

Sustainability Update

December 2014

State News:

- Florida regulators recently gave their approval for electric utilities to slash energy efficiency goals and end solar rebates to customers after 2015: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/consumer/fl-energy-efficiency-decision-20141125-story.html>
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is beginning the update of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Strategic Plan. The FTP defines Florida's future transportation vision and identifies goals, objectives, and strategies to accomplish that vision. To kickoff this process, FDOT is hosting a Transportation Visioning Summit in Orlando on December 17, 2014. <http://floridatransportationplan.com/>

Regional Efforts:

- 7th Annual Compact Summit: Key West, FL!!! Early Oct or Nov 2015. Help Needed!
- New Municipality Working Group!
- Upcoming Four County Compact Workshop Dates Include:
 - ✓ Communications: Feb 13/14
 - ✓ [10 Year Water Supply](#): April 17/18
 - ✓ [Resilient Redesign Workshop](#): Aug 11
 - ✓ [Adaptation Action Areas](#): Aug 28
 - ✓ [Compact Summit](#): October 1/2
 - Stormwater: January 22
 - Financing Floodproofing (Feb?)
 - Tri Rail Coastal Line: Postponed

County Efforts:

- GreenKeys: [New Outreach/Engagement Website](#):
- Monroe County Sea Level Rise Modelling
 - Wed, Sept 3rd 3-5pm, [View on demand](#)
 - Wed, Oct 9: [Key Largo Community Workshop #1](#)
 - Wed, Nov 5: Key Largo [Community Workshop #2](#): “How To Prepare”: Vet/discuss 3 potential adaptation strategies for further analysis.
 - Dec 9: Key Largo Community Workshop #3
 - Jan 2015: Sustainability Action Plan Goal Development
 - Feb 2015: Presentation of Draft Sustainability Action Plan
- Monroe County Sea-Level Rise Legal and Planning Issues Workshop (Sept 12)
 - Still awaiting link to presentations.
- The Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Council workshop dates:
 - Dec 15
 - Jan 20
 - March 9
- RESTORE Monies: Applications for “Local Pot” funds will be ranked on December 11th and 12th.
- Yard Waste Gassification: On Oct 17th, Monroe County Commissioners moved forward on a plan to turn the unincorporated county's ~40,000 tons of yard waste into energy. Energy3 is a company that specializes in gasification, vaporizing (*not* incineration) the yard waste and converting it to synthesized gas. The process produces twice the amount of energy that a standard incinerator plant does, with negligible pollutants. The proposed new plant would generate 13 megawatts of power every hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can watch the presentation on demand on MCTV: <http://view.liveindexer.com/ViewIndexSessionSLMQ.aspx?indexPointSKU=iUwf1%2bfYBu6nuwM80jnlIg%3d%3d>



Municipal:

City of Key West

- **Height Referendum** – PASSED! Next steps include passing the ordinance through HARC and City Commission, then up to FL-DEO for acceptance.
 - **Intern:** None at this time, but have advertised with FKCC and KWHS. Need to complete GHG survey.
 - **SAB:** We still have vacancies for one representative and one student. Names have been sent to Teri Johnston.
 - **Glynn Archer:** After much discussion, the City Commission voted to stay the course with the lowest bidder for the new City Hall at Glynn Archer. Staff still has to sit down with the chosen contractor and hammer out the scope of work, so we will be watching closely on the green aspects. As it stands, we are barely in the Gold range now, so cutting anything will jeopardize that standing. We are looking at as many grants as we can to help supplant the costs (see SFWMD grant).
 - **Frederick Douglass Gym:** Will meet basic FL Green Building Council Green Building Standards. Will also include flood proofing as a resiliency measure.
 - **BPAS:** The final application date has passed and we have 65 unit applications (43 market, 22 affordable) for 43 permits (36 market, 7 affordable). Staff will rank the proposals this month and send to Planning Board in late January. These homes will be the first Green Certified residences in the City of Key West, greatly increasing green building practices, cistern use, electric car charging, and Tree Funding.
 - **Development Review Committee:** Even though the Land Devt Ordinances (LDRs) have yet to be upgraded, there are key passages in the Comprehensive Plan that enable the City to apply sustainability “conditions” to projects that need a major or minor development plan, as well as to variances. Primarily we have asked that homeowners improve their energy and water use by 15%, and for businesses we have asked for the 15% reduction, but also irrigation upgrades, stormwater upgrades via cistern retention, and to obtain green business certification within one year after permit completion.
 - **Preserve Island Life Communications:** Our FB page now has 663 friends (double from this time last year!), and our email database has ___ people. We hosted a business recycling workshop at Green Drinks and will be featured at the Restaurant Store’s Jan 3rd Artisan Fair for Resolutions and Sustainable Fisheries Month.
 - **Bike / PAC Committee:** We have always supported the annual Holiday Lights Bike Ride and have stepped up efforts this year with a Bike Registration booth and online registration (to get emails!). We have also chosen three other quarterly bike events to increase effort at bicycle support and safety education: Wounded Warrior Ride on Jan 11th, reinstating the Pride Ride during Pridefest in June, and Zombie Bike Ride in October.
 - **Sustainable Floridian:** Is finally starting! Every Thursday, from 1/29 to 3/12, Noon to 4pm, myself and Alicia from the Monroe County / UF Extension Service will be holding the first Sustainable Floridian class for 12-15 local “students”. Like Master Gardeners, the certified graduates of the course will give back to the community by helping with Sustainability Education, specifically for Green Business Certification.
 - **Green Business Certification:** We still do not have a specific program lined up, but are trying to get enough other Cities on board to go in on something. Stay tuned.
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Grants:

- **Sea Grant Adaptation Grant (LDR’s):** We received bids from some great companies. The three best will present in front of City Commission in January.
- **BV Garden Grant** – It’s official. The new home is at Truman Waterfront. We turned in a Letter of Interest to ArtPlace Grantors to see if they can help with the major ground work it will need to bring level with the rest of park. If we do not get the grant, we will still go forward with gardens on the ground by end of summer 2015. We will continue to look for grants.... The Learning Garden will go forward after presenting to BVRAC on Dec 4, and will be applying for AIPP funding for a Frederick Douglas mural on the Gym.

- **ArtPlace Grant:** See BV Garden Grant.
 - **SFWMD Grant:** Applied to South Florida Water Management District for three stormwater projects, one cistern project (Glynn Archer) and one irrigation project (soil moisture sensors on all 5 Key West owned/managed recreational fields).
 - **NEA Our Town Grant:** With a 26% chance of award, we are working on an application for design of the Admirals Cut bridge at Truman Waterfront. Due Jan 15.
 - **Green Jobs and Futures Grant:** Still on hiatus while the team figures out next steps.
 - **TIGER Grant:** Didn't Get: Will turn in to Florida Transportation Alternatives Program.
 - **People for Bikes:** Didn't Get. :(
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Themes:

Water Quality (February)

- The County received funds for outreach efforts for folks living nearshore and on canals. We will be collaborating to roll out their program in conjunction with Water Quality Month.
- The Ocean Key Resort and Marina became the 2nd private marina in the City of Key West to become a Certified Clean Marina by FDEP on November 10th. We will honor them a 2nd time via Proclamation for Water Quality Month in Feb 2015.

Transportation (March)

- New bus routes will be happening soon, eliminating the big loop and increasing service to every 30 minutes.
- We are working on a quarterly bike rack order, which would allow private businesses to partner on our orders and increase the amount of parking we can provide citywide.

Water (April)

- The City is partnering with the local US Green Building Council and Mosquito Control on a "Mosquito-Free Cistern" workshop on Wed, Dec 10th. This is in response to and in support of our recent BPAS ordinances and has led to new policy/training changes at the international level via the Associated Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA).

Youth Leadership - May

- For September's Land Conservation month, the City partnered on a propagation workshop with the Botanical Garden's "Garden Companions" student volunteers. Attendees prepped >50 native seeds and cuttings and took home one free native seedling.
- Alison and Will Thompson hosted a booth at FKCC's Community Day in Oc

Green Business – June

Beseme Mucho was the winner of the LED Lights Challenge, a partnership of The Straits Lighting Company, USGBC and the City of Key West. Beseme won a 100% free LED lighting home upgrade because their lighting audit showed that they could save the most money/energy by switching to LED's at their business. Over 81% possible savings! Straits Lighting also donated an all LED upgrade of the City Commission chambers in time for Energy Conservation Month for the Oct 20th meeting, which should save at least \$500 a year in energy, not to mention reduced air conditioning costs.

Green Building – July

The City & Keys Branch of USGBC host regular educational workshops for professionals and residents:

- ✓ March 28th: HERS Rating (8 attendees)
- ✓ April 30: Reclaimed Wood Seminar (#?)

- ✓ May 2-4: ARCSA Certification Course (12 attendees)
- ✓ June 13th: Florida Green Building Council
- ✓ Aug 19th: Lighting Seminar (CEU's offered)
- September 24th: Sherwin Williams Seminar: Cancelled
- November 14th at 3 pm.: Mosquito Control / ARCSA
- Spring 2015: PACE, Climate Change, Building Energy Retrofits.

Healthy Living: August

- Bill Irwin from FKCC was our speaker for Green Drinks in August and drew a large, new crowd. They received a grant to install a large size aquaponic system at the college and it debuted at FKCC's Community Day. His assistant Austin has already been employed by three other entities (two restaurants, one home) to build small size systems for them.

Land Conservation: September

- Our intern, Melissa Leto, who is completing her Masters project on our Tree Canopy and policies upgrade, is now a City employee, working on "Lawful Unit Determinations. She will continue her studies, but on nights and weekends, so the final product will be a bit farther out, but still in time for the LDR revisions.
- Urban Forester Karen DeMaria has been busy installing street trees from the City's Tree Fund. She hopes to have a full count of progress for the City's "State of the City" annual report.

Energy – October

- See Green Business = Straits Lighting
- **Keys Energy:** Energy Rebates are Back! The rebate program includes: Programmable Thermostats (\$25); Ceiling Fans (\$25); White Roof Coating (\$25); Dehumidifiers (\$50); Dishwashers (\$55); Room Air Conditioners (\$75); Refrigerators (\$75); Freezers (\$75); Clothes Washers (\$100); Duct Leak Repairs or Replacement (\$150); Ductless Air Conditioners (\$175); Central Air Conditioners (\$250); and Solar Hot Water Heaters (\$450).
- **LED streetlights:** the City has been working with KES, researching LED streetlight companies and has been given 10 free smart lights by Phillips Energy to help document savings potential. These lights are wireless, are adjustable, and have hurricane battery backups. They can also help both KES and FKAA do their meter readings, and perhaps deliver island wide wifi.
- **PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy):**
 - The [Florida PACE](#) Funding Agency EVest Program announced that \$200 million in financing is now available to property owners in subscribing local government jurisdictions for qualifying energy efficiency, renewable generation and wind-resistance home or commercial business improvements or repairs. The improvement financing will be repaid over time as part of the property owner's annual property tax assessment. Currently the only participating areas are Flagler and Nassau counties. The Agency's EVest Program is non-exclusive, allowing participating local governments the opportunity to retain additional PACE providers at their sole discretion.
 - **The Florida Green Energy Works** program funded its first commercial deal for a \$45,000 retrofit of a family-owned business at 1101 North Tamarind in West Palm Beach. The work – new HVAC, lighting, refrigeration, windows & doors – is being done by a local contractor, **Fastrack MCI**, with funding from a local bank: **Grand Bank & Trust of Florida**.
 - PACEnow has a [youtube video](#) that better explains PACE financing...

R4 – November

- **City Recycling:** See Waste Diversion Report
- **County:** See County section.

- **Horse Compost:** The next Community Compost Days are from 10am til Noon, Saturday, Dec 6th and Jan 3rd. The bulletin board and the donation box are installed and pulling in money for the Mounted Horse Patrol.

Green Gifts – December

- We are supporting local gifts and experiences in general. I want to explore a green gift certificate option to help recognize green businesses. Any input is welcome....