Feb 20th and the RFP for a Consultant for the RFP should appear late March early April. The purchase of the carts is slated to go in front of the City Commission on March 5, so delivery and the beginning of 1-1-1 service is tentatively slated for June/July. The City will be sending 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.

E) 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.

F) 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. This Wednesday, key representatives from the City Managers office, as well as Planning and Engineering will be attending a "Cost of LEED" presentation to better understand how to cut project costs while maximizing operational savings.

G) Sustainability Board Presentations, Thursday, Feb 14th, 5:30pm, Old City Hall

We will be discussing pervious pavement as part of Water Quality Month

H) Grants

- **New Grant Writer:** The City reviewed RFP's for three grant writing companies to help us with identifying and applying for grants. The companies will go in front of the City Commission selection on either March 4th or 19th.
- **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 RFP for the cistern and gutter system will go out soon, 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. While we are still awaiting word on this grant, our partnership did get the City selected as one of 25 local govts to get a \$2,000 travel stipend to an upcoming National Adaptation Forum.
- **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.

I) Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan: Will go in front of the County Commission in March. Date TBA.

J) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): will start up efforts this year with County.

K) Greening the Key West Airport: no change

L) Energy Contest: No change.

M) LED Lighting: no change

N) Educational Partnerships: no change

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