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November 2006

Envision Florida

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

Tim,

This time of year, campaigns mobilize their get-out-the-vote efforts. The percentage who do not vote is staggering. Too frequently, the excuse given is that "my vote won't matter."

We hear the same sentiments when it comes to global warming or rising energy costs - "my actions won't matter." How wrong they are.

Collectively we can make a significant difference. By conserving energy, preserving natural resources, and being more efficient with what we have today - we can help ensure a bright future.

Learn how to make a difference below. Thanks for being a champion of sustainability!

Campus and Community Sustainability Conference

Join us this week in Gainesville!



You can still register and attend the inaugural statewide **Campus & Community Sustainability Conference** this Wednesday and Thursday October 25-26. 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 on several panels.

The Council is a proud sponsor of the conference. 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.

[Register today...](#)

Ag Lands, Development, Public Acquisition and Management

Discover What's In Florida's Future



A coalition of environmental leaders calls for an annual \$1 billion fund for land conservation purchases. The state Department of Transportation looks ahead at transportation corridors and the Heartland Expressway. State agricultural leaders and large tract landowners are presented with a dilemma whether to preserve the present or sell-out to development.

Exciting times lie ahead. How do we balance growth, agricultural needs, conservation and maintain a unified vision? These topics and more will be discussed in depth at two November events - **Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference** (Nov. 1-3 - Jacksonville) and **Decision Makers**

Forum (Nov. 14 - Palm Beach). Representative planners, landowners, developers, educators, government leaders, and non-profits will highlight and discuss Florida's future.

[Get involved in the future of land use ...](#)

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 ...](#)

Environmental Leadership Awards Presented

Commissioner Bronson at Florida Farm Bureau Convention



Since the 1850s, in Central Florida, there have been six generations of the Lightsey family who have worked the land, each passing down to the next not only their property, but also their values and traditions. With 45,000 head of cattle, the Lightsey's also operate guided hunting operations, manage 450 acres of citrus, and offer ecological tours of their natural landscapes and abundant wildlife.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson presented awards to the Lightsey family and two other agricultural operations in recognition of their leadership in promoting progressive environmental practices. It was the 13th year of the Commissioner's Ag-Environmental Leadership Award program which was held at CSF-partner's Florida Farm Bureau annual convention.

[Learn more about the winners...](#)

CSF Award Winner Highlight: Harmony's Dark Sky Festival

Stargazing and Live Music mark 4th Anniversary



Harmony - evoking a feeling of love and beauty - is also the name of a planned conservation community that received the **WCI Green Building Award** from the Council this past summer. More than simply a green built environment - the leaders at Harmony founded the Harmony Institute which leads a conservation education program for residents and the surrounding community.

The Harmony Institute is hosting the 4th Annual Dark Sky Festival on Saturday, November 11, as the culmination of two-month long celebration of the *Great Outdoor Days* and features stargazing, interactive exhibits, live entertainment as well as information about light pollution and the Dark Sky movement.

[Open the Sustainability Showcase...](#)

News and Notes



The **Collins Center Today** newsletter has a fresh new look. Our new approach allows us to focus on some of the state's most important issues while featuring Collins Center programs which are successfully finding solutions to these tough problems. In this issue, we focus on the environment and the importance of one of Florida's most valuable resources.

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

Contact Information

email: tcenter@collinscenter.org
 phone: 850.219.0082 x. 104
 web: <http://www.sustainableflorida.org>

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