



## ***Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications Subcommittee***

### ***Initial recommendations for consideration by the Broward County Climate Change Task Force***

**September 17, 2009**

The Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications Subcommittee is pleased to offer its initial recommendations to the Task Force. These recommendations support implementation of the Charter of Broward County and Board of County Commissioners' policies, and also involve County regulatory, planning, incentives, funding or educational programs.

#### **FOCAL AREAS**

Collect and share information on climate change related to

1. Local, regional, state and federal legislation, policies, programs, and funding initiatives that support mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
2. Existing and proposed plans, practices, projects, prototypes and technologies that provide guidance in mitigation and adaptation strategies; and
3. Scientific information and research, including modeling efforts.

Develop recommendations on climate change designed to

4. Educate the public and private sectors and other governmental and non-governmental entities on attendant challenges and opportunities, including opportunities for collaboration on mitigation and adaptation strategies;
5. Establish a collaborative clearinghouse to disseminate general and technical information, including best management practices, "sustainable" technologies, and local, regional, state, federal legislation, programs and initiatives; and
6. Coordinate policy development and implementation among local, regional, state governmental entities and other partners in a collaborative effort to influence legislation, leverage funding opportunities, and facilitate updates to comprehensive plans and zoning codes.

## **County authority, policies and planning responsibilities related to energy/climate change:**

1. Broward County Charter: Article I of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, Section 1.04(P), **Environmental Policy Statement** and CRC Resolution No. 2008-008 detailing Broward County Government's duty to enact policies which protect **citizens' rights to a sustainable environment** while encouraging the stewardship of natural resources (approved Nov. 4, 2008)
2. Article VIII of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, **Land Use Planning**

Existing Board adopted Climate Change policies:

1. Support for legislation including cap-and-trade strategy, Renewable Electricity Standards, GHG emissions targets to reduce emissions 83% by 2050 and support for adaptation funding for vulnerable areas (Reso. 2009-437)
2. Adopted Cool Counties Initiative committing to reduce GHG emissions associated with government operations and pledging to work with all levels of government to reduce countywide GHG emissions to 80% below current levels by 2050. (Reso. 2008-879)

## ***Initial Recommendations of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Communications Subcommittee***

### **ENHANCE COLLABORATION**

**Goal #1: Create collaborative intergovernmental practices and mechanisms in Broward County that serve as a tool for the County, municipalities and other public and private entities to reduce countywide GHG emissions to 80% below current levels by 2050 by coordinating strategies, programs, and other sustainable initiatives that mitigate the causes and adapt to the consequences of climate change, with special emphasis on intergovernmental coordination of adaptation activities.**

**1.1** - Collaborate with municipalities, the Broward League of Cities, neighboring counties and other regional public and private entities to assist in the coordination, development, and implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

**1.2** – Provide guidance to help municipalities in climate/green initiatives using existing web resources and greenhouse gas inventory.

**1.3** - Collaborate with the League of Cities and municipalities, to jointly develop, assess, and recommend a suite of planning tools and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for local governments.

**1.4** - Encourage local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by working with partners throughout the region to establish action targets, reach agreement on one or more standardized methodologies for emissions measurement and reporting (e.g., the ICLEI method) and encourage regional collaborations.

**1.5** – Encourage local governments to identify a point of contact who will serve as an agency liaison on energy efficiency and sustainability activities, including green advisory boards, and sustainable activities of all departments.

**1.6** - Collaborate with neighboring counties to develop joint legislative policies to advocate for increased state and federal funding for mitigation and adaptation projects and planning efforts in South Florida and develop a strategy to secure state and federal funding to meet strategic needs in South Florida.

**1.7** - Engage the support of federal agencies, such as NOAA, USGS, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Department of Interior, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), that can provide technological and logistical support and work with state, county, and local planning bodies to develop regional scenarios of climate change and analyze potential changes in vulnerability.

**1.8** - Collaborate with educational institutions, foundations, and other entities, to provide research and educational opportunities, and undertake tool and strategy development to support regional efforts in climate change analysis, planning, and response. Develop and integrate regional climate change models that illustrate future sea level rise and storm event scenarios, including the impacts to water supply, drainage and natural systems.

**1.9** - Work together with experts in climate change adaptation to develop needed skills in applying adaptation concepts to planning efforts.

**1.10** – Establish a County Office of Sustainability to oversee the implementation of County energy and climate change policies, initiatives, and sustainability programs, provide assistance in the coordination of local sustainability programs, and provide countywide coordination to local governments to develop climate mitigation and adaptation plans and implementation strategies, and serve as a liaison and support for multi-county climate change strategies and agencies in which Broward County participates

**1.11** – Support the development of a Regional Collaborative Climate Action Plan through the convening of a Climate Team with other local and regional entities to include participation of the regional climate change task forces, which can be shared with other communities vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise, storm events, and related climate change pressures, and can be utilized as a tool for influencing state and federal policies and justification for appropriations related to climate change adaptation.

**1.12** - Support the continuation of the Broward countywide Climate Change Task Force or its successor entity to assist and advise elected officials in the decision making process, to be comprised of County and municipal elected officials, scientists knowledgeable in the field of climate change, representatives of local Green Advisory Boards, regional transportation and planning authorities and other knowledgeable individuals and guided by a staff liaison or sustainability coordinator.

**1.13** – Continue support for a Broward Government Operations Work Group to address baseline and carbon footprint; educate employees; identify sources for future grants and provide/advise/encourage sustainability actions and best management practices and energy efficiency for all Broward County government operations.

**1.14** – Continue to demonstrate leadership in advocacy for climate change issues and legislation to the National Association of Counties, Florida Association of Counties and the Florida League of Cities, and in Washington DC and Tallahassee. Support proactive environmental and climate change public policies and standards and raise the awareness at State and Federal levels on the vulnerability of South Florida and the need for adaptation funding to meet those needs.

**1.15** – Consider intergovernmental coordination approaches that promote the reduction of GHG emissions, for example, the development of collaborative strategies support alternatives to automobile travel, including transit.

## **UNDERTAKE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

**Goal #2- Provide broad community outreach and education about climate change actions to include mitigation and adaptation strategies and the expected cost of inaction.**

**2.1** - Utilize and enhance existing Broward County communication outlets to focus outreach and education on the affects of climate change, local mitigation practices and potential adaptation strategies.

**2.2** - Participate in a regional campaign to influence and coordinate a major public outreach and education campaign using high profile media and other appropriate outlets, to raise general awareness of climate change in South Florida, with special attention to making the connections between mitigation and adaptations and policy changes. This comprehensive effort will involve collaboration with neighboring counties and their respective climate change task forces, local governments within Broward County, regional and state agencies as well as federal partners.

**2.3** - Create opportunities for government and non-governmental agencies, to include Florida’s policy makers, research institutions, foundations, non-governmental organizations, water boards, and state agencies, to work together with experts in climate change adaptation to develop needed skills in applying adaptation concepts to their policy and planning efforts.

## **ENHANCE PLANNING**

**Goal # 3: Ensure that Broward County and local government comprehensive plans including the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Long Range Transportation Plan, are updated to provide for a sustainable environment and to reflect the best available data and strategies for adapting to future climate change impacts.**

**3.1** – Update the Broward County Land Use Plan and associated County planning tools to ensure consistency with and further Article I of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, Section 1.04 (P), Environmental Statement detailing Broward County Government’s duty to enact policies which protect citizens’ rights to a sustainable environment while encouraging a stewardship of natural resources, as approved by the voters on Nov. 4, 2008.

**3.2** - Update the Broward County comprehensive plan to include strategies to address the impacts of climate change and support local government efforts to update their comprehensive plans.

**3.3** - Ensure that all relevant elements of the Broward County are updated to reflect the best available data and strategies for adapting to future climate change impacts and support efforts of local governments to do the same.

**3.4** - Review the Broward County Comprehensive Plan to determine whether there are any amendments that could make coastal areas, especially coastal high hazard areas, more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise. Support comparable efforts for local governments to do the same.

**3.5** - Support linking the broad range of local and state infrastructure investments to improved and integrated transportation and land uses that encourage a reduction in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), improved energy efficiency, affordable housing proximate to urban work centers, and progress toward other sustainability and quality of life measures.

#### **ACTIONS RELATED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES**

**Goal # 4: Support the efforts of regional, state and federal agencies to reflect the best available data and strategies for adapting to future climate change impacts.**

**4.1** - Support the inclusion of adaptation measures that address impacts from climate change in future updates of the South Florida Water Management District's Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan and other regional water management activities.

**4.2** - Work with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and other agencies to incorporate sea level rise and increasing storm surge impacts into its efforts to remap potential hazard areas in coastal zones. Revised hazard area designations should better reflect the risks to communities associated with climate change and allow reevaluation of suitability for development in these areas.

**4.3** – Support Regional Planning Councils, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Florida Department of Transportation, the South Florida Water Management District and other regional planning entities in their efforts to develop and coordinate regional tools and planning documents which integrate regional climate change mitigation and adaptation goals into their planning processes.

**4.4** - Support the efforts of Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Community Affairs, and the state's Regional Planning Councils to jointly develop, assess, and recommend a suite of planning tools and climate change adaptation strategies for local governments so they can maximize opportunities to protect the beach and dune systems, coastal wetlands, and other coastal resources in an era of rising seas.