

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

April 2007

Envision Florida

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

Tim,

Earth Day turns 37 years old on April 22 marking the birth of the modern environmental movement. Fortunately, in Florida, many work together to preserve and conserve our natural resources, maintain continued economic success and ensure that all in our state have the opportunity for a safe, healthy and vibrant quality of life. We are champions of sustainability.

In addition to Earth Day, April plays host to several other important dates. The Council is accepting nominations for its annual Best Practices Awards. The deadline is April 13. The *Conversations on Climate Change* series kicks off at the capitol. And the **Landscape Architects** are leading a charetter for **myregion.org**. Check out these and more in this edition.

Best Practices Nominations Deadline is April 13th

9th Annual Awards Program Slated for June 11



Nominations are due April 13th for the 2007 Annual Best Practices Awards. The Council has honored more than 100 businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental groups and individuals whose work demonstrates that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are mutually supportive. Awards categories include *Leadership, Small Business, Large Business, Non-Profit, Partnership, and Green Building* - for sustainability excellence in the built environment.

The Awards program will be held Monday, June 11, 2007, in Tallahassee at the Florida State University Alumni Center. Florida nature photographer and journalist **John Moran** will be the featured speaker.

Selected by an independent blue-ribbon panel, award winners will be honored by the Governor and Cabinet on June 12th with a resolution sponsored by **Florida Agricultural Commissioner Charles Bronson**.

[Nominate a friend, client, partner or yourself today...](#)

Let's Talk About Climate Change

CFO Sink and Commissioner Bronson to Lead the Conversation



The **Florida Energy Commission** has a Climate Change Committee, the Legislature is considering creating the Florida Climate Action Partnership (SB 2466) and local governments are signing on to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection petition. But what's happening right now?

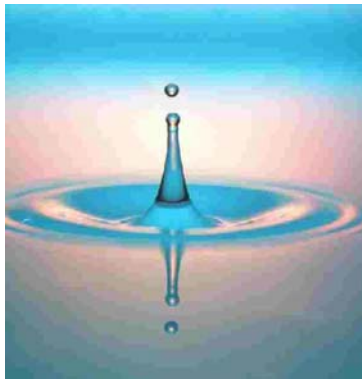
Department of Agriculture Commissioner **Charles Bronson** and Chief Financial Officer **Alex Sink** are kicking off the four-workshop series - *Conversations on Climate Change* with an overview from

Steven Mulkey - U.F. Professor and Science Advisor the Century Commission. Meeting is Tuesday, April 13 at 11 AM. This is the first of four dates.

[Click for more news and dates.](#)

Water Conservation - The Time is Now

Governor and Cabinet Celebrate Water Conservation Month



April is **Water Conservation Month** (don't forget to send someone a card!) Along with the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Governor Charlie Crist** and the Florida Cabinet endorsed a proclamation reaffirming the state's commitment to protecting and preserving Florida's water supply and quantity.

As Florida experiences one of the driest spells on record, it is important to understand what you can do to conserve water. Thankfully, Florida **DEP** and the **Water Management Districts** are working hard to manage our water supply.

[Learn more about protecting our water.](#)

Florida State To Host Campus Sustainability Conference

2nd Annual event scheduled for October



Last year the **University of Florida** created and hosted the *Campus and Community Sustainability Conference*. It was an exciting event with great exhibitors, outstanding presentations and super attendance from across the state. The Council agreed to lead the effort to rotate the event to other campuses across the state.

It is exciting to announce that **Florida State University** will host the *2007 Campus and Community Sustainability Conference* next fall. Led by the *FSU Sustainable Campus Committee* and the *Service Learning Program*, the event will take place October 15-16 - the week prior to **Campus Sustainability Day** (permitting schools to return home and host their Campus Sustainability Day on their campus). Stay tuned for the call for proposals and other details.

[Learn more about the Educational Alliance](#)

Educational Alliance Spotlight

Quick notes from around the state



Sustainability efforts on campus across the state are picking up steam - here is a quick run down.

The **University of South Florida College of Business** hosts a half-day Sustainability Forum on Friday, April 13, in Tampa. Registration is free - check out

News and Dates for a link on our website.

University of Florida's Gators for a Sustainable Campus worked to include a renewable energy referendum question on this semester's student government ballot. The referendum asked whether or not students supported a 50 cent per credit hour fee that would go towards purchasing renewable energy and investing in renewable energy projects. Student voters **approved** the referendum with **78%** of the vote.

Sponsored by the *Campus and Community Sustainability Committee*, **Florida State University** students spent their St. Patrick's Day cleaning up the FSU Reservation - a recreational facility located on the Lake Bradford. Materials collected were used to create sculptures by the Interior Design Department.

Broward Community College has a comprehensive and robust sustainability movement underway - more than just recycling the efforts at BCC are amazing - check them out under our EASF links.

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

Regional Visions Becoming Reality

A quick update from across the state



Space is limited as the **Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects** hosts a charette to create a pattern book for **myregion.org**. The book will offer new language, new governance and visuals to serve as patterns to develop the regional plan. Register at <http://www.flasla.org/charette/>

Polk Vision continues its implementation efforts following up on their vision developed in 2004. An annual community meeting held last month reported on progress on several measures.

Lakeland Vision held their annual meeting on March 20th to look at their benchmarks.

And **myregion.org** continues its dramatic efforts to create a shared vision for the 7-county central Florida region. Nearly 10,000 votes were cast on the four proposed growth models. Committee are now reviewing the results to discover consensus points.

Several new events have been posted on the Council's website. Be sure to check out the latest.

[Stay up to date on Regional Visioning Efforts...](#)

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