

# Sustainability Coordinator Updates

## For SAB 5/10/12

### New Sustainability Intern:

Sarah Vitale is the City's Sustainability Intern. She is a local conch, who just completed her sophomore year at FSU, specializing in local government and policy. She will be helping with energy audits of all of the City's buildings, green business promotion, and research into green certifications for local government. She is volunteering out of the Sustainability Coordinators office for 20 hours per week through to the end of June.

### Energy Audits of City Facilities:

Sarah and I have been sleuthing the best places to find the baseline data we need on the City's buildings and their associated energy and water bills. We expect to be on the ground doing inspections early next week. The expected completion date for these "quick and dirty" energy use per square foot calculations is May 23<sup>rd</sup>, as that is the deadline to enter our buildings into the [EPA Portfolio Manager](#) (the software tool we track performance with) "[Battle of the Buildings](#)" year-long contest. We intend to use the competition as an incentive to entice City employees with each building to take on behavioral and technological changes, as we will be reporting their progress monthly.

### Green Business Certification

Monroe County is interested in taking over [GLEE's Green Business Certification](#). GLEE's board endorses this idea as it will elevate the programs reach and attractiveness to businesses. As the "Commercial Challenge" is an important part of the City's Climate Action Plan, it is my intent that the City also become a co-partner rather than reinvent the wheel. I am interested in also seeing if we can roll this into the Climate Marketing materials.

### Climate Marketing Update

- The online survey is live at [www.keywestclimatechange.com](http://www.keywestclimatechange.com) and the surveyors are in action. They will do street intercept surveys for 20 hours in at least 9 areas where locals are found. They will also facilitate focus groups by asking for time at at least 7 civic and community group meetings. Lastly, is the large online effort, which they will facilitate by getting at least 13 organizations to put the survey link on their website and in their enewsletters. The survey will stay live so we can continue to get data, but the internal deadline so they may write their baseline report will be May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Survey also allows voting on potential logos and taglines. **I have included** the most recent iterations attached in this email.

### Green Grants:

- No word on our **Sustainability Success Academy** nor the **Climate Adaptation** Grant applications. Expect to hear by mid May for the former and early June for the latter.
- **Knights Foundation** – Will be working with CFFK sometime in the near future on this funding ask.
- **Energy Foundation**: No deadline. Must be a non-profit applicant. Only fund local projects that are designed for replication. Cannot be community energy, planning, research, demo projects, or construction. Will accept LOI's to find out if our project idea might fit. Will bring this to the consideration of the Four County Climate Compact as well as the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Best use may be for PACE type projects, energy ratings for buildings, and possibly Green Tourism? Will need to brainstorm on appropriate NGO to lead application (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy?).
- **EECBGB**: Am helping Rod in Community Services with some of the finer calculations for our EECBG grant report with the County. The county and its partner cities have done so well on spending money and reporting, they will be awarded additional money. I am waiting to see how much. The County is interested in spending its extra money on an electric car. Rhonda and I will be researching this together so that perhaps we can both do it.
- **HUD Southeast FL Regional Partnership Grant**: Back in 2010, City of Key West was a co-applicant alongside 130 organizations for a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. In May of 2011, the grant was awarded, and the lead applicants (South Florida Regional Planning Council and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council) have begun organizing the work plan. While neither the City of Key West, nor Monroe County are currently due to receive funds from the grant, we will undoubtedly benefit from the participation and planning processes as well as infrastructural projects. Already I have participated in the initial meeting of the "electric vehicle infrastructure research" subgroup of the Transportation Group. As I learn more about the formation and missions of the other groups, I will let the SAB know.

### **Earth Day Activities**

I worked with some great community partners to pull off two weeks' worth of events for Earth Day this year. Key volunteers Runi Goyal with Tropic Cinema and Patti Biga with GLEE helped me coordinate all green efforts, including Reef Relief and Keys Healthy Start. The City's signature event was the movie screening of Forks Over Knives followed by a sustainability panel of local green leaders. The event was well attended and led to a great discussion. Panel guests included green business leaders First State Bank and WeBeFit, community leaders Heidi Golightly and Andrea Weitz, and municipal sustainability coordinators myself and Rhonda Haag. Even the panelists learned something! I collected contact info from 18 attendees that wish to learn more about the City's efforts and perhaps volunteer.

**Greener Fleet:** I have been asked by numerous staff as well as Commissioners to look into greening our fleet. It is my hope to have enough research together to help with this budget cycle.

### **Horse Manure/Bahama Village Community Garden** (See separate upload)

What started as a simple look into what to do with 100lbs/day of horse manure has blossomed into a cool community project. The Police Force Mounted Patrol contacted Birch and he and I have been creating a phased plan. Phase 1 will build a four bay composting shed that follows BMP's and FDEP rules. The compost will be free to the public and specific garden clubs have already pledged to help use what we make. The shed will be deconstructable, in the very real chance that the horses get moved in the new Truman Waterfront plans. Phase two won't become a reality until the new horse facility is realized. Community gardens ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the waterfront workshops and could be very efficiently located next to the horse facility, increasing community interaction with our police. Prices are still being estimated for both Phase 1 and 2, but GLEE has already raised a couple thousand toward the project during its earth day events.

### **Comp Plan Efforts**

- **Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee – Comp Plan Workshop:** Monroe County staff working on the County's Comp Plan updates asked the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee to give specific recommendations. Attached as a separate upload are the results from that workshop.
- **ICLEI:** Now that I have access to ICLEI's database, I have been reviewing the Comp Plans of top cities that have incorporated sustainability. I will have specific recommendations within the next week or two.