

VI. BROWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS – PROPOSED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION ACTIONS



Proposed Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Actions

Broward County is committed to active participation in efforts to further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Report focuses on a range of strategies that give priority to emission reductions compatible with economic growth.

While there are currently a number of diverse County programs designed to reduce GHG emissions, a more comprehensive program is needed to achieve the targeted emission reductions. By expanding upon previous programs, looking to advanced technology, and conserving resources, the County will continue its efforts to effect change in the most cost effective way possible.

Proposals for Consideration in Fiscal Year 2009

County Vehicle Fleet Fuel Efficiency

By September 30, 2009, the Fleet Services Division and the Energy and Building Automation Section in coordination with the Task Force will establish a process and criteria to annually review the fuel efficiency of the County vehicle fleet, for the purpose of developing a proposal to purchase fuel-efficient replacement vehicles, contributing to the further reduction of GHG emissions within County operations.

Bus Anti-Idling Program

The U.S. EPA has estimated that 1/2 to 1 gallon of fuel per hour is used while heavy-duty trucks and buses are idling. The Transportation Department will review operations while buses are being serviced in an attempt to reduce idling. The Transportation Department anticipates that there will be no new costs associated with this program.

Projects for Future Study

Preliminary ideas for future projects identified by the Task Force for further study are listed below. These items will be prioritized by the Task Force and studied during the next year to determine feasibility and GHG emission reduction possibilities.

Energy Reduction Ideas

- Investigate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for all new construction;
- Investigate software that shuts off computer monitors overnight;
- Reinforce the "turn off the lights" policy to employees and to cleaning crews; and
- Investigate expanding buildings/office occupancy sensors.
- Coordinate with Consumer Affairs (CA) to require GHG reduction measures from taxis as part of CA's issuance of taxi licenses.

Water/Sewer Reduction Ideas

- Investigate establishing a rebate program for Water and Wastewater Services customers who install low-flow/high-efficiency toilets, sink faucets, or shower heads and other conservation-related activities which encourage potable water conservation.

Waste Reduction Ideas

- The Waste and Recycling Services Division in, coordination with the Task Force, will investigate the cost-benefit associated with implementing the U.S. EPA WasteWise Program. The WasteWise is a free, voluntary program through which organizations and institutions commit to reduce solid waste generation by practicing waste reduction, reuse and recycling – practices that typically result in lower overall solid waste management costs. In some instances, Broward County has established many of the programs traditionally associated with WasteWise. However, the emergence of GHG emission reduction plans warrant that certain WasteWise concepts become embedded into our future activities.
- Investigate implementation of a Green Waste program for mulching yard waste debris, tree trimmings and foliage;
- Ensure that smaller facilities are included in recycling programs; and
- Investigate placement of recycling receptacles for cans/bottles in all County facilities.

Outreach/Education Ideas

- Share information with municipalities and the Broward County League of Cities to help them implement their own Climate Change Action Plans;
- Host regular workshops with County and municipalities to discuss topics related to climate change such as smart growth, transportation, recycling, energy, etc.;
- Become certified as a Florida Green Local Government by the Florida Green Building Coalition. Share success stories to encourage other municipalities and counties to implement similar programs;
- Distribute periodic press releases on green topics to raise awareness;
- Develop a fluorescent bulb pledge for Broward County employees to replace non-energy efficient bulbs and to raise awareness of energy conservation at home;
- Share environmental information with employees in County's Sun E-news or County Line and encourage employees to have an environmental (waste and energy) audit done on their homes;
- Develop educational programs in energy management, GHG reductions, and general environmental issues and incorporate these programs into new employee orientation;
- Promote education and awareness of sustainable building to the public, and publicize incentives for development of energy efficient residential and commercial projects in and around Broward County;
- Develop a public and employee education and awareness campaign to limit idling of automobiles, buses and trucks and promote bicycling as a transportation option through expanded advertising and events;
- Develop inter-agency competition around recycling, paper reduction, green purchasing, etc.; and
- Explore marketing the benefits of GHG emission reductions to transit riders.

Green Procurement Ideas

- Research/publish list of commodities available for purchase with recycled content;
- Track purchasing of recycled projects; and
- Negotiate energy savings or recycling benchmarks into procurement agreements.

Sustainability Ideas

- Investigate tree canopy and landscaping enhancements at parks. This might include recruiting volunteers to plant smaller trees and installing greenway edges to park properties.