



Envision Florida

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

August 2007 - Back to School

Dear Tim,

School is starting up. Hurricane season is winding up. And summer seems to be heating up. And what a summer it has been. The Council honored 40 individuals, companies and organizations at its 9th Annual Best Practices Awards. **Governor Crist** moved Florida forward on climate issues. And the Legislature tackled property taxes and now must cut spending.

The Council has been busy, and, just like any kid should be, is excited about the new school year. There is an *Executive Forum* on Corporate Social Responsibility at **UF** next month. Presentation proposals are still being taken for *Getting to Green at Florida State*. And industry and environmental organizations are helping to develop a conservation blueprint for Florida.

I hope that you enjoy this extra newsy special back-to-school edition of *Envision Florida*. Stay in touch.

P.S. Thanks for forwarding this message to your friends and colleagues who want to know more about creating a sustainable Florida.

Babcock Ranch is Council's Legacy Award Winner

Governor and Cabinet honor Council's Best Practice Award Winners



Florida Agriculture **Commissioner Charles Bronson** sponsored the resolution from the Governor and Cabinet honoring the Best Practice award winners of the Council's *9th Annual Awards* program held in June. More than 40 organizations were recognized by the Council which presented Promising Practice, Best Practice and inaugural Legacy Awards in a ceremony held in Tallahassee.

The Council presented Best Practice Awards in several categories - including Government - **Pinellas County**, Large Business - **Publix** and **Florida Power and Light** and Partnership - **myregion.org's How Shall We Grow**. You can read more about the winners and Promising Practice recipients on the Council's website.

With its new **Legacy Award**, the Council honored **Kitson and Partners** along with two counties and five state government organizations for preserving 90,000 acres that comprise Babcock Ranch while permitting the creation of a sustainable community thus creating a new model for future conservation opportunities.

[Read more and watch video about this year's winners...](#)

Council Partners Support Sustainability

Become a Partner Today



Council Partners are a vital and important element of our efforts to promote sustainable development principles in both the private and public sectors. Council Partners make a clear statement of support with their gifts. As a program of the Collins Center for Public Policy, donations to the Council are tax deductible.

Council Partners are recognized publicly at all Council events, highlighted in newsletter and web page articles, receive discounted pricing to Council activities and a framed print of *Red Royal Palm* - an original oil painting by North Florida artist William Lamb commissioned by the Council.

Thank you to all Council Partners and we are pleased to welcome...

- **Newland Communities (*Great Blue Heron Donor*)** - a privately-owned company that creates enduring and healthier residential and mixed-used communities with expertise in creating a special sense of community, we bring to life the unique history, culture and traditions of the land.
- **GH of Florida (*Great Blue Heron Donor*)** - privately held real estate development and management firm that specializes in residential and mixed use projects including retail, commercial, rental, master planned, and mixed-use communities ranging in size from fifty to more than thousand acres.
- **Robert Lee and Thomas M. Chastain Charitable Foundation (*Great Blue Heron Donor*)**
- **Lake Nona (*Florida Panther Donor*)** - a 7,000-acre master-planned community within the city limits of Orlando that will home to world-class education and recreational facilities, a science and technology park (new home to the Burnham Institute), diverse workspaces, retail centers, entertainment choices and residential options for all types of people.



Look for a special section in the October issue of Florida Trend magazine.

[Become a Partner and show your support for a Sustainable Florida...](#)

Governor Crist's Summit Pushes Envelope

Climate Change Orders Prompt New Efforts



When the Governor vetoed HB 7123 that promoted clean energy with a Energy Governance Task Force, **Crist** said we can and must do better. One month later at the **Serve**

to Preserve: Summit on Climate Change in Miami, he signed three Executive Orders calling for reduced green-house gas emissions, a new building code, a renewable energy portfolio for all utilities, net-metering and new state government standards.

Supporters cheered and critics noted the challenges. Whatever the spin, Florida is moving forward on climate change matters. More importantly, Florida industry is taking up the challenge.

- **Seminole Electric Cooperative** (a CSF Partner) is seeking proposals for a CO2 capture demonstration project.
- **Florida Power and Light** (a CSF Partner) senior management spoke to the U.S. Senate about the most direct way to price carbon and is in the preliminary stages of using windmills in St. Lucie County to generate electricity.
- **OUC** (a CSF Partner) is using biodiesel fuel in some of its fleet, is building its new headquarters using LEED standards, and generates electricity from gas collected from the landfill.

And on top of all that, Governor Crist announced his appointments to his **Action Team on Energy and Climate**. Its first report is due November 1.

Oh, and this won't be the last time you hear about **Serve to Preserve** a new program of the **Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida)** is being developed to encourage and coordinate grassroots environmentally-focused volunteer efforts statewide.

[To learn more about Climate Change in Florida...](#)

Regional Visioning Takes Off

Plans Take Shape and New Initiatives Are Launched



Hands down, **myregion.org** has done one of the best jobs of engaging residents in helping to shape a vision for their future. CSF-Best Practice Award winner myregion.org's **How Shall We Grow?** received input from more than 20,000 residents. Now the greater Tampa Bay region, the Capital City region, and even rural Taylor County are beginning to take control of their future. Here is a quick look across the state.

- **myregion.org** announced at a Community Summit its 50-year vision focused around conservation, countrysides, centers and corridors.
- The **Tampa Bay Partnership** hosted **Reality Check** - a scenario planning exercise for a few hundred leaders from the seven county region - and launched **MyOneBay.com** - to develop and promote a shared regional visioning.
- Congratulations to **Polk County** being named an **All-America County** and to **Polk Vision** for launching its new year-long community leadership program - **Leadership Polk**.
- The Capital City Region (Tallahassee/Leon County, eight Florida and one Georgia counties), under the leadership from the Chamber, launched

ourregiontomorrow.org and *Sustainable Big Bend* is beginning to take form.

- Orlando-based **MSCW** (a CSF-Partner) is helping rural Taylor County set a course for its future with *Taylor County-Vision2060*.

[For more information on Regional Sustainability efforts...](#)

Educational Alliance Hosts Two Major Events

These Are For Everyone - Especially If You're Off Campus



Florida State University and the **University of Florida** host two major events in September and October - both of which are designed to improve private sector implementation of sustainable development principles. Both events are open to the public and you are encouraged to participate. Here are the details.

- **Sustainability in Business - *Conversations with Hunter Lovins and Bob Willard*** - national experts will be on hand for small group coaching sessions at the University of Florida Reitz Union on September 10-11, 2007. There is no charge for this event.
- **Getting to Green - *2nd Annual Campus and Community Conference*** - showcasing best practices in energy, climate, green building and community transformation. The call for presentation proposals closes August 30. Be a sponsor, exhibitor or an audience member. Register online. There is a small registration fee - discounts for students.

[Details on Sustainability in Business event...](#)

[Check out the Getting to Green Conference site...](#)

Updates From Across Florida

Movers, Shakers and who's Going Green

Here's a quick update on who's doing what and where.

- **Dennis Gilkey**, a member of the *Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida* and former CEO of CSF-Best Practice award winner *Bonita Bay Group*, has formed the **Gilkey Organization** to provide land advisory services, investments and real estate development the embraces ecological, social and economic sustainability. 
- **Melissa Meeker**, formerly with Tetra Tech and chair of Sustainable Treasure Coast, was named to the *South Florida Water Management District* and has founded **Hesperides Group** offering strategic planning and environmental consulting services. 
- **Donald Couzu**, Principal with Houston-**Cuozzo** Planning Firm in Martin County, and **Doug Mannheimer**, Attorney with Broad and Cassell in Tallahassee, have

been appointed to the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida by Senate President Ken Pruitt and House Speaker Marco Rubio, respectively.

- **Carlton Fields** law firm is initiating an internal five-step environmental initiative in its seven offices across the state across that includes responsible procurement, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and working to help others in the community do the same.

Kudos to **St. Thomas** and **Barry** Universities for jointly establishing the [Center for Earth Jurisprudence](#) a new initiative focusing on healthy ecosystems and fostering a sustainable global society.

[Read More News...](#)

Hurricane Planning Made Easy

Luckily for Floridians, Hurricane Dean will miss the state, but it reminds us of how vulnerable we are. Now is the time to make plans to keep you and your family and business sustainable. There are several tools to help.



- Customize your business's hurricane emergency management plan at USF's free [Hurriplanner](#).
- For your family or business check out Florida's Division of Emergency Management and [Get a Plan!](#)
- Want the most up to date weather information? Bookmark these sites - [Crown Weather](#) (displays models from multiple sources) and the [State Emergency Response Team](#).
- Evacuating by car? **Call 511** to check road conditions (You can also call to check out travel delays in your area - or for the big game.)

Upcoming Dates

August 26-27 - Century Commission - Largo

September 5-8 - Florida Chapter American Planning Association - Orlando

September 6 - Imagining an Innovative Economy - Florida Chamber Foundation - Orlando

September 21 - South Florida Regional Land Use Institute Forum - Naples

[For details and more dates of upcoming events...](#)

Tim Center, Esq. - Director
Council for Sustainable Florida
The Collins Center for Public Policy
 tcenter@collinscenter.org
 850/219.0082 x 104

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The Collins Center for Public Policy | 1415 East Piedmont Drive | Suite One | Tallahassee | FL | 32301