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May 2007

## Envision Florida

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

### Tim,

As smoke from Georgia fires drifts south over northeast Florida and brush fires pop up in South Florida, we are reminded how desperate we are for a little (or a lot) of rain.

Despite being surrounded by water, Florida is facing the most serious drought since 1895. As CSF-partner **Southwest Florida Water Management District** puts it - *WaterMatters.org*! So don't play with fire, conserve what we have, use native landscape, access reclaimed water and let your car stay dirty.

But that's not the only smoke on the horizon. Just down the road the Legislature is burning the midnight oil to wrap up its 60-day legislative session. See below about what bills are still in play. We'll cover the changes in next month's edition.

In the meantime, we had a record number of nominations for our awards program and have an exciting event planned for June 11. Hope you can join us.

### Tim

**P.S.** On a lighter note, it is *National Eat Dessert First Week* - so treat yourself and have a cookie before dinner!

## Record Number of Nominations for 2007 Awards!

### 9th Annual Awards Program - June 11 - Tallahassee



Collecting and refining oil - instead of burning it. New LEED-certified government and manufacturing buildings. Solar panels on schools. Florida's largest companies reducing energy consumption with the help of all employees. The largest CFL replacement program in the state. The combined efforts of private and government sectors to preserve more than 70,000 acres of natural habitat and wildlife corridors. These are a few examples of the great work taking place by our 2007 Best Practices nominees.

The Council received more than 40 nominations for the **2007 Sustainable Florida Best Practices Award**. The nominees are outstanding. Each is a champion of sustainability and is leading by example. The winners will be announced at the **June**

**11th** program which will feature a presentation by Florida nature photographer **John Moran**. Please help us celebrate their achievements!

[For a complete list of nominees and your invitation to join us....](#)

## Florida's Wildlife Legacy

### **Working Toward a Cooperative Conservation Blueprint**



The **Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida** continues its efforts to help identify the state's Critical Lands and Waters. Working with the **University of Florida's Geo Plan Center** and **Florida Natural Areas Inventory at Florida State University**, CLIP is designed to objectively move us toward a shared vision for a sustainable environment - water, development, agriculture, natural habitat, etc.

Complimenting their effort is the **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's** call for the development of a **Cooperative Conservation Blueprint**. The effort will require the participation and collaboration of stakeholder groups, private land owners, agricultural interests and more.

The Council for Sustainable Florida is pleased to be working closely with these organizations to facilitate a structured process and discussion to take place over the coming months. Stay tuned for how to get involved.

[To learn about Florida's Wildlife Action Plan...](#)

## Financial News and Climate Change

### **CFO Sink Joins Investors Network**



**Bank of America** announced in February a \$20 billion - 10-year commitment to green investment strategies. Miami-based **Union Credit Bank** was the first Florida institution to become a signatory of the *United Nations Program Finance Initiative* committed to sustainable development. And, today, I heard on NPR that insurance companies are beginning to pull out of insuring ski resorts - given a forecast for less snowfall.

Climate change and financial risk and opportunities are big business. Florida's **Chief Financial Officer, Alex Sink**, manages more than \$20 billion in Florida tax dollars. Last month, CFO Sink joined the *Investor Network on Climate Risk* - a national network of investors focused on the business impacts of climate change. June 12 is the next *Conversations on Climate Change* with the **Florida Cabinet** featuring former **New York Governor George Pataki**.

[Learn more about Florida's Climate Change initiatives...](#)

## Save the Date for Fall Campus Sustainability Conference

### **October 15-16 at Florida State University**



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.

**Florida State University** will host the *2007 Campus and Community Sustainability Conference* on October 15-16 in Tallahassee. The event is being led by the *FSU Sustainable Campus Committee* and the *Service Learning Program*. This year's conference will take place the week prior to **Campus Sustainability Day** (permitting a return home to host your own Campus Sustainability Day on campus on October 25). The event is for everyone - not just those folks on campus. Save the date and plan to participate. Stay tuned for the call for proposals and other details.

[Learn more about the Educational Alliance](#)

## Florida Legislature Moves Toward *Sine Die*

### But They are Coming Back June 12



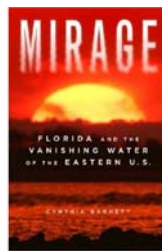
Failure to reach consensus on property tax reform will bring the **Florida Legislature** back to Tallahassee for a special session in the second week of June. But there is still time in the Regular Session. Here is a quick look at a couple items. (*HB= House Bill and SB=Senate Bill*)

- HB 1257 & SB 2136 - Green Schools Pilot Project - grants for LEED-certified school construction
- HB 1143 & SB 318 - Century Commission - adds three members and moves it under the Legislature
- HB 7123 & SB 996 - Sales tax holiday for energy- efficient products
- HB 313 & SB 2666 - Solar energy, alternative fuels and sustainability for state-owned buildings
- HB 957 & SB 2082 - Environmental permitting and wetlands protection
- HB 985 & SB 1928 - Transportation concurrency, road construction and new bridges
- HB 509 & SB 564 - Children's Cabinet to create more collaborative policies

[What's happening to your legislation?](#)

## Kudos Across the State

### Everyone's Going Green or Getting There



Seems like everyone is doing something good for the economy, the environment and - in the end - for our sustainable quality of life. Here is a quick recap of some great efforts.

- Two-time CSF-Best Practice Award winner **Stetson University** established its *Environmental Responsibility Council* in 1998 and continues its efforts by signing the national *Presidents Climate Change Letter of Intent*.
- City of **Miami Mayor Manny Diaz** was honored by **Broward County Audubon Society** for signing the *Mayors Climate Protection Agreement*. Mayor Diaz also named **Robert Ruano** as the Director of Sustainability and created a *Green Commission*.
- The **City of Tallahassee** unveiled its \$162 million inaugural water reclamation project with the support of the **Northwest Florida Water Management District**, CSF- Partner **St. Joe**, and the **Department of Environmental Protection**
- The Big Bend Region is home to the **Knight Foundation's Creative Communities Initiative** in Florida where community catalysts have chosen a

goal to establish Tallahassee as a leader in existing and emerging green technologies. They call it **Greenovation**.

- The **Village of Key Biscayne** is looking to become more sustainable after hosting a Town Hall meeting last month. Council Director **Tim Center** was one of the featured presenters.

And, if you are looking for a good read, check out **Florida Trend** Associate Editor **Cynthia Barnett's** look at Florida and the vanishing water of the eastern U.S. in her new book - **Mirage**.

[Check out other show case efforts ...](#)

## Events Across the State

### Climate Change, Alternative Fuels, and Awards



The summer is always busy after the Legislature adjourns and before school reconvenes. There is a lot happening across the state. See you there!

- **Climate Change Conference** - May 9-11 in Tampa
- **South Florida Regionalism Summit** - May 23rd in Boca Raton
- **Fish and Wildlife Forum** - June 6-7 in Orlando.
- **Florida Land Use Institute Forum** - June 29 in Orlando
- **Farm to Fuel Summit** - July 18-20 in St. Petersburg

And don't forget the **Council's Best Practices Awards in Tallahassee on June 11**. But that was just the tip of the iceberg.

[For a complete list of upcoming events...](#)

## Thank You!



Council Partners volunteer time, talent and treasures that enable us to advance our mission - promoting the adoption and implementation of sustainable development principles.

The Council is thankful for the generosity of our 2007 renewing partners.

- **The Bonita Bay Group**
- **The St. Joe Company**
- **Southwest Florida Water Management District**
- **St. Johns River Water Management District**
- **Mary Lou Rajchel, Esq.** - *Florida Trucking Association*
- **PBS&J** and
- **Rayonier**

[Join the Council and become a Partner today!](#)

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