



ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

Mission and Goal Statements

Office of Resource Stewardship: To provide leadership and coordination of services through the Office of Sustainability, the Division of Solid Waste Management, 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: To initiate and maintain a commitment to sustainable practices through innovative leadership and cooperative partnerships within Leon County operations and our community.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Environment

- Worked with citizens and community organizations to develop and adopt a community garden policy, establishing a program for gardens on County-owned property and "stakeholder" gardens on private property. These gardens will be a resource for citizens to grow fresh wholesome produce while contributing to neighborhood vitality and community engagement.
- The Board adopted a green fleet policy, establishing a staff committee to oversee future vehicle purchases, driver education and no-idling practices. Compressed Natural Gas was introduced to the County's fleet, with one new vehicle and two retrofits. The green fleet initiative will contribute to a clean environment while also conserving natural and financial resources.

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PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

GROWING GREEN TOGETHER

- Leon County's Cooperative Extension building was transformed into a state-of-the-art Sustainable Demonstration Center, which includes a net-zero facility, meaning the site will produce renewable energy at a rate equal to or greater than the building's total annual energy consumption. The facility features a large solar power array and geothermal air system along with a 40,000-gallon rainwater cistern. This site provides a hands-on learning opportunity for area residents and businesses while also demonstrating Leon County's commitment to "green" building. This transformation led to Sustainable Florida's recognition of Leon County as a finalist for the 2012 Best Practices Award.
- Through the receipt of grant funds, energy retrofits within County buildings totaling more than \$2 million, resulted in an energy saving average payback of less than ten years and a utility savings of more than \$200,000 annually. This is a portion of the \$600,000 the County is saving annually as a result of Energy Savings Contracts implemented from 2005-2011, which have proved to have saved \$2.95 million through the last five-year audit.



Solar Panels at Net-Zero Facility

- Leon County partnered in the support of the Miccosukee Community Garden, which provides fresh vegetables for the 30 schoolchildren, who participate in the garden through the Boys and Girls Club of Miccosukee, and their families. The "Red Clay Vegetable Garden Project" also provides a format for teaching math and science skills associated with planting, production and harvesting; nutrition skills; and entrepreneurial skills by selling excess vegetables produced, with the proceeds being used for activities of the participants.
- In partnership with Sustainable Tallahassee, Leon County invested in the Community Carbon Fund (CCF). The purpose of CCF is to invest in carbon reduction projects that decrease the community's carbon footprint through activities such as energy efficiency retrofits, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration with tree plantings.
- In an effort to raise awareness of the importance of recycling to the community, Leon County hosted an exhibit on Earth Day at the Chain of Parks.



Fort Braden Community Garden



- Leon County continues to actively develop informal sustainability education opportunities (known as “Eco-Teams”) for groups of interested citizens, in partnership with community partners, including Sustainable Tallahassee, the City of Tallahassee, and the Council of Neighborhood Associations. The program provides citizens access to basic information about conserving resources and improving household financial sustainability, as well as a chance to form a supportive peer network for individual and combined efforts, and is conducted in neighborhoods, workplaces, places of worship, or other locations in the community.
- As an active participant in the Capital Area Sustainability Council (CASC), Leon County, along with several area partners, formed a partnership with the Tallahassee Democrat to provide a bi-weekly column entitled “Greening Our Community”.
- In an effort to reduce waste and promote wellness, approximately 800 reusable water containers have been distributed to County employees.



Did You Know

Leon County’s net-zero facility hosts 253 solar photovoltaic cells on a ground-mounted structure, which also doubles as shaded parking. The solar array supplies approximately 40% of the energy needed to power the 13,000-square-foot building.



Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle



Fort Braden Community Garden

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service

Finalist for the Sustainable Florida Best Practice Award – For transforming the Leon County Cooperative Extension building and grounds into a state-of-the-art Sustainable Demonstration Center, where cutting-edge energy and water technologies are being combined with creative educational outreach efforts to inform and inspire the community at large in pursuit of sustainability.

