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October 2006

Envision Florida

Defining Excellence for Florida's Economic, Environmental and Social Future!

Tim,

Cooler temperatures, a respite from the savage storms of the past couple years and continued efforts across the state to help create a better Florida encourage us all. Heck, even gas prices are lower.

This edition highlights some exciting events, announces our *Change a Light* campaign and asks what's going on in your world. Thanks for helping to create a sustainable Florida!

Campus and Community Sustainability Conference

October 25-26 in Gainesville



Be sure to register and attend the inaugural statewide **Campus & Community Sustainability Conference**. Hosted by the University of Florida, the theme is **Sharing Best Practices and Visions for Florida's Future**. The program will focus on energy, water, agriculture and our communities - not just what's happening on college campuses. CSF Best Practices Award Winners will be featured presenters.

An important part of events like these is the relationship between the community and its institutions of higher learning. Be sure to check out the conference schedule. The Council is a proud sponsor of the conference and is working with UF to provide something for everyone. Plans are also underway to hold the event at a different university campus each Fall. Let us know if you are interested in getting involved.

[Explore this and other upcoming events...](#)

Celebrate Tax-Free Week during Energy Awareness Month

[Save Money on Energy Star Appliances](#)

October is Energy Awareness Month and from October 5-11, sales tax relief is available to those who invest in energy efficient appliances. Qualified items include washers, air conditioners, ceiling fans, **light bulbs** (*see next story*), refrigerators and programmable thermostats. The typical household spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills. With ENERGY STAR, you can save up to 30% or more than \$600 per year.

The tax-free holiday was part of the four year, \$100 million 2006 Florida Energy Act. The Act take a comprehensive step toward a diverse, reliable and secure energy future by reducing regulatory barriers and providing incentives.

[Read more about Florida's Energy Awareness Month...](#)

Join the *Change a Light, Change the World* Campaign

The Council for Sustainable Florida Approves This Message



The Council encourages everyone to take one small step that will protect the environment, save energy, and save money - replace one light in your home with one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR rating. ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs and fixtures use one-third the energy of traditional models, last up to 10 times longer and reduce utility costs. In fact, consumers can save up to \$30 in utility costs over the lifetime of one bulb.

Replacing the most frequently used lights at home will yield the most savings. For example, if every home replaced one incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb (like the one pictured here) it would be the equivalent of **taking 1.3 million cars off the road.**

[Take the Change A Light Pledge ...](#)

Community Spotlight: myregion.org

'How Shall We Grow?' Prepares Central Florida Region



More than 7,000 citizens and leaders from public, private and institutional sectors have provided comments and suggestions on regional growth for Central Florida through myregion.org. The 15-month **How Shall We Grow?** campaign, which began in January, surpassed initial citizen participation goals during the 110 presentations and community outreach meetings.

myregion.org - a Regional Development Program - is designed to prepare the Central Florida Region (Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, Lake & Brevard Counties) to compete more effectively in the 21st century while enhancing the quality of life of its citizenry.

[Learn more about myregion.org...](http://myregion.org)

Post Office Offers New Florida Nature Stamp

Mail Your Northern Friends a Piece of the Everglades



Be sure to promote Florida's natural beauty the next time you need a postage stamp. The United States Postal Service has released a new Southern Florida Wetland stamp pane. The card features beautiful images of 21 plants and animals found in southern Florida wetland areas.

It will be a shame to peel a stamp away once you see the artwork depicting a wetland community where freshwater mingles with salt water along the coast. Flora and fauna from both habitats are featured. There are seven other panes in the *Nature of America* series featuring other highlights from across the country.

[Read more about the *Nature of America* series...](#)

News and Notes



The Collins Center continues to assist the Florida Department of State in complying with the Federal Help America Vote Act. The Division of Elections has asked the Collins Center to assist the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) planning committee in a second update of the state plan.

The federal law, passed in 2002, asks states to develop election reform plans that will improve election administration in many areas. The State of Florida is using HAVA funds to ensure Florida complies with all HAVA requirements. The state's HAVA Planning Committee meets in Miami on Thursday, October 12.

[Get involved with the Collins Center...](#)

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Tell us
what you
think.....

An integral part of sustainability is ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in their community. To help us create a more sustainable Florida, please complete a brief survey and let us know what is important to you. Feel free to share the survey with colleagues and friends.

[Take the stakeholder survey....](#)

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