



The Leon County

LINK

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

County Reaches Second Milestone in Climate Protection Campaign

Leon County continues to lead the way as a proponent for sustainable operations and climate protection. At the May 27 Board of County Commissioners meeting, the County reached the second milestone in the County's Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign by setting targets for reducing the County's greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent by 2017 and by 80 percent by 2050.

The CCP is the hallmark program of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, an association of local governments and organizations that are dedicated to sustainable development. ICLEI stands for International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. Leon County became a member in July 2007 and made a commitment to achieving the five CCP milestones, which are to:

1. Inventory greenhouse gas emission levels
2. Set a reduction target
3. Develop a local Action Plan
4. Implement the local Action Plan; and
5. Monitor the progress and report the results

Leon County reached the first milestone in March 2008 by completing the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Leon County Government Operations. For this achievement, the County received a Milestone Award in May at the 2008 ICLEI Local Action Summit in Albuquerque, N.M.

The County is already well on its way to achieving the third milestone. The Leon County Action Plan will be presented to the Board in July during the upcoming budget workshops. For more information about the County's climate protection efforts, please visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/growinggreen. You can learn more about ICLEI online at www.iclei.org.

Register Your Child for the Summer Reading Program



Recreational summer reading is for everyone. A book at the beach, on the plane, or read in the comfort of your own backyard is delightful. And in the case of our kids, summer reading can make a big difference in their academic performance. Research shows that children and teens who do not read during the summer start the next school year at a "disadvantage." They experience "learning loss." In short, their reading development actually shifts into reverse.

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System is ready to help with summer reading programs for children and teens. Participation is easy! Register at any library location; borrow books and magazines of interest; and have fun. Participants who have tracked their reading for five or more weeks will be honored at a party on Saturday, Aug. 2. Details are available at each library location or online at www.leoncountylibrary.org.

The library system also has special summer story time programs, guest performers, and teen events (ages 11 and up). For complete information, please visit www.leoncountylibrary.org.

Health Department Holds Free Immunization Clinics

The Leon County Health Department encourages parents to have their children immunized now for the 2008 - 2009 school year. All students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade must have their immunizations up-to-date before they can start the school year. Remember, no shots, no school in the fall. The Health Department gives free back-to-school childhood immunizations by appointment Monday through Friday; however, these special clinics are aimed at helping busy parents avoid the fall rush and long wait times. Infants and young children needing immunizations may also be immunized during the clinics. While appointments are encouraged, children can be seen on a walk-in basis during the free immunization clinics listed below:



- Wednesday, June 18, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Leon County Health Department, 2965 Municipal Way
- Tuesday, June 24, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Roberts & Stevens Clinic, 1515 Old Bainbridge Road
- Tuesday, July 22, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Roberts & Stevens Clinic, 1515 Old Bainbridge Road
- Tuesday, July 29, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Leon County Health Department, 2965 Municipal Way

All children receiving immunizations through the Health Department must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Parents should bring a copy of their child's complete immunization record. To schedule an immunization appointment, or for more information, please call the Leon County Health Department at 606-8020.

Hurricane Season is Here Do You Have a Plan?

The National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center predicts a very active 2008 hurricane season, and Leon County citizens need to be prepared. The first step is creating a plan. Leon County has worked diligently to make your planning easier than ever with a newly revised 2008 hurricane survival guide and user-friendly Web site, www.HaveaHurricanePlan.com.



These tools are aimed to help make you make that first, critical decision - whether to stay or go - based on individual risk factors. Visit www.HaveaHurricanePlan.com today to begin the first step in ensuring your family's safety this hurricane season. For more information, contact the Leon County Public Information Office at 606-5300.

Composting: A Natural Way to Recycle



As we discover more ways to become "green", going back to the basics is always at the top of the list through waste prevention methods such as reducing, reusing and recycling. By means of curbside recycling and drop-off at rural waste sites, Leon County residents can recycle all plastic bottles and jugs, aluminum and steel containers, and paper and cardboard. But did you know that yard and kitchen waste can be recycled, also? Recycling food scraps is easy through a method known as composting.

Kitchen and yard waste consume 25 percent or more of landfill space and produce methane gas through anaerobic decomposition. Leon County residents can begin

composting in any season. The sooner you begin, the faster you'll be reducing waste and producing a rich soil to add to your garden. Home composting is the most economical way to prevent kitchen and yard waste from reaching the landfill.

Acceptable items for your compost pile are kitchen greens and browns such as fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds and filters, rinsed egg shells, paper napkins, dryer lint and even hair. Yard greens and browns will balance out your compost pile when you add in plant trimmings, small amounts of grass, dead leaves, small twigs and dried straw. Layer your kitchen waste with the yard waste and keep the pile as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Turn the pile as you add in new material. Within four to six months, you'll have an inexpensive black gold for your garden.

There are many types of bins for composting. You can purchase a durable, plastic bin from a garden store or nursery, build your compost enclosure from cinderblocks or keep it simple by encasing your pile with chicken wire. The Leon County Public Library has many books on composting or you can visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/recycling for compost "how to" tips. If your school or group would like a presentation on composting, waste reduction or recycling, contact Carole Gentry, Community Education Coordinator for Leon County Recycling at 606-1827 or email: gentryc@leoncountyfl.gov. Remember, composting is a great way to be part of the "Growing Green" solution.

June 2008 Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 10 Leon County Health Department Services Workshop, 10 a.m.
Comprehensive Plan Amendment Workshop, 1 p.m.
Board of County Commissioners Meeting, 3 p.m.
Public Hearings, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 16 Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting, 12 p.m.
Capital Region Transport. Planning Agency Meeting, 1 p.m.
City Hall, 300 S. Adams, 2nd Floor, Commission Chambers
- 17 Mayor/Chair Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Administration Conference Room
- 17 Joint City/County Workshop on Comprehensive Plan Amendments, 1:30 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

The Link is produced by the Leon County Public Information Office, 301 S. Monroe St., Suite 502, 606-5300.