

# Florida Beacon



**From the President's Desk**  
**Bruce Hasbrouck**

The following is a summary of the 2008-2009 state budget as it relates to the protecting Florida's environment. The information is courtesy of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

On June 11th, Governor Charlie Crist signed the State's budget for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2008-09, reaffirming a commitment to Florida's natural resources and promoting alternative and renewable energy technologies. With a strong commitment to maintaining critical environmental projects and programs, Governor Crist, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and the Florida Legislature have provided \$2 billion to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to preserve and enhance water resources as well as preserve natural lands.

The 2008-09 budget includes \$264.4 million to protect and restore Florida water resources, \$300 million to fund the state's land conservation program *Florida Forever* as well as \$55.9 million to enhance recreation and public access areas. In addition, next fiscal year's budget includes \$78.75 million to promote energy diversity and conservation, encourage the development of alternative and renewable energy technologies and address climate change.

The Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget includes:

**Promoting Energy Diversity for Florida, \$78.75 million** - Furthering protection for Florida's environment and citizens from the harmful impacts of climate change, the 2008-09 budget includes nearly \$79 million to increase energy efficiency, stimu-

[Continued on page 7](#)

## Employment Opportunities

Please visit the following links to review the latest employment opportunities:

- [FAEP](#)
- [NAEP](#)
- [Northwest Chapter](#)
- [Central Chapter](#)
- [Treasure Coast Chapter](#)

## In This Issue:

- [Florida Forever Legislation](#)
- [How Green is Your Water?](#)
- [County Goes Green](#)
- [Reduce Costs thru Low Impact Development Practices](#)
- [Treasure Coast Outreach for the Great American Cleanup](#)
- [FAEP's Green Movement](#)
- [Florida Water Star Program](#)

July 7, 2008



## FAEP 2007-2008

### Board of Directors

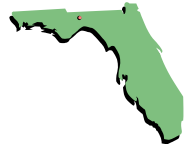
Bruce Hasbrouck—President
Don Deis—Vice President
Amy Wright-Daly—Past President
Kathy Hale—Treasurer
Shannon Ruby Julien—Secretary
Paul Looney—NAEP Representative
Barbara Albrecht, NW Chapter
Debbie Tyson—SW Chapter
Jennifer Thomson—CN Chapter
Mary Lindgren—TC Chapter
Erik Neugaard—SO Chapter
Chad Mathews—NE Chapter
Mike Dentzau—TL Chapter
Wendy Valle Anastasiou—TB Chapter
Mary Gutierrez—At Large
Erik Nuegaard—At Large
Nancy Rodlun—At Large

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

<a href="#">Lean and Green Summit</a>	July 17-18	Boulder, CO
<a href="#">Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference</a>	July 28— August 1	Naples, FL
<a href="#">Florida Local Environmental Resources Agency 2008 Conference</a>	July 30— August 1	Sarasota, FL
<a href="#">Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change</a>	September 15–19	Portland, OR
<a href="#">Creating Solutions Through Collaborative Partnerships</a>	October 11	Providence, RI

## Florida Forever

Barbara Albrecht, Northwest Chapter President



From the Northwest Chapter...

On behalf of the Northwest portion of the state, I'd like to say 'Thank you' for your interest and support of the Florida Forever Program. The Florida Forever program will continue for another ten years with the passage of legislation this Session. The legislation moves the program forward and, in addition to establishing a funding mechanism for working waterfronts and a number of other provisions, the legislation also redirects 5 percent of the 35 percent that water managements districts receive in funding to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) and Florida Communities Trust (FCT). Three-and-one-half percent is directed to DACS (about \$15 million) for rural and family easements, and one- and-one-half percent is directed to FCT for working waterfronts.

Jay Liles may have captured it best in his on-line recent publication;

*All things considered this was a good year for Florida's environment. At the top of our wish list was Florida Forever, the state's premier land conservation program. Early on we made the case for additional funding and an extension of the program for another decade. At the low point of the session we feared we might not see any funding and the successor legislation was loaded with schemes designed to make use of conservation lands for everything but conservation. Legislators played politics with the very machinery that administers the program, moving people, programs and processes as though on a board game with little thought about the ultimate value to be derived from this exercise.*

*In the end, as with most issues of this magnitude, wiser heads prevailed. Egos took a back seat to sound policy and Florida Forever received full funding (a miracle of sorts in this tight budget year). A ten-year successor program was adopted that actually recognizes the need to increase the funding authority so that we may be in a position to save land that will otherwise fall to development. In addition, Everglades bonding authority was extended by ten years and funding of \$50 million was provided to keep restoration efforts moving forward.*

*- Jay Liles, Florida Wildlife Federation Policy Consultant [news@fwfonline.ccsend.com]*

We still have our work cut out for us in the state and greater Southeast US. Twenty years ago we tried to sit at the table with Georgia and urge the leadership to develop a growth management plan which would address water conservation issues. Fast forward to the present, and, our tri-state water war is far from over and pitting unbridled growth of a metropolitan city against the billion dollar seafood industry and a past way-of-life which doesn't fit the fast tempo of today's busy world.

We have more problems with our gluttony and appetite for large non-economical vehicles and a continued lack of public transportation in our cities, counties, and state. Why is it that a 22 year old Honda Civic can still get 50 miles to the gallon, whereas a 2008 Honda Civic only gets between 29 and 36 unless you count the Hybrid model which gets 45 MPG.

On a recent trip to Chile in South America, we marveled at the ease of using public transportation to get around the city of Santiago. A city lined with parks, designed for walking and cycling - put us within ten minutes of the subway, which for under a dollar had us connected to train stations, bus stations, downtown markets, the financial district, and the shopping meccas. For under \$7.50/person we took a bus (Mercedes Bus) with comfortable seats (we are both over 6' tall) and more leg room than afforded on the recent Delta flight, to a city 300 miles north, in under 6 hours. Upon our return to the states, we looked up the Greyhound Bus schedule and learned that a 250 mile trip from Pensacola, FL, to Birmingham, AL, would take anywhere from 10 to 14 hours, and cost \$65/person one way.

We must get on the ball with transportation planning, water conservation, recycling whether it is currently economical or not, utilizing household grey water or reclaimed WWTP water for irrigation, city planning, the preservation and protection of riparian areas, and the incorporation of green belts for air and water quality, and the quality of life for our growing population.

We still have much to do, but for now celebrate the victory of knowing that more sensitive land will be put into conservation thanks to your support.

*-Barbara Albrecht works for The Nature Conservancy and is the Program Manager for the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership as is serving as the current President of the Northwest Chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals*

*There were many state and nationally recognized environmentally designated days last quarter. Thank you to Jennifer Acevedo with the Treasure Coast Chapter for sharing with us what she and other volunteers did to promote our environment. Read all about it on [page 5](#).*

*Please share your stories with us any time, email them to [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org).*

## Florida Beacon

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

real vision  
**Inspiring**  
reality

The better way... the next step to innovation... the small improvement that makes the big difference.



Visualize the future.  
Then call PBS&J.

Offices throughout the US • [pbsj.com](http://pbsj.com) • 800.477.7275

## How 'Green' is Your Water?

Felicia M. Boyd, NEFAEP Member



The St. Johns River and other alternative water sources are currently being considered for water supply, because we are running out of sustainable supplies of groundwater. The Northeast Florida Association of Environmental Professionals (NEFAEP) partnered with the Florida Community College at Jacksonville (FCCJ) to present our Annual Conference: *How 'Green' is Your Water? Water Conservation through Green Building and Living*. The conference was held at the FCCJ Advanced Technology Center on May 8, 2008 in Jacksonville Florida. Stakeholders from industry, government, consulting, grass roots organizations, and the general public met to discuss essential water conservation strategies.

Bruce Doueck from JEA, the local utility, explained the trials and tribulations of supply and demand, and their strategy for providing water and at the same time using their marketing skills to campaign for better use and conservation. Deirdre Irwin from the St. Johns Water Management District introduced Florida Water Star, an incentive program for new builders and those looking to retrofit their homes to save water (and money) indoors, and with waterwise landscaping and efficient irrigation.

With regards to green building, Pierce Jones from University of Florida's *Program for Resource Efficient Communities*, a group that promotes the adoption of best design, construction and management practices in new, master planned residential development, focused on the benefits, both monetary and aesthetic, of incorporating Florida-friendly landscaping into the design and building of green, water conservative homes. David Birkelbach from Elkins Constructors emphasized the cost savings to building with an eye to water conservation. He gave examples of LEED-certified commercial buildings where, with simple measures such as waterless urinals, aerated faucets and waterwise landscaping, they were able to save millions of gallons of water and tens of thousands of dollars per year.

Vince Seibold, from the city of Jacksonville, spoke of the city's plans to enact a new irrigation ordinance and fertilizer ordinance in an effort to promote water conservation. He emphasized the need for education. The education efforts of three organizations, the Watershed Action Volunteers of the St. Johns River Water Management District (Felicia Boyd), the Riverkeeper organization (Danielle Dolan), and the Green Team Project (Sarah Boren), were highlighted.

The conference was held at Florida Community College at Jacksonville's Advanced Technology Center in downtown Jacksonville and was catered by d'Vine cuisine, Inc. Numerous environmental organizations had displays of their company's expertise. Exhibitors and sponsors included:

- Florida Community College at Jacksonville
- Florida Association of Environmental Professionals
- GeoSyntec Consultants
- Golder Associates, Inc.
- Industrial Water Services
- JAXPORT
- Moran Environmental Recovery
- PBS&J
- Rogers Towers
- Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.
- Siemens Water Technologies
- SWS Remediation
- University of North Florida - Environmental Center

Three \$1,000 scholarships were presented, one each to Florida Community College at Jacksonville, University of North Florida, and Jacksonville University.

**Florida Beacon**

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals



## County Goes Green and Is the First to Get the Gold

Nancy Rodlun, FAEP Board Member

In September 2005, Mayor Richard T. Crotty announced that Orange County would register to become a Florida Green Local Government within three years. The County has not only achieved that goal, but it is the first local government in Florida to achieve the green certification at the gold level. Terry Janssen, Co-chair of the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) Green Local Government Committee, presented the award to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Earth Day, April 22, 2008.

The Florida Green Building Coalition's Green Local Government designation recognizes green cities and counties for achievements in outstanding environmental stewardship. To become certified, a municipality must apply and meet a comprehensive list of criteria organized in terms of local governmental agency functions and outlined in the Green Local Government Standard on FGBC's Web site. The standard focuses on improving environmental performance through a number of mediums: energy, water, air, land, and waste; and evaluates environmental practices done in-house, incentives and ordinances that foster green practices and educational activities to improve the environment. Some of Orange County's practices and accomplishments include:

- Meeting many of the criteria regarding fleet management, including the addition of hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles to its fleet, and conducting best management practices to prevent stormwater pollution and recycling waste
- Improving the existing County GIS system by including sustainability indicators, which is readily available to assist with community and environmental planning
- Implementing a green building awards program to recognize green projects in the government and private sector
- Partnering with the Florida Solar Energy Center, and other agencies, to invest in a solar photovoltaic array which will be installed on the roof of the Orange County Convention Center. This project, will be the largest in the southeast, will allow for a substantial energy savings and will become a model for clean energy in the community and the nation
- Being designated a Tree City USA community through the Arbor Day Foundation
- Continuing a land acquisition program, Green PLACE, to purchase and manage environmentally sensitive lands Green PLACE stands for Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection.
- Offering education and outreach to the community, which includes disseminating green products such as reusable cotton bags for shopping, tire pressure gauges to improve fuel efficiently, and low flow showerheads to reduce water usage, as well as a Toilet Replacement Voucher Incentive Program that offers up to \$100 per toilet to replace existing high-flow toilets with ultra-low-flow toilet (ULFT) models

One rewarding part of this process was discovering the numerous practices Orange County was already involved in to conserve natural resources and limit impacts on the environment. Some examples of this are: the process of using methane gas from landfills to provide enough elec-

[Continued on page 9](#)

## Reduce Costs by Using Low Impact Development Practices

Shannon Julien, FAEP Secretary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a new report "Reducing Stormwater Costs through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices," which contains 17 case studies from across North America that show the economic viability of LID practices. Using these practices in construction projects can lower costs while improving environmental results.

"Low impact development can deliver big benefits for the environment and the economy and this report has the numbers to prove it," said Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "It pays to save watersheds, reuse stormwater, and grow sustainably with green infrastructure."

LID practices are innovative stormwater management practices to manage urban stormwater runoff at its source. The goal is to mimic the way water moved through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse runoff close to its source. Some common LID practices include rain gardens, grassed swales, cisterns, rain barrels, permeable pavements and green roofs. LID practices increasingly are used by communities across the country to help protect and restore water quality. The report highlights examples that, in most cases, reduce project costs while improving environmental performance. Total capital savings ranged from 15 to 80 percent, with a few exceptions in which LID project costs were higher than conventional stormwater management costs. As LID practices become more common, it is likely that they will become cheaper to use. For a copy of the report: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07/>.

*Interested in advertising in FAEP's newsletter?*

Visit [faep-fl.org](http://faep-fl.org) for rate information  
or contact Danielle Weitlauf at  
727-565-1985 or [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)

**Florida Beacon**

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals



# FAEP Treasure Chapter Outreach, Great American Cleanup, Martin County Fairgrounds 2008

Jennifer Acevedo, Treasure Coast Member



This year nearly 1,200 volunteers came out on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> to participate in Keep Martin Beautiful's Cleanupalooza as part of the nationwide 2008 Great American Cleanup. Volunteers took part in everything from collecting litter to revitalization and beautification projects around Martin County. FAEP Treasure Coast Chapter members, in honor of the Great American Cleanup, volunteered their time and vision through the organization and creation of a revitalization team, with the goal of improving the Martin County Fairgrounds through native landscaping, and native habitat showcasing. The overall result ended in planting of over 200 native xeric plants, creation of a dune habitat showcase featuring a small scale created dune, coastal plants, and a mural depicting commonly seen marine dwellers.



As part of this event several FAEP member businesses joined together planting native xeric species, and showcasing native south Florida habitats at the Martin County Fairgrounds. Spearheading this effort was Jennifer Acevedo, Treasure Coast FAEP Board Member, and Marissa Krueger, Treasure Coast Chapter FAEP member. Jennifer and Marissa served on the planning committee as organizers and presenters of the concept of environmental enhancement through native plants and habitat showcasing of the Martin County Fairgrounds. Crossroads Environmental Consultants, Inc.

located in Palm City FL, along with Native Lands Management, Vero Beach, FL, Bates Plants, Fort Pierce, FL, and Brenda Lee, local Martin County artist, joined forces to revitalize the Martin County Fairgrounds in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fairgrounds. Organizers and individual participants of this project included: Jennifer Acevedo, Treasure Coast FAEP Board Member, Crossroads Environmental Consultants, Inc., Marissa Krueger, Treasure Coast FAEP member, Crossroads Environmental Consultants, Inc., Eric Haenni, Treasure Coast FAEP member, Crossroads Environmental Consultants, Inc., Tobin Overdorf, Treasure Coast FAEP member, President Crossroads Environmental Consultants, Inc., and Linda Cooke, Crossroads Environmental Consultants, Inc., for their vision, project support, and endless time commitment to the enhancement of the Fairgrounds with an environmental flair, Daniel Shaw, president Native Lands Management for his generous donation of augers, mulch, labor, native landscaping planning, and habitat re creation, Chad Bates of Bates Plants for the donation of over 200 native plants, and Brenda Lee for her creativity and vision of Martin County Coastal Habitats.



The Great American Cleanup occurs each year. The fairground environmental enhancement project is planned to continue for the next five years, with continued focus on improvement through ideas such as native habitat showcasing, showcasing Martin County's agricultural roots and heritage, and community awareness. Please join us next year!

Wa

Ri

W

Ba

My

## Southeast Soil & Environmental Service Inc

(772) 359-0038

**Gregory J. Sawka, CPSS**  
Soil Scientist

Soil & hydrologic investigations – Training  
Wetland delineation - Expert Testimony

gsawka@juno.com

Florida Beacon

## FAEP Newsletter

Published Quarterly by the  
Florida Association of Environmental Professionals

P.O. Box 7416

St. Petersburg, FL 33734

Phone: 727-565-1985

Fax: 727-565-1986

Email: [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)

## *Renew your membership today!*

Contact Danielle Weitlauf to check your status at:

727-565-1985 or [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)

Or visit [faep-fl.org](http://faep-fl.org) to renew online.

## *Interested in advertising in FAEP's newsletter?*

Visit [faep-fl.org](http://faep-fl.org) for rate information

or contact Danielle Weitlauf at

727-565-1985 or [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)



## FAEP's Contribution to the "GREEN" Movement

By Shannon Julien, Environmental Services, Inc., FAEP Secretary

Pick up almost any magazine today and you will find a topic related to the "Green" movement. While this "trend" (as some call it) has been globalized by politicians, famous television and movie stars, new network programming, new cable stations, and the general media, FAEP has always been ingrained in environmental issues, environmental ethics and sustainability. Our organization and our members do their best to establish balanced environmental and economic agendas, which can be difficult at times. We embody the green movement, but it is safe to say that we have been promoting **sustainability** far longer than the current trends, therefore making us a green organization.

With all of the media coverage, the Board thought it important to identify what we have been doing to reduce our impacts on the environment. While many GREEN initiatives and products do come with higher sticker prices, FAEP has realized cost savings with our efforts, while also maintaining a seamless transition for our members. I say this because many of the FAEP changes that have occurred over the last 5 years have not been to "GO GREEN", but rather to improve communication and/or member benefits, to reduce costs, to standardize procedures, and to operate more efficiently and effectively.

FAEP is a green organization by its very nature, but our everyday practices really show that FAEP is conservation oriented and a promoter of sustainability. FAEP has conducted business meetings and intermittent business via teleconference and email. While we have been meeting face to face with more regularity (to promote a unified Board and to initiate needed change), members are carpooling to the meetings or setting meetings for the remainder of the day in the same area to lessen fuel consumption (teleconferencing is still available for those that cannot attend the face to face meetings). We have also gone paperless for the most part. The Beacon Newsletter has changed from a printed, mailed document just last year to an electronic newsletter. Most membership renewals and requests are now processed on-line, most elections are completed via email, member surveys are conducted on-line, and newsletters are now sent digitally. Occasional membership renewal letters are still sent to those not connected to email or that need a paper copy for their payment request. There are also occasional checks that have to be mailed or deposited, but all of this is becoming less frequent, as are our trips to the bank and the post office box. These simple changes have saved us hundreds of dollars in printing and mailing fees each year, time for processing, and Board members fuel. FAEP is promoting all area events in one central location so that members can view and/or attend other chapter meetings/events, view or request postings, review job announcements, view open positions within FAEP, and contact board members. Much of our account tracking and membership tracking is also conducted on-line.

Can you imagine the reduction in the carbon footprint/impact on the environment just from these small changes - reduced chemicals (inks) and paper for printing, reduced fuel consumption to the printer/post office/bank/items to your mailbox, reduced adhesives for stamps, mailing labels and envelopes, reduced waste, and the list goes on. The Board is acting in the best interest of our members and the environment while striving to improve member/chapter relations. We are dedicated to improving our effort and reducing the environmental impacts we may leave behind.

## Visit the new [paperrecycles.org](http://paperrecycles.org) website

Paper recycling has reached a record-high! In 2007 we recovered 56 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S., and are now striving for 60 percent by 2012. Visit the site to see how your paper recycling efforts at home, work, and school are helping your community and the environment.

Also featured on the site are the AF&PA Recycling Award winners; resources to help start or improve your paper recycling program; curriculum materials tied to the national standards; videos; and historical statistics.

[Click here](http://paperrecycles.org) to visit the new site.



### GREEN LIVING TIP #2

**Don't let high fuel costs drive you nuts.** Whether you drive an economy car or an SUV, there are plenty of ways to improve your gas mileage.

- Avoid aggressive driving and observe the speed limit
- Lighten your load by clearing your car of extra weight
- Remove roof racks or carriers that aren't in use
- Keep current with car maintenance (properly inflated tires, clean air filters)

Courtesy of the Tampa Bay Chapter of FAEP.

## From the President's Desk Cont....

late development of renewable sources of energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The \$78.75 million appropriation includes \$5 million for the solar rebate program, \$7 million for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies grant program and \$8 million for bioenergy project grants.

The upcoming budget also includes \$50 million for the Florida Energy Systems Consortium, a collection of Florida's internationally recognized state universities focusing on research and development of innovative energy technologies and strategies, as well as \$8.5 million to Florida Gulf Coast University for its solar field installation. Finally, DEP is provided \$250,000 to initiate rule-making for a cap and trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Restoring Florida's Waterways and Enhancing Water Supply, \$264.4 million** - To protect Florida's precious water resources, it is important to develop alternative means of meeting public demand for water as well as restore the state's waterbodies. Since 1999, Florida has invested more than \$3.1 billion to upgrade and improve water and wastewater facilities and clean up stormwater pollution, funding about 1,800 projects statewide. The 2008-09 budget includes \$7.7 million for alternative water supply projects as well as almost \$203 million for grants and loans to upgrade and improve water systems and stormwater projects.

Also included is \$15 million for the Water Restoration Action Plan to restore, protect, and sustain water resources in the Southern Water Use Caution Area. The plan includes the development of large-scale surface water reservoirs on both the Upper Kissimmee and Lower Peace Rivers to slow saltwater intrusion and support the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) effort, which works to replace agricultural use of fresh groundwater with on-site surface water resources.

**Conserving Florida's Land, \$300 million** - Established in 1999, the 10-year, \$3 billion *Florida Forever* program is the largest land-buying initiative in the nation, conserving environmentally sensitive land, restoring water resources and preserving important cultural and historical sites. More than two million acres throughout the state have been placed in public ownership under *Florida Forever* and its predecessor program, Preservation 2000 (P2000). In addition to funding land acquisition next fiscal year, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 542, extending the successful land acquisition program for another decade while also improving land management activities, increasing monitoring and reporting requirements and encouraging and accelerating public recreational access on state-owned lands.

**South Florida Ecosystem Restoration, \$50 million** - Continuing the state's commitment to restoring the South Florida ecosystem, the 2008-09 budget includes \$50 million to fund Everglades and Lake Okeechobee restoration activities as well as protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries. Restoring the ecosystem will protect water quality in the Lake, rivers and estuaries of the system as well as return a natural flow of water across America's Everglades.

**Enhancing Recreation and Public Access, \$55.9 million** - DEP's state park system is one of the largest in the country, with 161 parks spanning 700,000 acres and 100 miles of sandy white beach. Last year, Florida's expansive park system welcomed a record-breaking 19.5 million visitors and provided \$936 million to local communities, generating more than 18,700 jobs. The 2008-09 budget provides \$34 million to develop and enhance our state parks, aquatic preserves and greenways and trails. In addition, \$21.9 million will assist local governments in protecting the state's beaches, the first line of defense against storm surges from hurricanes and other catastrophic storms.

For more information, visit [www.myflorida.com](http://www.myflorida.com) or [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us).

## Quick Legislative News

### [New Total Maximum Daily Loads Released](#)

Throughout the United States, there are thousands of waters listed for impairments from stormwater sources. The most common pollutants coming from stormwater sources include sediment, pathogens, nutrients, and metals. These impaired waters need a [Total Maximum Daily Load](#) (TMDL), which identifies the total pollutant loading that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and specifies a pollutant allocation to specific point and nonpoint sources. The TMDL is implemented via the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permitting system. States and EPA regions have used a variety of methods to develop stormwater-source TMDLs during the past decade. With the expansion of NPDES stormwater regulations to smaller municipalities and smaller construction activities, there has been increasing demand for more detailed quantification of stormwater allocations in TMDLs that are more useful for implementation in NPDES permits. EPA recently updated its TMDL resources [at this link](#).

### [DEP Applauds Florida Forever Legislation](#)

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Michael W. Sole applauded Senate Bill 542, legislation signed into law June 30th by Governor Crist relating to land acquisition and management. For the full story visit [DEP's website](#).

## Southeast Drought and Florida Water Star

Submitted by Environmental Services, Inc.

Here are a few quick facts that provide stark testimony to the width and depth of the current drought in the southeast:

- The entire region, i.e. Virginia to Alabama and Tennessee to Florida are experiencing levels of drought from “Abnormally Dry” to “Extreme”. Portions of five states are currently in the extreme range ([www.drought.unl.edu](http://www.drought.unl.edu)).
- A majority of counties in Georgia currently prohibit car washing either by private citizens or even church groups for fundraising ([www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net](http://www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net)).
- WRAL news in Raleigh, NC, reported in January that the ongoing drought could force nuclear power plants to shut down across the southeast due to a lack of water from lakes and rivers that are used in the cooling process.

The effects of drought are magnified in an area of high population density and continued population growth. One regulatory agency has recently responded to the increasing threat of dwindling water supplies with the development of a program that recognizes and awards homebuilders for efficient consumption of water utilities.

Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> is a program developed and sponsored by St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) currently aimed at new home construction with an emphasis on the conservation of water. A three-pronged approach towards reducing the use of an already limited water resources focuses on landscape, irrigation, and indoor water use. Once a home has passed an inspection, the homeowner/builder is awarded a plaque signifying the accomplishment.

Presently, other districts, utility companies, and water districts are interested and have made a move towards sponsoring the program. In addition, there are signed agreements and ongoing conversations with several builders within the southeast to work with the program and a number of homes have already been certified as Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> Homes.

The following excerpt was taken from the current technical program document and will also give you an idea of what the program entails and can provide the homeowner:

*“Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> is a point-based, new home certification program for water efficiency. In order to stay ahead in Florida’s competitive home construction market, savvy homebuilders know they need an edge. By following the program’s simple guidelines, builders can boast a certification with obvious and unique benefits to their clients.”*

A Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> certification assures home buyers that they are making a sound investment by purchasing a water-efficient home that will save them money and maintenance time. As the green-building movement grows, it allows program Builders to stay ahead of customers’ expectations by offering:

- Lower utility bills – A Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> certified home could save more than \$2,000 on water bills every year
  - Less maintenance – Inefficient irrigation systems, appliances and pipes require more frequent repair, and can cause expensive mold and moisture damage
  - Increased home value – Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> landscapes are lush and healthy, substantially adding to curb appeal and decreasing energy and water utility expenses
- Peace of mind – Quality assurance through leak detection systems, and efficient irrigation systems and appliances can prevent a potential crisis, eliminating stress and making home ownership much more comfortable.”

There are several accredited program certifiers available throughout the SJRWMD region who can assist homeowners, builders, planners, etc. in obtaining Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> certification or in achieving a higher level of water conservation in residential, commercial, or agricultural land uses. Look for this program to be expanded to other Districts in the future.

### ***Renew your membership today!***

Contact Danielle Weitlauf to check your status at:

727-565-1985 or [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)

Or visit [faep-fl.org](http://faep-fl.org) to renew online.

### ***Interested in advertising in FAEP’s newsletter?***

Visit [faep-fl.org](http://faep-fl.org) for rate information

or contact Danielle Weitlauf at

727-565-1985 or [info@faep-fl.org](mailto:info@faep-fl.org)

**Florida Beacon**

Published Quarterly by the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals



## Orange County Goes Green continued.....

tricity for more than 10,000 homes, a fleet that includes hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicles with plans to incorporate more, a mass transit bus system, a mobile irrigation lab, financial incentives to assist residents in making home improvements and landscape changes which conserve and protect local water resources, a progressive urban tree program, an active Florida Yards and Neighborhood program, an established urban growth boundary, and an environmentally sensitive lands acquisition program. Identifying these existing programs was encouraging and helped to inspire continued improvements and further initiatives to reach the green local government standard.



What started out as pledge in 2005 to reduce petroleum fuel consumption in the County fleet by 20% over five years, reduce electricity use in County owned buildings, and become a certified Florida Green Local Government within three years, transformed into an initiative to join the fight to stop climate change.

On July 19, 2007, the Orange County BCC signed a resolution to join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, run by the premiere organization assisting local governments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, or ICLEI. As a participant, Orange County pledges to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change.



On September 25, 2007, Mayor Crotty hosted the *Orange to Green Climate Change Summit* to explore the issues, opportunities and actions that must be taken by county government, municipalities, businesses and citizens of Orange County. One of the highlights of the summit was a visit from Governor Charlie Crist. The summit included expert panelists speaking on various topics including the Challenges of Global Warming, Transportation and Alternative Fuels, Green Building and Recycling, Energy Use - Business and Citizen Action, and Regional Actions. In addition, Roger Ballentine gave a keynote speech titled "Dead dogs, yellow lines and solutions to the climate crisis: finding the "radical center" in the climate debate."

Over 850 individuals registered for the summit. Attendees included citizens, local and tourist based businesses, state agencies, scholastic community, developers, and municipalities. Sponsors provided reusable shopping bags, compact fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, toilet tummys, and conservation information to every attendee. Exhibitors were on hand to showcase their green products and services.

To declare the summit as "carbon neutral," the county planted over 90 trees to mitigate for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions resulting from staging and travel to the event. The luncheon was prepared by using only local area resources, further reducing GHG impacts.

The Summit concluded with the Mayor Crotty's presentation of the County's Climate Change Plan, which can be viewed on the county's website ([www.ocfl.net](http://www.ocfl.net)). The goals of the plan include adopting policies that will build on current practices such as implementing green procurement, supporting GHG mitigation, continued support and enhancement of recycling, energy through methane recovery and biomass, implementing green building practices, and formalizing "green" partnership agreements,

In the follow up to the goals and challenges set forth by Mayor Crotty and the BCC, the County has instituted the following "Orange to Green" initiatives:

- Installing solar water panels on selected facilities in order to produce their own hot water. For example, Great Oaks Village now uses a solar water system. This continues to be evaluated and expanded.
- Partnering with local utility companies and instituting a Solar Water Heater System Incentive Program for residential and commercial buildings, Orange County launched a \$200 incentive in addition to existing incentives ([www.ocfl.net/epd](http://www.ocfl.net/epd)).
- Right-sizing the County fleet without sacrificing job performance, thereby continuing to reduce fuel consumption and dependence on petroleum
- Ensuring new building facilities meet LEED standards. Currently there are four buildings planned that will meet the standard.
- Installation of a new E85 fueling station at the County's main fueling facility is almost complete.
- Green to \$Green\$ program which promotes and provides assistance to green businesses
- An enhanced recycling program within County operations
- The BCC has directed staff to evaluate and strengthen the Tree Protection and Removal Ordinance.

Orange to Green continues to be the theme for the County, encouraging employees and residents to join in efforts to reduce negative environmental impacts and to assist in reducing the County's carbon footprint. Recently, the Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) launched a campaign allowing for County employees to share green ideas, give testimonies, and ask questions via a designated e-mail address. This was designed to solicit and inspire individual and group efforts at home and in the office. E-mails and responses will be posted on the County's Intranet site.

As demand for sustainable communities and clean renewable energies continues to grow, Orange County will meet this demand, resulting in a competitive economic advantage. Mayor Crotty and the BCC challenge and encourage other Florida governments to join forces and bring synergy to this critically important task of fighting Climate Change, as well as enhancing self-sufficiency by conserving natural resources and ensuring a healthier environment through the reduction of pollutants.

For more information on the Florida Green Building Coalition and green certification programs visit: [www.floridagreenbuilding.org](http://www.floridagreenbuilding.org). To learn more about what Orange County is doing to create a green county, slow global warming, and what you can do to help, visit [www.ocfl.net/orangetogreen](http://www.ocfl.net/orangetogreen).