

SEPTEMBER 2009
10 GREEN TASK FORCE STAFF ANALYSES
REQUIRING FURTHER EVALUATION

**GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION
RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS**

Recommendation: Establish Comprehensive Countywide Energy Conservation and Green House Gas Emission Reduction Strategy (ECS) to Reduce Both Energy Consumption and Green House Gas Emissions (GHGE).

Reviewing Department: Environmental Resources Management (ERM)

Additional Department Review: Economic Development Office (EDO)

General Comments: Many local governments are now registered as a Florida Green Local Government through the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC). The certification process establishes an emissions baseline inventory for climate mitigation and sets up a framework for tracking revenue savings. Clean Air and Climate Protection Software (CACP-2009) is needed to manage emission targets. On September 8, 2009, the County received approval for the \$6.5 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) as applied for by the Economic Development Office (EDO) where the initial Energy Conservation Strategy (ECS) requirements were satisfied. EDO is administering the EECBG funds, which includes revolving loans for private industry efficiency upgrades and county infrastructure upgrades. However, certification and completing the inventory along with an ECS is necessary for additional federal stimulus funding opportunities such as Smart Grid, Weatherization and Workforce grants. The EDO could evaluate future grant opportunities and either manage or suggest the appropriate department to manage these grants. ERM intends to handle the application to become "Green certified". The initial cost is \$6,000 along with membership in an organization that supports climate protection software (\$5,750 annually) plus reallocated staff time. Within 5 year, the county would apply to upgrade the certification for \$2,000.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): \$6,000 + \$5,750
(Year 2-5): \$2,000 (yr5) + \$23,000

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain): The various grant opportunities are expected to offset initial administrative costs with future offsets financed through energy savings. This is a long term commitment.

Staff Recommendation: Recommend that Palm Beach County become a registered Florida Green Local Government through the FGBC and join an organization such as International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). This decision would commit the county to perform assessments and reviews across county departments and subject the county to a third party evaluation. The county can then establish its baseline emissions from which quantifiable reduction targets can be achieved through energy management systems in conjunction with Clean Air and Climate Protection Software and the associated data collection spreadsheets and reallocated staff time,

Staff Contact: ERM, Rich Walesky, Director/ Bonnie Finneran, Environmental Director,
233- 2525; and
EDO, Pam Nolan, Economic Development Specialist, 355-6835

Date of Review: September 14, 2009

GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS

Recommendation: Create a centralized financial tracking system to quantify and qualify the savings attributed to County sustainability efforts.

Reviewing Department: OFMB

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments: The quantification of potential savings and costs of project implementation should be determined by subject matter experts that understand the related systems (i.e., HVAC), as well as financial personnel familiar with the costs of the systems. A uniform template that captures specified elements, once determined, (i.e., amount of time to recognize actual savings, initial investment costs), will aid in capturing information that can be used to accurately quantify potential savings. Subject matter experts would also be required to qualify the savings attributed to sustainability efforts.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): \$2,000 plus staff time
(Year 2-5): \$2,000 - \$5,000 plus staff time

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain): No revenue estimated, and savings are indeterminable at this time. Cost of Implementation is for very basic Excel spreadsheet tracking and reporting system.

Staff Recommendation: Initiate the tracking of sustainability efforts in one department to establish appropriate forms and timelines for completeness. After a review of the process to determine its effectiveness, make necessary changes, and then roll out countywide for all affected departments.

Staff Contact: Joe Doucette, Budget Director

Date of Review: September 10, 2009

GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS

Recommendation: Advocate for a Solar Rebate Program for Solar Hot Water Heaters

Reviewing Department: PZ&B - Building

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments: The Building Division has already been an advocate of solar water heating, as well as other green technology in many ways. We actively sought partners to promote the grant funding of our residential communities to increase their efficiency through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Building Director and staff have also been active as a board member and support staff to the Building Code Advisory Board, in providing green technology presentations and rebate availability information from several sources, including FP&L, and involved contractors. We are currently reviewing permitting, installation, and licensing requirements for various "green technology" to promote consistency. The Building Director has also seen that this information is presented to other municipal code officials, through presentations at the Building Officials Association of Palm Beach County meetings. I would also suggest adding photovoltaic advocacy as well, and other green energy efficient technology, such as waste heat and grey/rain water recovery. Previous legislative attempts to secure solar pool heaters were threatening in that the gas utilities were put in a position of having to cut off gas, if the property owner did not switch to solar, regardless of whether or not, he/she needed a new pool heater, their ability to pay for the solar heater, the potential damage that a solar heater may have on either existing roofing system, or, if gas was needed to cook, or perform other necessary tasks. Thankfully, that bill was defeated. Current State rebate funding is now exhausted for solar rebates, but the State has applied for additional funds through the ARRA. Perhaps that application for funding has been granted by this time, and not yet advertised. For further information, please see:

[http://myfloridaclimate.com/climate quick links/florida energy climate commission/grants solar rebates incentives/solar rebate program.](http://myfloridaclimate.com/climate_quick_links/florida_energy_climate_commission/grants_solar_rebates_incentives/solar_rebate_program)

There are also Federal Grant funds available:

<http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?incentive Code=US53&re=1&ee=1>

Ideally, information and applications could be provided directly to the public from one location. Although, the Building Division is totally capable of providing the technical information necessary to install these systems successfully, and could actually provide grant/rebate applications; we are not prepared to explain the grants vs. tax incentives, nor the requirements of other agencies to secure grants and rebates. These functions are outside the realm of our current abilities. Cost below is for informational literature, technical consultation/presentations, legislative/code involvement by the Building Official.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): \$65,000/Year
(Year 2-5): \$65,000/Year

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain): In today's economy, it could work to generate \$35-50,000/year in permit fees for additional permits generated. This activity would take a year to generate this amount, and if expanded to include the commercial building retrofits with solar and other technologies, that amount could double in the same time period. If the economy improves, it could increase more. The revenue is very unpredictable.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff Contact: _____

Date of Review: _____

GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS

Recommendation: Create a green building program for private developers.

Reviewing Department: Planning, Zoning, & Building

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments:

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): _____
(Year 2-5): _____

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain):

Staff Recommendation:

Staff Contact: _____

Date of Review: _____

GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS

Recommendation: Create an exemption from architectural guidelines for green buildings.

Reviewing Department: Planning, Zoning, & Building

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments:

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): _____
(Year 2-5): _____

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain):

Staff Recommendation:

Staff Contact: _____

Date of Review: _____

GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS

Recommendation: Establish a horse manure anaerobic digestion facility in the County

Reviewing Department: Solid Waste Authority (SWA)

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments: A guaranteed source of revenue is necessary to ensure project success. The primary source of revenue will be from the equestrian community. Therefore, developing a system requiring mandatory participation by the equestrian community is essential. Research of Department of Agriculture rules will be required to determine, if this is possible.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): _____
(Year 2-5): _____

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain):

Staff Recommendation: Study alternative funding mechanisms which will ensure participation by the equestrian community. A mandatory collection ordinance, if allowable, may be required.

Staff Contact: Marc Bruner

Date of Review: September 1, 2009

**GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION
RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS**

Recommendation 1: Mandate recycling of construction waste.

Reviewing Department: Solid Waste Authority (SWA)

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments: Diversion of material from landfills is consistent with SWA policy. However, we would ask the committee to consider dropping language which references diversion of debris from incineration. Incineration may be superior to other methods of reclamation in providing overall environmental or green benefits.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): _____
(Year 2-5): _____

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain):

Staff Recommendation:

Amend the second bullet point of the "Intent" provisions which reads, "Increase diversion of debris from landfill and incineration," to read, "Increase diversion of debris from landfill."

Staff Contact: Mark Hammond

Date of Review: September 1, 2009

**GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION
RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS**

Recommendation: Fund and help to organize the Annual Green, Energy, and Climate Conference

Reviewing Department: Environmental Resources Management (ERM)

Additional Department Review: Office of Economic Development

General Comments: The BCC provided \$2,500 of sponsorship funding for the 2009 South Florida Green, Energy & Climate Conference Expo held March 9-12, 2009, and the Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) provided a static booth. There are other conferences of this nature pending, Palm Beach Community College is hosting the 2nd Annual Green Expo on October 2, 2009 and Broward County is holding a Climate Leadership Summit on October 23, 2009. The 2nd Annual Green, Energy and Climate Conference is scheduled for May 24-26, 2010. County departments have had very limited participation in these types of events. Presently, no staff is working on regional Climate Change issues which are important to environmental concerns such as saltwater intrusion. In addition, the Office of Economic Development (EDO) is trying to support a "Green Industry Cluster" and therefore supports green initiatives. There is value in formalizing green outreach efforts where county staff would become involved with some aspects of planning and organizing future conferences such as participating on a steering committee. The level of public outreach staff commitment is estimated at 40 hrs. annually (2.5 hrs x 12 monthly meetings plus some event time) and cost approximately \$1,500 for any event through the reallocation of staff time. The cost provided below is based on the 2009 BCC commitment to the green conference. Future sponsorship level is at the discretion of the BCC.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): \$2,500 plus reallocated staff time
(Year 2-5): \$10,000 plus reallocated staff time

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain): No cost savings anticipated. Selling sponsorships and paid registration would provide sources of revenue to defray the cost of implementation.

Staff Recommendation: For the County to support Climate Change regional concerns by reallocation of staff to become involved with various aspects of planning and organizing green and climate change conferences. One suggestion would be that the County's Public Affairs Department participate to provide their event planning expertise.

Staff Contact: Rich Walesky, Director / Ginny Powell, Phone: 233-2452

Date of Review: September 14, 2009

**GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION
RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS**

Recommendation: Develop and maintain a permanent Green Column on the Palm Beach County Government website.

Reviewing Department: Public Affairs

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments: The Public Affairs Department launched a new website on June 18, 2009, to promote the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, administrators, and employees' commitment to going green to protect, and enhance the environment. Public Affairs interviewed County departments to build a comprehensive website that includes nine (9) departments and their initiatives. This formal mechanism is useful to communicate the County's efforts, and activities of its own green initiatives. Included in the website are department-by-department examples of what County government is doing to conserve energy, fuel, and water, preserve green space, and protect our natural resources. There are also public outreach links and phone numbers for those interested in green initiative volunteer opportunities. The Go Green Initiative website is user friendly with lots of photos, stories, video clips, and interactive links. To draw attention to the website, a rotating green world-like sphere is located on the County's home page.

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): Costs to implement were included in department staff time.
(Year 2-5): Costs to implement were included in department staff time.

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain): No additional costs are estimated as the Go Green Initiative website already exists. The time to collect the information, design the layout, and create the website has already occurred. The efforts performed by the Public Affairs department will benefit the entire County, as there is now a single location for all departments to include their environmental and conservation information.

Staff Recommendation: It is recommended that Palm Beach County continues to enhance the Go Green Initiative with contributions from each department efforts as they occur. Substantial new initiatives that will be included in the website can be promoted through various methods or communication to the media, and residents for full promotion.

Staff Contact: Lisa DeLaRionda

Date of Review: September 15, 2009

**GREEN TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION
RECOMMENDATION/STAFF ANALYSIS**

Recommendation: Establish Green Collar Economic Enterprises/Cultural Training centers throughout Palm Beach County.

Reviewing Department: Economic Development Office

Additional Department Review: _____

General Comments: The Economic Development Office EDO has a special focus for the Development Regions (10% or higher poverty areas) of Palm Beach County establishing programs, through federal/state funds, for entrepreneurial development, eco-tourism, and the revitalization of businesses, creating job opportunities. EDO is coordinating with our cities to revitalize business districts which will be constructed to be energy efficient.

At the direction of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), EDO, and the Business Development Board formed a green cluster energy group. Within the Business Development Board's 2009 contract is a performance measure to create an energy cluster. The Business Development board organized a broad coalition of leaders called the Green Energy Council who are dedicated to support business involved in clean, renewable, and sustainable energy, and energy efficiency in Palm Beach County called the Green Energy Cluster. This Council serves as a liaison between the business community, and education all institutions on green initiatives within local schools, colleges and universities. Attached is a list of the Green Energy Council.

The BCC gave direction for EDO to be the point of contact for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program award totaling \$6,587,600. EDO will oversee the disbursement of funds and the implementation of 8 energy efficiency and conservation projects including administration and coordination among multiple County/City agencies to create and/or retain a minimum of 148 green jobs based on DOE's formula.

The EDO coordinates with multiple agencies/institutions in order not to duplicate existing efforts. EDO is coordinating with FAU's Associate Dean of External Relations who was appointed by the governor as Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. This contract will provide resources through FAU's Center for Environmental Studies (CES), thus bringing forth this Research Center's extensive expertise in community outreach, research, a new climate change initiative and provide for partnerships between PBC, CES, and the University as a whole.

EDO coordinates with the Workforce Alliance which provides several one-stop centers within the County, and has incorporated green collar training components. The Palm Beach Community College, a member of the Green Energy Council, has developed training and retraining programs for green trade and industry jobs through the "Green Institute".

Estimate of Cost to Implement (Year 1): EDO obtained a Federal grant for implementation and Administration.
(Year 2-5): EDO obtained a Federal grant for implementation and Administration for years 2, and 3.

Estimated Revenue or Savings and Time Frame (Explain): Each of the seven government retrofit and energy efficiency projects that have been funded with Federal dollars, and local matching funds will have measureable savings that will be documented over the next three years. The energy saving projects include, 1) a comprehensive solar retrofit of the Cooperative Extension Service Offices and Mounts Botanical Gardens, 2) design and construction of the methane recovery system for the County landfill, 3) for Engineering a major traffic signalization streamlining program (SYNCHRO), 4) for the Emergency Management Center, a new energy savings power plant, 5) a competitive energy grant pool for governmental agencies, a revolving loan pool for energy projects, and 6) for Parks and Recreation, green technology lighting to reduce costs at three sports locations.

Staff Recommendation: The BCC has given directions for EDO to implement the Federal energy, and local retrofit programs, and to coordinate with the BDB for development of the energy cluster industry group. No recommendations at this time.

Staff Contact: Kevin Johns, Economic Development Director
Pamela L. Nolan, Economic Development Specialist.

Date of Review: September 10, 2009