



OFFICE OF RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP: SUSTAINABILITY

ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

Mission and Goal Statements

Office of Resource Stewardship: The mission of the Leon County's Office of Resource Stewardship is to provide leadership and coordination of services through the Office of Sustainability, the Division of Solid Waste, and the Cooperative Extension Program, in order to identify opportunities for synergy and added efficiencies between each work-group to effectively promote stewardship of the community's natural, societal, and economic resources.

Sustainability: The Office of Sustainability's goal is to enhance our community's environmental, economic, and social resilience by promoting adoption of sustainability practices within County government and the community at large.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Environment

- Expanded the community gardens program.
- Developing "green fleet" initiatives, including expanded use of compressed natural gas, in partnership with the Leon County School Board.
- Achieved the net-zero milestone. The 60-kW solar photovoltaic array and geothermal heating and cooling system installed last year at Leon County's Sustainable Demonstration Center, located at 615 Paul Russell Road, produced as much energy as the building consumed over the past year.
- Implementing the Commercial Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, as a means of financing energy efficiency upgrades or renewable energy installations for buildings.

Contact Us

(850) 606-5300
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Sustainability

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

GROWING GREEN TOGETHER

- Leon County hosted the Sustainable Communities Summit, which gathered 350 people for a high-energy day engaged in learning about sustainability resources, hearing from nationally recognized speakers, and connecting with one another. The theme of the summit was "Collaboration for a More Resilient Community" and the event emphasized local knowledge, resources and businesses. The event encompassed 42 presenters in 16 panel sessions on topics that ranged from composting to beekeeping, and community garden organization to nature discovery.
- Leon County is committed to educating the community on vital sustainability issues on an ongoing basis. Over the past year, programs have included:
 - » "Let's Get Growing" seminars that informed citizens about basics of starting community gardens.
 - » "Eco-Talks" presented in conjunction with the ongoing EcoTeam project and also open to the general public. Local experts presented informative lectures on, "Understanding Our Local Water World," "Sustainability and Waste Management," "A Look into Our Community's Energy Future," and "Sustainable Mobility."
 - » "Community Matters: Topics of Interest for a Sustainable Community," a new quarterly series of programs jointly hosted by the Leon County Public Library System and the Leon County Office of Sustainability.
- The Office of Sustainability now distributes a quarterly electronic newsletter intended to inform and inspire County residents.
- Leon County is committed to effective collaboration with community partners. Among the initiatives carried out with



Talla-Happy Sunflowers at Springtime Tallahassee



leadership from Leon County, in conjunction with community organizations, are:

» **Community Carbon Fund (CCF)** - Leon County is a partner with Sustainable Tallahassee in the CCF, which assists organizations that serve the poor and disadvantaged in implementing energy upgrades at their facilities. Energy conservation upgrades cut utility costs and allow more funding for core services, while also reducing carbon emissions and utility load.



Leon County Community Garden

With support that includes \$15,000 in County funding, the CCF has replaced water heaters and other appliances with Energy Star certified models, provided new thermostats and upgraded lighting.

» **EcoTeams** - Leon County continues to provide leadership and support for EcoTeams, an informal sustainability education and action project coordinated by Sustainable Tallahassee. The program provides citizens access to information about conserving resources and improving household financial sustainability, as well as a chance to form a supportive peer network. EcoTeams meet in neighborhoods, workplaces, places of worship, and other locations in the community.

» **News Articles** - Along with other members of the Capital Area Sustainability Council, Leon County contributes to the Tallahassee Democrat's bi-weekly column entitled "Greening Our Community."

» **Talla-Happy Sunflowers** - Staff assisted the ad hoc Talla-Happy Sunflowers organization, which emerged from the "For the Love of Cities" program co-sponsored by the County. Volunteers distributed more than 8,000 packets of sunflower seeds at Springtime Tallahassee and marched alongside the County float, which was decorated in a sunflower theme. Staff continues to work with this organization and encourages plantings on County properties, with appropriate varieties to "plant smiles" across the community.



Sustainable Communities Summit



Did You Know

Leon County cleans all its buildings - over one million square feet of space - with non-toxic cleaning products.



Cooperative Extension Net-Zero Facility