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December 2006

Envision Florida

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

Tim,

Don't know about you, but I love the spirit of the holidays and the change in seasons. Up in Tallahassee, we get cooler evenings with less humidity. Heck, we've even used our fireplace a couple times already.

I guess a change of seasons indicates a change in climate. But climate change to some is synonymous with global warming. Whether its global warming, energy, housing, water, agriculture or land use, the Council for Sustainable Florida is committed to protecting what we have and ensuring a better Florida for our children.

We wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season. Thanks for being a champion of sustainability!

Recap: Did You Miss Some Great Conferences?

Gainesville and South Florida Were Hot



The University of Florida used more than 4 million garbage bags last year. They weighed 1.6 tons at the landfill - EMPTY. But waste-free by 2015 is still their goal. This was but one of the many great pieces of information shared at the inaugural Campus & Community Sustainability Conference at the University of Florida. More than 400 participated in over 30 workshops, presentations and tours. Several CSF Best Practices Award Winners were featured speakers during the two-day event. Plans are underway for another campus conference in fall of 2007.

In November, nearly 2.5 million acres of Florida agricultural lands were represented at Florida Earth Foundation's Decision Maker's Forum in West Palm Beach. The event focused on Ag Lands, Development and the Future of Florida. Nearly 300 attended the day-long event which featured a variety of speakers focused on ways to create sustainable communities.

[To find out about other upcoming events...](#)

Council to Help Collect and Report Best Practices

Helping You Help Florida



Our goal is to encourage everyone - whether at home, at school, in board rooms or government offices - to adopt and implement operational values and practices that protect and improve Florida's natural resources and provide economic opportunities for all. Therefore, the Council for Sustainable Florida has begun collecting sustainable development best practices.

Our recent survey results indicate that our stakeholders desire having best management practices available and accessible. To that end, the Council will work with our partners over the next few months to begin a method to collect and report best management practices. Be sure to check our regularly updated website. And let us know if we are missing something important.

[To review some of our award-winning best practices ...](#)

Save the Date! What's Happening Around Florida

Green Building, Everglades and Climate Change are on the Calendar



If you are committed to a sustainable Florida - and I believe you are - then you should know what's happening across the state. We try to list all the events that matter - national or local - next month or next summer.

Whether its next summer's Green Trends conference, February's Annual Everglades gathering, the three- day Climate Change event in Tampa or the U.S. Green Building Council Gulf Coast Chapter's event - we want you to know about it.

If your event is not listed or you know of one that needs to be, let us know. We'll add it.

[Check out what's happening in your neck of the woods...](#)

Century Commission and Council Join Forces



The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida is charged with developing 25 and 50-year visions for Florida in addition to tackling a few other significant challenges. Led by St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker and Executive Director Steve Seibert, the Commission has accomplished a lot in their inaugural year - gathering information, receiving testimony, and building a solid research team.

On the eve of the release of its first report to the Governor and Legislature, the Commission has engaged the Council to work on strategic planning and stakeholder communication efforts to help tackle the broad charge given the Commission. The Council looks forward to the synergy derived by working with the Commission and focusing on the most important issues facing Florida.

[What's important to you? Take the survey...](#)

Opening Holiday Gifts Can Ruin the Fun!

Do You Fear Wrap Rage?



Maybe this has happened to you. The night before gifts are to be opened, you find yourself staring blindly at incomprehensible assembly instructions and a gaggle of pieces parts that supposedly will create a lifetime of enjoyment for your little one. Ahh, the holidays.

Well, the latest on the gift front is **wrap rage** - and no I am not referring to a dislike for hip- hop music. With electronics and a variety of other products, the sealed plastic wrapping can take as long to open as it does to manufacture. What's worse is the amount of waste in the packaging. For a fun look at wrap rage check out this article.

[At least this article is easy to open...](#)

News and Notes



Collins Center President **Rod Petrey** was a panel speaker on The South Florida Story at the **Alliance for Regional Stewardship's** 14th National Forum in Ft. Lauderdale in November. The conference was attended by more than 200 regional champions from across the country.

After the ARS Forum, Council for Sustainable Florida Director **Tim Center** presented two sessions on Regionalism and Regional Visioning to the **Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice's** Board of Directors retreat in Naples. Tim was joined by Collins Center President **Rod Petrey** at the retreat.

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

Council Thanks Its Partners



The Council for Sustainable Florida depends upon its partners for a variety of resources. Without them, the Council would not be able to fulfill its mission. For this we give thanks.

This year, the Council for Sustainable Florida commissioned North Florida artist William Lamb to create a meaningful thank-you gift for our Partners. All current partners will receive a framed print of the *Red Royal Palm* painting with a personalized thank you.

Please consider becoming a CSF Partner today. Benefits include partner highlights on our website and newsletter, *Envision Florida*, invitations to Council events including board meetings.

[Become a Partner Today with A Tax-Deductible Gift...](#)

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Join our mailing list!

Council to Host

The Council for Sustainable Florida is working on a Climate Change Executive Forum for January. Tentatively scheduled to be held in Orlando, the half- day workshop will provide an

Climate Change Forum in January

overview and explore economic opportunities to address the issue. Look for more information in the January edition of *Envision Florida*. To be a part of this event e-mail tcenter@collinscenter.org.

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