

Sustainability Update – 1/10/13

A) Climate Marketing: Preserve Island Life

The Preserve Island Life program is officially started! We got some [great press from the Citizen](#) and will be sending out the resulting Press Release video to a wider media audience shortly.

Our first eNewsletter will come out this month, urging our citizens and businesses to make a New Years resolution to go greener in 2013. Take the [12 Step Pledge](#) to sign up to receive the eNewsletter!



B) January is Green Resolutions Month

On our 12 Step Program theme calendar, January is green resolutions month, asking our community to 1) Take the Pledge, 2) Get Informed (by visiting the Preserve Island Life website), and 3) Get Involved (by liking us on our Preserve Island Life facebook site and telling us about what they are doing).

This is very important to the overall Preserve Island Life program, because the “Take the Pledge” step lets us know what our audience is interested in, and lets us directly communicate potential actions to them via the eNewsletter. It also helps us get volunteers.



You can help our effort in three ways.

- 1) [Take the Pledge yourself](#),
- 2) [Like us on Facebook](#) and invite your friends to like us as well.
- 3) When you receive the eNewsletter later this month, forward it to friends and family.

We will be gathering signatures and contact info at five events this month to drum up new pledges.

- **Tuesday, January 15th:** Return of Key West Green Drinks! 6pm at Old Town Manor at 511 Eaton Street. The new venue will allow us to bring in speakers who won't have to compete against the noise of other restaurant customers.
- **Fri, Jan 18th:** Sunrise Rotary meeting at top of La Concha, 7am.
- **Sat, January 19th:** Seafood Festival at Bayview Park. Help is definitely needed to either work a booth (if we have one) or walk around with clip boards and get signatures. Even a one hour shift is welcomed!
- **Fri, January 25th:** US Green Building Council presentation at Gato Bldg, Simonton, 4-7pm, Myself, Monroe County and Miami Dade will be talking about the local governments role in sustainability.
- **Sat, January 26th:** League of Women Voters, EcoDiscovery Center, 11am-2pm. A great platform from a renewed local group! The leadership group of this local nonprofit studied the issues and chose sustainability as the issue it wanted to help with.

PS: If you know of a group that is looking for a speaker, let me know! ☺

C) February is Water Quality Month

Got any ideas for what we can do for Water Quality month? Know of any events or groups we could partner with?

Anybody want to do a push for more use of [coral reef friendly sunscreen](#)?

An item I forgot during my last report was the Florida DEP award that The City of Key West and OMI received for outstanding wastewater treatment plant operation, maintenance and compliance with state requirements. Key West's Richard A. Heyman Environmental Pollution Control Facility is one of just seven statewide to be recognized with this award.



D) March is Transportation Month

Looking ahead, I've been plotting with multiple partners to make a big splash in March. We hope to address:

- Walking: Pedestrian Mall ideas for Duval; Get Outdoors community walking days with the Dept of Health.
- Biking: Bicycle Master Plan, Complete Streets policy, bike rehab workshops.
- Transit: Free bus day for St. Patty's Day.

E) 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

F) Waste Diversion Progress

Update will be from Jay during SAB meeting.

G) Utility Tracking Project

Two timely updates to the wrangling of the water and electric use include the help of new intern Diane Leightman who is helping me build our access-based database (which helps with FEMA and leaseholder management too) and the moving forward of UtilityTrac, a software that will help us get our bills in line and flag problems for us to fix. Stay tuned!

H) Green Building

- The US Green Building Council South Florida branch is providing a free lunch education session for all City employees interested in learning more about green certification. It is scheduled for Thursday, January 10th at noon. According to Florida Statute, all public buildings must be built to meet green certification standards. While we have already given suggestions for LEED Gold for the upcoming Public Transportation Building, smaller projects like the Tennis Pro shop in Bayview and the Sextons House are also going to be greened up soon.

Initial discussions with the Truman Waterfront Master Plan consultants design team highlighted water capture, no irrigation landscaping, community gardens and other green design features. I will be meeting with Anthony Sarno with mbi-k2m on concrete plans soon.

- US Green Building Council - Keys Branch: The LEED Green Associates accreditation prep training course: Core Concepts and Strategies (a requirement for the exam) will be on Friday, January 11th. Contact Nicole Malo at nmalo@keywestcity.com for more information.

The Government and Sustainability presentation by the Keys branch of USGBC is Friday, January 25th.

I) Sustainability Board Presentations, Thursday, Dec 13th, 5:30pm, Old City Hall

We will be discussing future presentations/workshops during the workplan timeline agenda item.

J) Grants

- **Bahama Village Community Redevelopment Agency:** **WON!!!** The [proposal for a community garden](#) presentation was heard by BVRAC on January 3rd and awarded \$20,000. Stay tuned for more details.
- **Solid Waste Management Grant:** Although much initial work was done on this grant with our partners from the County and FKCC and UF/County Extension Service, it was determined that our needs would not score high enough to be competitive in this grant, which prioritized rural, high poverty areas. The good news is that the work that was accomplished can be used for other grant opportunities in the future.
- **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 **HUD-[Southeast Florida Regional Partnership](#)** – No change

- **Florida Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services:** \$5K [Community Gardens Grant](#). **WON!!!** by Sigsbee Charter school.
- **Audubon/Toyota [Together Green Innovation Grant](#):** \$28,500: [Climate Adaptation Planting](#) **WON!!!** We are working on site plans for the Cistern at Indigenous Park. The Mid Term report was turned in and Florida Keys Audubon has received its second payout for the project.
- **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.
- **The Funders Network [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#):** Expected to be announced in late fall.

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

L) New Sustainability Intern: see Utilities Tracking project.

M) Greening the Key West Airport: no change

N) Monroe County Community Climate Action Plan: No change.

O) Energy Contest: No change.

P) LED Lighting: no change

Q) Educational Partnerships: no change

R) Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Summit: Dec 6 & 7th, Jupiter

This picture didn't come out in the last email, so I attached it again here. Recognize anyone? ☺



Mayor Craig Cates (4th from left) and Monroe County Mayor George Neugent (8th) share their thoughts with other city and county elected officials during a Summit Panel on Friday.

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