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January 2007

Envision Florida

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

Tim,

Happy New Year! It was a great 2006 for the Council. We hosted a sustainable communities roundtable and our annual awards program while a hurricane churned in the Gulf. The Council helped sponsor an environmental summit and UF's Campus Sustainability conference, while strengthening our relationships with partners committed to creating a better more sustainable Florida.

With the dawning of the new year, comes greater anticipation and expectation. We resolve to continue to help light the path toward a more sustainable Florida. In this edition, we feature our Executive Forum on Climate Change, the 2007 Sustainable Florida Best Practices Awards, the great work of two CSF partners and highlight some exciting events taking place. Thank you for your continued support and being a champion for a Sustainable Florida in 2007!

CSF Executive Forum - January 24 - Orlando

Climate Change: Opportunities in Florida



Troubles attributable to predicted climate change present significant challenges to Florida's economy and environment. A significant rise in sea level threatens coastal communities. Increased tropical hurricane intensity threatens homes and businesses statewide. Warmer temperatures will influence tourism and agriculture.

The Council will host an exciting half-day executive forum for business leaders on January 24 in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel to discuss climate change issues. Joining us will be **U.S. Senator Connie Mack** (ret.), Environmental Defense Chief Scientist **Bill Chameides** and Florida Power & Light Manager of Strategic and Regulatory Issues **Ray Butts**. It will offer a balanced look at business and policy opportunities available in light of this serious topic. Make plans to join us for our first forum of 2007 as seating is limited.

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of CSF Partners.

[To find out more and register...](#)

Century Commission Set to Release First Annual Report

Commission to Help Create 50-year Vision for Florida



If you were charged with creating a 50-year vision for the entire state of Florida - from coast to coast and everywhere in between - what would you focus on? For the past year, the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida has heard from experts across the state and nation regarding some of our biggest challenges ahead. They identified twelve essential state interests within the context of sustainability's three pillars - economy, environment and social quality of life. The Commission also adopted meaningful principles to help guide their work.

Next week, the Commission will release its first annual report to the Governor and Legislature. The report will highlight research efforts to help Florida address energy policy, long-term quality water supply, potential impacts of climate change, call for linking and supporting local and regional visioning efforts, and protecting critical lands and waters in a fair and balanced manner. The report is due January 16th. The Council applauds the work of the Commission and their efforts to create a sustainable Florida!

[Find out more about the Century Commission ...](#)

Partner Highlight: U.S. Sugar

Council Board Visits During Harvest Season



If you enjoy a occasional piece of chocolate or take your espresso with a couple spoonfuls, then you like sugar. The Council's "sweetest" partner is Florida-based **United States Sugar Corporation**, the largest producer of sugar cane and refined cane sugar in the country. U.S. Sugar makes nearly 10% of the sugar

produced in the U.S.

US Sugar was recently recognized by the Energy Institute for their commitment to air quality with Boiler 8 - a nearly \$20 million bagasse-fired boiler with emission-controls. The boilers produce steam which is co-generated into electricity on-site - enough power for both the mill and refinery operations. Combined with their agricultural best management practices, U.S. Sugar is helping leading the way.

[Read more about U.S. Sugar and other CSF Partners...](#)

Council To Accept Best Practices Award Nominations

Program to enter its 9th Year!



If you are going to define excellence for Florida's economic, environmental and social future, there is no better way to do it than with an awards program. Since initiating our Best Practices Awards program in 1998, the Council has recognized and honored more than 100 businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental groups and individuals whose

work is committed to the future success of Florida.

The Council presents awards in several categories including Leadership, Small Business, Non-Profit, Business Partnership and Green Building – for sustainability excellence in the built environment. Winners of the best practices award are selected by an independent panel including government and corporate representatives involved in the sustainability movement. The panel reviewed projects to determine if they were environmentally friendly, provided a strong business model and could be replicated. Best Practices Award Nomination packets will be posted on the Council's website next week.

[See past award winners and bookmark the page for the form...](#)

Sustainable Showcase: Water Reuse to Cleanup St. Johns River

River Accord is a \$700 million Project



Ever wonder what happens to the water in the bowl after you flush? Sure, it goes to a treatment facility - assuming you are on a sewer line. But what about after that? Well, in the northeastern part of the state, millions of gallons of treated wastewater are discharged into the St. Johns River daily. But that is about to change.

Though treated, the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and other contaminants were too high harming aquatic life and natural habitat along the river. Through the joint efforts of the CSF-Partner **St. Johns River Water Management District**, the City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Electric Authority and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the **River Accord** will close several wastewater treatment plants, improve other wastewater plants and build pipelines to transport the discharge, and treat and reuse it for irrigation of lawns, parks and golf courses.

[Read more about the Accord and other examples...](#)

News and Notes



The Council for Sustainable Florida is pleased to announce its newest Board member - **Michael Joyner**, Vice President of Environmental Affairs with **The St. Joe Company**. St. Joe is the largest private land-owner in the state and has been a CSF partner for several years. Mike is responsible for coordinating environmental initiatives and strategy.

Green building continues to catch on with several events planned this spring across the state. USGBC Chapters are hosting regional events and the Florida Green Building Coalition has joined forces with the Florida Home Builders Association for its annual Southeast Building Conference.

[Check out upcoming events...](#)

Council Thanks Its Partners



The Council for Sustainable Florida thanks its partners for their continued support of Council activities. 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, and personal briefings from Council staff.

Become a Partner Today with A Tax-Deductible Gift...

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