

Alison Marie Higgins

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Green Living & Energy Education, Inc. (GLEE), Executive Director **December 2005 - Present**

- Founded and provided vision and leadership during startup of sustainability-based non-profit designed to serve as a catalyst to produce a culture change for individuals, businesses, and policy makers.
- Developed and nurtured productive relationships with key players at Keys Energy Services, Florida Keys Electric Cooperative, Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Waste Management, Naval Air Station Key West, and all six Keys municipalities.
- Coordinated GreenGov, a bi-annual seminar for local policy makers which advocates and models possibilities for emission reductions.
- Wrote “Green Papers” that analyzed and recommended possible actions for local governments.
- Provided research, support and advice to Key West and Monroe County on Climate Action Plans.
- Served on Planning Team, Vulnerability Mapping Team, and Transportation Team for the Southeast Regional Climate Compact.
- Attended three annual conferences by ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) as representative from Monroe County and received training in emissions counting.
- Coordinated annual Green Living Expos, with budget of \$60K, serving 5,000 residents.
- Received grant to develop the Keys only local, multi-sector Green Business Certification program.
- Designed and hosted Sustainable Solutions, a monthly webinar series on emission reduction solutions.
- Created annual Green Living Awards event to recognize local efforts.
- Designed and hosted rain barrel and composting workshops for the public.
- Facilitated social marketing and ads on Facebook, serving over 1,000 fans.
- Managed production of monthly eNewsletter to ~1,200 subscribers.
- Created and maintained stakeholders database of ~2,500 contacts.
- Facilitated GLEE’s website migration to a content management system.

Friends And Volunteers Of Refuges (FAVOR), Chair **December 1998 – Present**

- Volunteer for non-profit organization supporting the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges.
- Spearheaded Our Animal Family campaign (www.ouranimalfamily.org) to get “cat people”, “raccoon people” and “bunny people” collaborating on a positive project to address predator impacts on the endangered Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit.
- Lobbied in congress for increased support for the National Wildlife Refuges.
- Created Walk on Winn Dixie, a monthly outreach event that brings 300+ locals into the Refuge Visitors Center.
- Coordinated large outreach events for the 100th birthday of the Key West National Wildlife Refuge and 50th for the National Key Deer Refuge.
- Designed and implemented opening of FAVOR’s bookstore in 2000, now grossing \$36,000 annually.
- Created the “Natural Inspiration Artists Wall,” showcasing south Florida wildlife artists.
- Supported international White-crowned pigeon workshop for twelve experts from six countries.
- As part of graduate school project, created “Keys Kids in Nature,” a weeklong local environmental education and field trip program, tied to sunshine state standards for the 4th grade curriculum.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Public Information Officer Trainee **Sept 2011**

- Utilized communication skills, local knowledge and contacts to assist with public relations and damage control for locally high profile prescribed fire that escaped and burned 75 acres.
- Devised talking points; composed and distributed press releases using extensive local press contacts.
- Developed social media communications to ensure timely dissemination of pertinent information.
- Pursuing full certification as Public Information Officer, spring 2012.

The Nature Conservancy, Land Conservation Program Manager **Dec 1997 - June 2011**

- Applied, secured and managed over \$1 million in grants.
- Project Manager for Caribbean/Florida Fire & Invasives Learning Network, coordinated webinars and an annual workshop involving eight nations across the Caribbean.
- Chair for multi-agency Florida Keys Invasive Exotics Task Force, received the U.S. Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Award and USFWS Power of Partnerships Award.
- Designed, piloted and marketed the GreenThumb Nursery green certification program, now replicated in other areas in Florida.
- Developed and piloted Python Patrol Early Detection Rapid Response program, currently used throughout Florida.
- Project Manager for GreenSweep, a large Keys-wide volunteer-based exotics eradication program.
- Project Manager for Florida Keys Sea Level Rise Coastal Resilience Tool project and Conservancy delegate for Gulf of Mexico Climate and Resiliency Engagement Panel.
- Presented at numerous conferences and workshops nationwide on climate change, invasive species and the power of partnerships.
- Lobbied at local, state and federal levels to control invasive exotics, mitigate emissions, and adapt to climate change.
- Set and achieved various short, medium, and long term goals and objectives across all programs.

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Intern Coordinator **December 1996 – April 1997**

- Coordinated with three universities to develop credit seeking internship program for herpetological exhibit at Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.
- Created intern manual including curriculum, policy and protocol formulation, hiring, scheduling, and quarterly field trip coordination for 15 interns.

EDUCATION

Antioch University, Seattle

Master of Arts: Environment and Community

Thesis: Evaluation and Recommendations for Florida's Clean Marina Program

Graduated December 2005

Relevant Coursework: Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods, Community Based Social Marketing, Sustainable Fisheries, Solar Water Heater Evaluation & Installation, Greywater Permitting, Biodiesel Business Plans, Rehabbing Historical Cisterns, and Rate Of Growth Ordinances, all with a local focus.

University of California, Santa Barbara

Bachelors of Science: Aquatic Biology, minor in Zoology

Graduated December 1996

University of Queensland, Australia

1995: Two semester Study Abroad Program, focus on Marine Biology

LANGUAGES: Conversational Spanish.