**Sustainability Stewards of Broward**

*Workshop Series Summary*

On November 29, 2011, a group of 50 local sustainability leaders came together to discuss program goals and challenges, share success stories, and discover opportunities for collaboration. Participants represented a diverse base of community knowledge and ranged in fields of expertise from energy managers, water engineers, city and transportation planners, to elected officials, urban farmers, green builders, architects, public school and university administrators and others. The session was also geographically diverse. While originally planned for the 31 municipalities in Broward County, the workshop had significant attendance by sustainability leaders from Palm Beach and Miami Dade Counties as well.

The group, called **Sustainability Stewards of Broward***,* emerged out of an effort undertaken by the County this spring to collect and celebrate the many successful initiatives focused on sustainability throughout the Broward community. The Broward Community-wide Energy & Sustainability Survey was a collaborative process, involving staff from all of the County’s 31 municipalities. A report summarizing the outcomes of the survey, titled *Sustainability in Broward County Florida: Local Government in Action*, is available on the County’s Energy & Sustainability Program website at: <http://www.broward.org/NATURALRESOURCES/CLIMATECHANGE/Pages/CityResources.aspx>

The November 29 event, held at West Regional Library, was the first of a series of workshops planned to take place over the next 6-8 months. Workshop participants had the opportunity to get to know one another face-to-face, were presented with the results of the 2011 survey, and engaged in discussions regarding the group’s goals and objectives. Future workshops will focus on critical topics, as identified by the group, such as energy generation and conservation, sustainable funding models, and adaptation planning for climate change.

The group is also committed to working together to create an online clearinghouse of local sustainability initiatives over the next 6 months. The tool, which will be housed on the County’s GoGreen site, will be a useful resource for Broward professionals and citizens interested increasing the efficacy of their green programs. Best practices in a variety of fields related to sustainability will be highlighted on the site, especially focusing on locally based programs and solutions. The clearinghouse will also include information on relevant organizations and reports from around the globe, upcoming events, and potential funding sources.

For more information about the Sustainability Stewards of Broward group, contact Jill Horwitz, Natural Resource Specialist I, for Broward County’s Energy and Sustainability Program at 954-519-1287 or jhorwitz@broward.org.