

Climate, Energy and Sustainability Update

Climate Change Task Force

February 28, 2019

Purpose. This update is being provided in place of a presentation at the meeting to allow additional time for other scheduled meeting items.

Dania Beach Economic Resiliency Study. The first of its kind micro-scale economic study analyzing the future implications of adaptation along the coastal business corridor in Dania Beach has yielded a series of recommendations for fostering economic resiliency. The study included modeling of the potential impacts of future coastal flooding and benefits of adaptation on property and asset values, the tax base, and the labor pool by local business sector. Recommendations focused on minimizing business closures during adaptation construction by considering long term risk, investing in regional strategies to decrease interruptions, providing vulnerability data to businesses and developing business continuity plans. Results will be presented at a future Climate Change Task Force meeting.

Solar Co-op 2019. In 2019, Broward County will launch its third solar co-op initiative to assist residents in realizing cost savings by bulk-purchasing solar installations. The co-op will launch with a series of public educational workshops and promotions in the spring. Experienced solar contractors will be selected through a competitive bid process. Technical assistance and customer service will be provided to members throughout the process.

PACE. In the third quarter of 2018, there were 2,735 applications submitted with a rate of approval at 79%, the highest rate of approval to date. Since program inception, 7,563 projects have been completed. Over 4.4 megawatts of solar has been installed. The program now has seven PACE providers. The County is pursuing an update to strengthen the consumer protection provision ordinance.

Advancement of Seawall Height Policy. On November 13, 2018, the Broward County Commission approved the initiation of a land use plan amendment to establish a seawall and top-of-bank elevation for tidally-influenced waterways, in accordance with sea level rise predicted through 2070. The regional resilience standard is proposed to require a minimum elevation of 4 feet NAVD88 by 2035 and 5 feet NAVD88 by 2050 for seawalls and shorelines. Municipalities may request presentations from the County to support their outreach in the Spring by contacting resilience@broward.org.

Advancement of 100-Year Community Flood Map. On November 13, 2018, the Broward County Commission approved interlocal agreements for cost-share funding of the 100-year flood elevation map and modeling project between the County and the City of Coconut Creek, the City of Dania Beach, the City of Fort Lauderdale, the City of Hallandale Beach, the City of Oakland Park, the City of Pompano Beach, the City of Hollywood, the City of Wilton Manors, the Town of Hillsboro Beach and the South Broward Drainage District. The project is anticipated to provide the next map in the Future Conditions Map Series in the County Code of Ordinances.

STAR. Broward County has submitted all data for recertification under the STAR Community Rating System which includes data from over 30 community partners and the municipalities in eight goal areas focused on the economy, environment and community, and are awaiting verification and score. In February 2014, Broward County was Recognized for National Excellence in Sustainability when we became the first county government in the United States to achieve a 4-STAR Certified Community Rating. In 2019, Broward plans to maintain or improve its rating and use the achievement as an opportunity to further promote sustainability across sectors.

Sustainability Stewards of Broward. On February 27, Broward County and the City of Miramar co-hosted a workshop on “Leadership by Faith-based Organizations in Environmental Stewardship and Community Resilience”. Leaders from across South Florida discussed how faith-based organizations are contributing to a more just and sustainable community. From education and advocacy to action, investment, and systems change, the session brought a variety of voices from across the region to showcase how FB orgs and local governments are working together to address some of our community’s most pressing issues. Topics included: climate change, disaster recovery, food access and community gardens, energy and water conservation, environmental justice and dismantling institutional racism. The goal of the SSB is to share resources and create new partnerships.

Night Friendly Lighting. On February 29, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a new Outdoor Lighting section in the Broward County Code of Ordinances. The language establishes outdoor lighting standards for new outdoor lights that will minimize glare, light trespass, and skyglow in our unincorporated areas. The intent is to facilitate the conservation of energy; improve nighttime safety and security; protect the privacy of residents; minimize disturbance of wildlife; and enhance the ambiance of the community. This follows the incorporation of Light Pollution in the Green Infrastructure Map Series, Broward County Climate Action Plan, Broward County Land Use Plan, and a unanimous recommendation by the Climate Change Task Force. The code is available at http://cragenda.broward.org/docs/2019/CCCM/20190129_580/28310_Exhibit%201%20-%20PH%20Chapter%2039%20Lighting%20Ordinance.pdf

Energy Action Awareness Month, October 2018. The Division partnered with task force member Sasha Forbes and the Natural Resources Defense Council to host an interactive exhibit at Government Center East with educational materials and free LED bulbs. County Commissioners supported the event on social media and participated in the Bulb Swap Social Media campaign to encourage LED upgrades. Energy sense tips and Property Assessed Clean Energy information was presented and promoted throughout the county.

King Tide Toolkit. Citizen scientists organized for the second year to measure and report king tide flood locations and depths through the online map application. Photos from multiple years are available at <http://www.broward.org/waterresources/WaterManagement/floodconditions/Pages/King-Tides.aspx>

Tree Canopy. Broward County has updated its tree canopy coverage survey for the urban area. To maintain air quality, counteract rising temperatures, store carbon emissions and ensure adequate habitat, the County has set a goal of maintaining 40% canopy coverage. The 2018 survey found

coverage to be 20%, a 1% increase from the previous 2012 survey. While a greater increase was desired, the canopy was affected by losses and recovery efforts after major storms, changes to landscape codes and redevelopment.

Municipal Climate Action Plans. Several municipalities are moving forward with the adoption of their own climate action plans aligned with the county and regional plans further supporting the community on its path to resilience. The Draft Oakland Park/Wilton Manors Joint Climate Action Plan was presented to the Wilton Manors City Commission on July 24, 2018 and to the Oakland Park City Commission on August 1, 2018. The City of Sunrise recently developed its Sustainability Action Plan. Efforts to align municipal resilience projects with the Local Mitigation Strategy are also underway.