

Sustainability Update – 8/2/12

A) Utility Tracking Project

The [Utility Tracking Project](#) is chugging along and raising insights into things that we can fix besides the utilities. A priority of Assistant City Manager David Fernandez and consisting of team members from Planning, Finance, Community services, I.T., Key West Bight and Utilities, the utility tracking project is helping us get a comprehensive grasp of what the City uses and pays for; help department heads take financial responsibility for their utility costs; divest the City of utility charges incurred by leasers of our property; save taxpayers money through smarter use of our utilities. As project coordinator, I am also tracking the reduction of the Cities carbon footprint. Although we are looking at energy, water, solid waste, sewer, and stormwater accounts, the impetus for this project is a looming October 1st deadline when the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority will begin billing for unused water meters. Already we have identified 9 meters that are no longer needed and will save the City money.

B) Energy Contest

This project has slowed down so that we can make headway on the Utility Tracking Project. I've been challenged to adjust the awards section towards less cash, more donated prizes.

C) Solid Waste Master Plan

The Solid Waste Master Plan is completed and will be heard by the City Commission on August 21st. The plan will be uploaded to the agenda before the meeting, aiming for August 11-14th at the latest.

D) Sustainability Advisory Board Presentations: Solid Waste

Our July meeting was punctuated by a presentation by [Sally Palmi, Waste Management Director for Alachua County](#). Alachua is the only County in Florida that has partnered with a City (Gainesville) on a joint RFP and contract for their waste accounts. Their shared documents included: [Alachua/Gainesville co-RFP](#), the [Alachua/Gainesville Interlocal Agreement](#) and [Sally's presentation](#).

E) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

I gave a [presentation](#) to the SAB board in July about the commercial PACE programs in Florida and was asked to give a [formal proposal](#) to them at the August meeting. There are two main companies that have the background and skills: [Florida Green Energy Works/EcoCity Partners](#) and [YGreene](#). Thus far, most other local governments have been choosing to opt in to the [Interlocal agreement](#) with Florida Green Energy Works/EcoCity Partners. If the proposal passes at the SAB, I will be working with legal and the City Manager's office to choose a program to partner with.

F) Climate Marketing: Preserve Island Life

A very cursory draft of the green behaviors survey data can be found [here](#).

Based on comments on the logos and bylines, as well as by conversations with marketers at the Tourist Development Council, a new framing of greening Key West has emerged: Preserve Island Life. At its heart, the effort utilizes the communities' values of what makes Key West unique to help spur action to keep it healthy and strong.



PRESERVE ISLAND LIFE



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Website templates have been chosen and website building is underway. Posters are almost finished and will go up at bus shelters and around the community. Stickers are also being created to help spread the branding.

At this time, the contractor, Cunningham Group, is set to present the entire project to the City Commission on October 2nd followed by an online press event on October 4th.



G) GAO Visit

Because of the City's work on the Climate Adaptation Planning project (see grants), we have been selected for an interview with the U.S. Government Accountability Office, who is preparing a report for Senators Sheldon Whitehouse and Max Baucus on the extent to which natural resource managers are incorporating climate change adaptation into their natural resource planning and management. This review is a follow-up to previous GAO reports on climate change, including their August 2007 report, [Climate Change: Agencies Should Develop Guidance for Addressing the Effects on Federal Land and Water Resources, which features the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.](#)

H) Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan

The County's plan is in its final phases and expected to be complete and go in front of the County Commission in October. Using the same process the Key West SAB board used, they created these [draft priorities from their Climate Action Plan](#) for the Board of County Commissioners. Sadly, solid waste and recycling were not in the top six.

I) Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact

After many consensus meetings with stakeholders across the four counties, the [Regional Climate Action Plan](#) is complete! I will give a more thorough review of it and its [Implementation Guide \(draft\)](#) for the SAB at our next meeting in September.

J) Green Business Certifications

A new Green Business Certification program has popped up that is well worth looking into. Created by ICLEI, the [Green Business Challenge](#), comes with multiple tools to help local governments launch their own supported program. I will be comparing this with the [Florida Green Energy Works](#) program that has been the favorite thus far.

K) LED Lighting

The Meadows LED pilot project is completed and the SAB is urged to check out the observed light patterns on Olivia, Pine, and a few on Petronia, some night around 9:00, preferably on one of the darker nights.

L) Horse Manure Composting / Bahama Village Community Garden

We have buy in on the site and costs, so the last hurdles to completing the Horse Manure Composting project is to: 1) Find an easy way for volunteers to be able to turn the manure when the bins are almost full; 2) Secure letters of intent from local garden/botanical/civic clubs to help turn it and take some home once a month. Stay tuned!

M) Comprehensive Plan

The public forum was held on Monday, July 23, 2012, and staff are going back over the changes the consultants made based on previous suggestions. New sections include the codification of the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals, the creation of specific energy, water, transportation and solid waste efficiency standards to meet the GHG reduction goals, the creation of a Sustainability Fund to help meet those goals, certification programs which encourage responsible business practices, and planning for resiliency and adaptation to Climate Change. [You can see the sections yourself here.](#) The Comp Plan should go in front of the Planning Board by late August.

N) Grants

- Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services: [Community Gardens Grant](#). Due Sept 14th. Max amount. Working with Vicki Boguszewski from Monroe County Dept of Health, who will be the lead on the grant.

- **Audubon/Toyota [Together Green Innovation Grant](#):** \$28,500: [Climate Adaptation Planting](#) **WON!!!** Attended mandatory workshop for all innovation grant awardees and met some incredible people from across our nation. Am currently working with three teams meeting for Comprehensive Plan language team for the Climate Adaptation Planting portion. Next step is the engineering design for the cistern and salt water well project out at the Wild Bird Center at McCoy Indigenous Park.
- **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [Environmental Solutions Grant](#):** \$100,050. Only a [three page preproposal](#) has been turned in to date, they will let us know if they want us to turn in a full proposal. The secured Audubon/Toyota grant is being used as part of the 1:1 required match, which allows us to ask for more money from NFWF. Main projects include Sustainability Academy, Green Tourism pilots, and at least 3 Cool Roof installations for City buildings.
- **EECBGB:** Current grant money is spent, with the City's Rod Delestrino leading the successful installation of new, lower energy lighting for ball fields. To see this story, as well as the other projects initiated by Monroe County, the Village of Islamorada and the City of Marathon, see this [YouTube link](#) (Note: City employees will not be able to see this on their work computers).

I am now soliciting for new shovel ready projects for the second round, which will release \$3M that was left on the table by other cities and counties that were unable to do their projects. I am working on a template to help the City prioritize their projects by return on investment, as well as opportunistic timing. The Sustainability Board and Pedestrian Action Committee will most likely be called upon as part of the evaluation team. The proposal announcement is not expected until the fall.

- **HUD-[Southeast Florida Regional Partnership](#):** No updates.
- **The Funders Network [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#):** The next round is expected to be announced in August.
- **Elizabeth Ordway Dunn:** \$49,500 - [Sustainability Success Academy](#). Submitted in April. Still no word.

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