

Leon County's Past Efforts to Increase Energy Efficiencies and
Reduce Greenhouse Gases

The County has actively and successfully participated in a number of programs and activities over the past years designed to reduce the amount of energy produced by County Operations. A few of these energy conservation programs include the following:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) "Green Lights" Program: Leon County became a program participant in USEPA "Green Lights" program in 1994. Green Lights is an innovative program sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which encourages U.S. corporations to install energy-efficient lighting technologies. Using these technologies, energy consumption can be dramatically reduced while delivering the same or better quality lighting. Leon County completed the retrofit of its building facilities in 1997, which the USEPA has determined reduced GHG emissions (at the annual rate of 3,757,570 pounds of CO₂; 16,706,025 grams of sulfur dioxide; and 6,052,909 grams of nitrogen oxides) and reduced our annual electrical energy consumption by approximately 2,058,939 kWh/year. This was later confirmed through out total energy cost savings of \$3,693,311 occurring over the 10-year period from 1995-2004.
- Energy Savings Company (ESCO) Contract: On October 11, 2005, the Board selected thirteen projects to be included in an ESCO contract with Energy Systems Group, which included: installing a combined central energy plant between the Courthouse Annex and Courthouse, performing additional lighting upgrades in County building facilities, performing water conservation in certain County buildings, and further reducing the rate of electrical consumption by employing computerized energy management system controls. The total project cost of \$4,466,238 is expected to generate savings of \$6,714,535 over a period of twelve years.
- Workshop on Smart Energy Strategies: The Board held a Workshop on Smart Energy Strategies on August 22, 2006. At this meeting, the Board adopted 15 strategies to increase energy conservation and reduce GHG emissions. The strategies fall under the following categories: Cleaner Vehicles, Energy Efficient Buildings, Environmentally-Friendly Policies and Practices, Renewable Energy, and Community Education and Outreach. These strategies, which are in various stages of implementation, are incorporated in the Climate Action Plan.
- Workshop on "Green Buildings" and FSU's Off Grid Zero Emissions Building (OGZEB): The Board held a workshop on green building and FSU's OGZEB on May 22, 2007. The workshop highlighted the benefits of building green, including enhancing and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, improving air and water quality, restoring natural resources, reducing operating costs, optimizing life-cycle economic performance, enhancing occupant comfort and health, minimizing strain on local infrastructure, and improving overall quality of life. In addition, representatives from The Sustainable Energy Science and Engineering Center at FSU and Mad Dog

Construction presented information about the new energy efficient building, OGZEB, being built on FSU's campus.

- International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability): Recognizing the need for cooperation and taking responsibility for its contributions to climate change, Leon County joined the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) in July 2007. Membership in ICLEI provides information and a network of peers to Leon County regarding worldwide, national and regional efforts in the areas of climate protection, reduction of GHG emissions and impacts of climate change and other environmental issues. Additionally, ICLEI develops and provides at no cost to the members case studies, training workshops, publications and other learning opportunities.
- Leon County Hosts National Conversation on Climate Action: On October 4, 2007, 70 communities across the country, along with Leon County, came together to discuss the science behind and what is needed to solve global warming. It was all part of the National Conversation on Climate Action, a series of events convened by local government leaders and designed to build awareness of, grow support for and engage new allies in local climate action work. Leon County's Conversation highlighted and catalyzed local efforts to address global warming, build local awareness and facilitate community engagement.
- Leon County Hosts the Climate Action Summit: More than 400 people came together on March 28, 2008 to address energy consumption and economic and environmental challenges to our community at the Leon County Climate Action Summit. The Board of County Commissioners hosted the Summit, along with co-sponsors, the City of Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Democrat and the Environmental Defense Fund, to ensure a sustainable future for our community, our economy and our way of life. The Summit brought together members from all parts of the community, including residents, businesses, scientists and engineers, to talk about a variety of environmental issues ranging from residential landscaping to land use planning. In addition, participants were educated about new, emerging technologies and cost-saving strategies to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy demand.