



**PEOPLE FOCUSED**

The Office of Sustainability provides leadership, education, policy analysis, project development, measurement and accountability for the County's sustainability efforts. The division is a resource for County operations and community residents for topics related to energy conservation, waste reduction and recycling, green building practices and products, greenhouse gas emissions and more.

The Office of Sustainability routinely collaborates with governments, not-for-profits, businesses, and individuals citizens to promote sustainable living. This year, Leon County hosted the Sustainable YOU Conference jointly with the City of Tallahassee and Sustainable Florida in October 2011 to educate attendees locally and from across the state about the importance and advantage of sustainable living.

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**PERFORMANCE DRIVEN**

**GROWING GREEN TOGETHER**

- As a recognized leader in sustainability, Leon County was awarded two significant grants:
  - » A \$481,000 grant that will allow for the Cooperative Extension building to be transformed into a “net-zero” energy building. As a result, over the course of a year, the building will create as much energy as it consumes. A solar photovoltaic system that creates energy and a very energy efficient geothermal air conditioning system will be installed with grant funds.
  - » A \$1.17M grant for energy efficiency improvements to several county buildings as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. Leon County utilized the funds to install more efficient lights and occupancy sensors and controls which will save the County \$170,000 on annual energy costs.
- In leading by example, Leon County continues to provide innovation in the area of sustainability. The Office of Sustainability coordinated the installation of a 40,000 gallon rain water cistern at the Leon County Cooperative Extension Facility. The cistern, which is considered the largest system in the Southeast, was designed internally utilizing two petroleum tanks that were repurposed to hold rain water captured from the roof of the Cooperative Extension building.
- Leon County values strong neighborhoods and the importance in supporting initiatives that strengthen communities. Through a creative effort, a thriving community garden is now established on County owned property in the Ft. Braden community. The County provided initial infrastructure such as fencing and irrigation, while members of the community plant and maintain the vegetables and fruit. The success of the garden has been demonstrated by all 40 plots being occupied and a waiting list established.
- Leveraging a number of community partners has allowed the County to expand its community gardens program. Leon County Volunteer Services and Veteran Services, in partnership with the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), Veterans Village and St. John Missionary Baptist Church, contributed to the Veteran Memorial Community Garden Project at the FAMU Community Garden.
- The Board of County Commissioners has made a commitment to simplify citizens' efforts to live sustainable. In June 2011, the Board reduced the permit cost to homeowners for retrofitting their homes with solar energy from an average cost of \$533 to \$170.
- Realizing that building a sustainable community requires citizens to be knowledgeable and able to make informed decisions that impact their own lives, a grass-roots style training series (known as EcoTeams) was developed by the Office of Sustainability through partnership with entities such as the City of Tallahassee, Cooperative Extension, and Sustainable Tallahassee. EcoTeams are small groups of individuals who commit to meet together over a period of eight weeks to learn about ways to reduce consumption of energy, water, solid waste and other resources to create a more sustainable community.



**Did You Know**

Leon County recently opened the new Eastside Library which is anticipated to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification.



- Sustainability also provides the County opportunity to not only be green, but save some “green.” The County will save \$40,000 annually after the Board of County Commissioners adopted green cleaning policies for all major County facilities. The “green” aspects of the service include the cleaning equipment, consumable supplies, and cleaners while reducing the environmental impact of custodial services.

### Setting the Standard in Public Service



Leon County was runner up for the 2011 Sustainable Florida leadership award in part for its water conservation efforts, as demonstrated

through installation of a 40,000 rainwater cistern for the Extension Facility. This system is projected to reduce the demand for potable water at the facility by 80%.

