



Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

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Agenda Item Executive Summary

May 24, 2011

Title:

Acceptance of the FY11 Second Quarter Status Report on the County Sustainability Program

Staff:

Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Vincent S. Long, Deputy County Administrator
Maggie Theriot, Office of Sustainability

Issue Briefing:

This item seeks Board acceptance of the status report on the activities of the County's Sustainability Program for the second quarter of FY11. The report contains a brief summary of community engagement and education efforts, and updates on major initiatives, both recently completed and pending.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact to the County.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Accept the FY11 second quarter status report on the County Sustainability Program.

Report and Discussion

Background:

The Office of Sustainability provides a quarterly status report to the Board. The report contains a brief summary of community engagement and education efforts, and updates on major initiatives, both recently completed and pending. This status report reviews activities occurring during the months of March 2011 through May 2011. The most recent status report was provided on February 8, 2011.

The following agenda items have been submitted to the Board since the most recent status report was generated.

Date	Title	Action
2/8/2011	Workshop on Unincorporated Area Universal Solid Waste Collection	Ratification took place 3/15/2011: Commissioner Sauls moved, seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to not ratify the actions taken by the Board on February 8, 2011.
2/22/2011	Approval to Award Bid for Custodial Services for the Group II (Leon County Libraries) to Nelsonic Industries, Inc. in the Amount of \$299,865	The Board approved awarding the bid to Nelsonic Industries for custodial services utilizing "green" cleaning products.
3/17/2011	Budget Discussion Item: Consideration to Install Solar Thermal at the Sheriff Administration Building	The Board directed staff not pursue the installation of solar thermal at this time.
4/26/2011	Consideration to Reject all Invitation to Negotiate Proposals for the Electrical Power Production Project at the Leon County Solid Waste Management Facility	Commissioner Akinyemi moved, seconded by Commissioner Sauls, to reject all proposals.

Analysis:

This report serves as a tool to keep the Board apprised of the success and efforts of the County's Sustainability Program. The status information is arranged within three primary categories: 1) Resource Conservation & Green House Gas Monitoring, 2) Policy & Program Administration, and 3) Civic Engagement and Community Partnership.

Resource Conservation & Green House Gas Monitoring

The following are some initiatives taking place with the intent of energy and resource conservation.

- **ESCO Phase II: Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)** – This grant opportunity provides \$1.17 million to implement energy efficiency enhancements at the Courthouse, BOA building, Main Library and Sheriff Administration building. At this time all of the work is complete for lighting retrofits in the Courthouse, BOA building and the Main Library. The enhancements include upgraded lighting fixtures and bulbs, LED exit lights, motion sensors for office space, and motion sensors for vending machines. Work at the Sheriff Administration building is nearly complete. The building improvement portion of the project is anticipated to close out in the coming month resulting in an estimated savings of \$1,700,514 in only 10 years. Efforts are also underway to implement the educational component of this grant. Meetings are taking place with TCC and Sustainable Tallahassee to develop the scope and curriculum.
- **ESCO Phase III: BOA HVAC Upgrade** – In coordination with tenant renovations taking place on the 8th floor of the BOA building, an old heating, ventilation, and conditioning (HVAC) system will be upgraded to a more energy efficient model, resulting in an annual savings of \$15,000. Work is currently underway and will be completed in time for the new lease tenant to occupy.
- **Clean Energy Grant** – The Board will consider acceptance of the grant and authorization of the County Administrator to negotiate the final grant agreement as part of the May 24, 2011 Board agenda. This grant represents a significant chance to advance the energy conservation and alternative energy goals of Leon County. Notably the grant will result in the Cooperative Extension building becoming a “net-zero energy” building meaning the building generates as much energy as it consumes when measured on an annual basis. The Clean Energy Grant is part of the America Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Nearly all ARRA grants have a deadline of April 2012 as dictated by the Federal Government including this grant opportunity. As described in the previous Status Report, initially Leon County did not receive the grant and months later were notified of the receipt. Despite the delayed notification, the deadline for completion still remains April 2012. As a result, Leon County staff will have less than one year to implement the project, when most other recipients have approximately 20 months. In light of the condensed project timeline, staff is prepared to proceed with the development, and implementation of project bids in accordance with the Purchasing Procedure. Upon evaluation of the proposals, staff will provide formal recommendations to the Board for consideration.

The Clean Energy grant will provide for 55kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) as well as 17 tons of geothermal closed-loop. The solar PV will be installed as a ground mounted parking structure. Therefore the solar array is easily visible by visitors and educational tours and also provide for shaded parking. For perspective the largest known solar PV system in Tallahassee is 50kW and located at the Antique Car Museum.

- Rain Water Reuse – It is with great pride that Leon County was notified the rain water cistern project has been nominated and chosen as a finalist for the 2011 Sustainable Florida Best Practice Awards. The award ceremony will be held June 2nd in Daytona Beach and serves to recognize businesses, organizations and individuals for their efforts to create a more sustainable Florida. Award winners will be recognized by the Governor and Cabinet, and promoted by the Collins Center for Public Policy as best practices.

Installation of the 40,000-gallon rainwater capture cistern at the Cooperative Extension facility is now complete, with operational testing currently underway. A majority of this project was conducted by county staff. Facilities Management has led the design and permitting of the system and personally installed the roof water collectors and related piping and pumps. Public Works was responsible for delivery of the tanks, excavation of the cistern tank pits, and hauling the related soil and fill sand. The tanks began collecting water in April and are currently filled to their 40,000 gallon capacity.

- Ft Braden Community Center Window Replacement – As the Ft Braden Community Center was constructed in 1926 as a school, it is believed the windows currently in place are original to that time period. The windows are in disrepair due to age and weather erosion. There are 84 windows in total, all of which are being replaced as part of a CIP in FY11. The replacement windows are Energy Star, argon gas filled, double strength glass which results in high energy efficiency. Although the building is found on the historic preservation list, there are no mandates, only recommendations on replacement standards for windows. The recommendations, which will be followed, state an intent to mimic the existing window regarding visual layout of the mutins, and make sure they are external to the window pane.
- Green Purchasing – The Purchasing Division recently received a report on the percent of sales of products containing recycled content. The report references products purchased in 2010 through the County's Office Depot contract. The findings reveal that 40% of the dollars spent went towards products containing a minimum of 10% recycled content. This is a significant achievement, as the national average of only 28%, placing Leon County well above the national average. A significant contribution to this accomplishment is Leon County's efforts to expand the County's use of recycled paper.

Policy & Program Administration

Various efforts have contributed to laying the foundation of the sustainability program that will guide the program goals and funding into the future.

- Solid Waste Policy – In partnership with Public Works, Solid Waste, and Office of Sustainability, efforts are underway to draft a solid waste policy for Board consideration. The policy will address procedures and practices that aim to divert recyclables from the waste stream through sustainable activities such as green purchasing practices, recycling programs, employee education, and other process changes at individual Department and Division levels. Through the initiatives outlined in this policy, County operations shall strive to achieve a 75% recycling goal by 2020. The primary goals of the draft policy are to implement waste reduction practices, foster reuse, and increase recycling throughout all County facilities.

Civic Engagement and Community Partnership

As a key resource for sustainable actions, both internally and in the community, the Office of Sustainability serves as a liaison to local, state, federal, and nonprofit groups. The Office collaborates with government entities, businesses, and individual citizens on a routine basis.

- Eco-Teams – A cooperative effort is underway to explore the idea of developing a joint initiative involving Leon County, the City, Sustainable Tallahassee and Cooperative Extension. Collectively representatives from each organization are examining the concept of implementing “green teams” throughout the community. The idea is to identify leaders in business, churches, civic groups, schools, youth groups, and neighborhoods to host a workshop learning series for members of their respective group. By expanding on the Sustainable Floridians model, these workshops will be taught by members of the community to their segment of the community. Staff intends to provide a formal summary of this initiative once fully developed.
- Possible Joint Sustainability Summit - The City of Tallahassee, Sustainable Florida and Leon County are exploring jointly hosting a community sustainability summit. Staff is analyzing this opportunity as a joint event would provide an avenue for shared responsibility for the community-wide event. The Summit could be held in Fall 2011. Staff of each entity are meeting to determine if the goals of all three organizations can be met through a unified event. If a joint vision and purpose can be established, County staff intends to draft an agenda item for Board consideration.
- FAMU Communications Class – In cooperation with Dr. LaRae Donnellan and her marketing/communications class, the Leon County Sustainability program served as the course case study. Students were divided into small groups and assigned one of seven topics: green cleaning, the Solid Waste Spectacular, community gardens, Eastside Branch Library LEED certification, EECBG, and recycling within county facilities. Through the semester, each group created marketing collateral to serve as outreach and educational materials. County staff attended several classes to explain the program areas and answer questions so the students can create the materials. At the end of the semester, students presented final

projects to County staff who served as judges. This joint initiative resulted in value to both the County and the students as the material became part of the student's formal portfolios.

- FSU Communications Class – In cooperation with Dr. Gerry Gilmer and his marketing/communications class, the Leon County Recycling Program served as the course case study. Students were divided into small groups where they worked to develop a marketing campaign intended to increase citizen recycling efforts. The students presented their proposed marketing campaigns to a panel of judges. Judges included Commissioner Akinyemi, County Recycling staff, area marketing professionals. This collaborative effort provides good real-work experience for the students, while also producing material for possible County marketing efforts at little to no cost.
- Leon County Senior Days – The Leon County Senior Outreach program hosts 'Senior Days' at each of the Leon County Community Centers monthly. Each Senior Day features a guest speaker. Over the past month Sustainability staff has been the featured speaker, presenting to more than 200 area seniors. The presentation focuses on practical and easy to implement steps to live a more sustainable life. Response from the Senior Outreach staff and participants has been very positive. As a result staff intends to present to these groups again in the future.

The progress of these initiatives will continue to be highlighted through quarterly status reports to the Board.

Options:

1. Accept the FY11 second quarter status report on the County Sustainability Program.
2. Do not accept the FY11 second quarter status report on the County Sustainability Program.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1.

Attachments:

1. American City & County, November 2010 PACE article.

PA/VSL/MT