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February 2007

Envision Florida

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

Tim,

What a month! The Gator Nation grabbed a National Championship. With **Environmental Defense** and **FP&L**, we hosted a successful Executive Forum on Climate Change. And the **Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida** released its annual report calling for, among several recommendations, independence from foreign oil.

Florida State is working to design a sustainable campus. Regional visioning efforts are engaging residents and policy makers. And the Council is kicking off its **9th Annual Sustainable Florida Best Practices Awards** program. Be sure to check our website for upcoming events, event recaps, and partner highlights.

Calling for Best Practices Nominations

9th Annual Awards Program Slated for June



A farm that uses no ground water. Energy generated from hydrogen powers a state park. A major university goes green. These were a few examples of the 2006 Sustainable Florida Best Practices rewarded by the Council and recognized by the Governor and Cabinet for being a champion of sustainability.

The Council is pleased to accept nominations for the **2007 Sustainable Florida Best Practices Awards**. Now in its ninth year, the Council has used its signature event to recognize more than one hundred businesses, organizations and individuals for their dynamic work in helping to create sustainable Florida.

Nominate a friend, client, partner or yourself today...

Executive Forum Discusses Climate Change

Builders, Utilities and Environmentalists at the Table

On an uncharacteristic overcast and chilly day in Orlando, a diverse group of Florida business and community leaders gathered to discuss global warming. Questions raised and discussed included: Is the earth really undergoing a climate change? If so, is the warming due to natural cycles or is it man-made? How will we be impacted by a change in the earth's temperature? How do we stop the upward trend?

The forum opened with comments by former **Senator Connie Mack** who appealed to attendees to understand the urgency of the matter. And, in one of the most memorable lines, insurance executive Steve Sachs urged audience members to be involved this conversation – because “you’re either at the table or on the menu.” Other speakers included **Dr. Bill Chameides**, Chief Scientist with Environmental Defense, Hotelier **Harris Rosen** and Developer **Grady Pridgen**.

The half-day executive forum was sponsored by CSF Partners **Environmental Defense** and **Florida Power & Light**.

[For proceedings, slides and analysis ...](#)

Partners Help Council Make Progress

Thank You, Progress Energy!



The Council's efforts are made possible by the generous support of our donors and sponsors. The Council for Sustainable Florida is pleased to thank **Progress Energy** for their continued support and for becoming a **Royal Palm** donor.

Progress Energy is a Fortune 250 diversified energy company and recipient of the 2006 Sustainable Florida Best Practices Business Partnership Award for their sustainable solar-powered hydrogen generator and fuel cell that requires only sunlight and water as fuel sources to power the wildlife pavilion at Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.

Each event, report, meeting or newsletter is inspired by the work of our partners. The donation of **Progress Energy** and those from our many partners help the Council achieve our vision that every individual, organization, government and corporation adopt and implement operational values and practices that protect and improve Florida's natural resources and provide economic opportunities for all.

[Be a Champion of Sustainability with your tax deductible gift...](#)

Regional Visioning Update

Myregion.org, Polk Vision and Treasure Coast in the News



Fantastic efforts are underway in Central Florida with **myregion.org's** “How Shall We Grow” initiative. More than 5,000 residents have responded to the call to choose from four growth scenarios that range from continued sprawl to a focus on the preservation of green areas. Creating “city centers” and “corridor” are the other choices. Residents have until February 14th to indicate how they want their area to grow.

Polk Vision is hard at work on several issues including hosting

a series of public gatherings to look at Polk County's growth as part of the two-year process to revise the county's growth plans. Planners will present their findings to the Polk County Planning Commission and eventually the Department of Community Affairs.

Sustainable Treasure Coast Committee has shifted to an ongoing venture working with elected officials and community leaders to understand the vision outlined in their report. Martin County is evaluating new growth options and Vero Beach is looking at relocating wastewater treatment plants from coastal areas to improve the environment.

[Stay in touch with regional visioning efforts](#)

EASF Spotlight: Sustainable Campus Florida State

Even the meetings are paperless, almost!



More than 25 senior administrators, faculty and students attended the FSU Sustainable Campus meeting on Feb 1. The Committee continues to grow with a focus on waste, water, energy, transportation facilities and administration. Students spoke of increasing recycling in the dorms. Faculty discussed introducing sustainability principles during campus orientation and First Year Experience classes.

The FSU Sustainability work group has plans for Earth Day and is continuing their Garnet and Gold Go Green recycling campaign at athletic events. This is but one of several college and university sustainability efforts underway across the state. Tell us what you are doing on your campus.

[Find out more about campus sustainability ...](#)

News and Notes



Congratulations to the **Florida Capital Chapter of the USGBC** for hosting their first major event last month. More than 50 people turned out to learn more about the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Building process.

Council staff will be busy during the coming weeks with presentations at the *University of Florida College of Law 13th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference*, *Florida Technical Institute's 4th International/Interdisciplinary Forum* and the *Florida Big Bend Green Living & Energy Expo 2007* in Crawfordville (yes, we'll go anywhere to spread the news).

Congratulations to CSF Board Member **Kathy Baughman Mcleod** who was named Deputy Chief of Staff to Florida's newly elected Chief Financial Officer, Alex Sink. She will oversee legislative and cabinet affairs, communications, and appointments.

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

Last But Not Least – Regionalism and the Super Bowl

Quiz: Where was Superbowl XLI?



Regional efforts to help create a stronger Florida in the global economy continue. Most notably, was the NFL's Super Bowl XLI that promoted "South Florida" – not Miami – on its merchandise.

And the Super Bowl was carbon neutral. The NFL purchased certificates to offset the amount carbon generated through electricity use at the game. Additionally, the NFL planted hundreds of native trees before game time. Here's to the National Football League's environmental program.

[Read the Forbes article ...](#)

Contact Information

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

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