



**BROWARD**  
COUNTY  
FLORIDA

**BROWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**REPORT**

May 30, 2008

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Executive Summary

May 30, 2008

*We are a community that values a vibrant, healthy environment with substantial open space, equally distributed throughout the County. Our citizens enjoy pristine water bodies and clean air, with County standards that are the strictest in the state. All of our cities are our partners and have adopted best management models for sustainability, stewardship, landscape maintenance, and green building. County divisional practices and codes reflect and further the Board's policies and vision.*

Commission Vision: A Pristine, Healthy Environment

The Issue: Climate change (also known as global warming) has emerged as a phenomenon of critical concern worldwide. In response to well substantiated and compelling scientific evidence supporting the validity and urgency of climate change and the public's desire for action, a political environment has been created for local, state, and federal lawmakers to press for real changes in public policy related to energy consumption/climate change. Broward County, the Florida Legislature, the U.S. Congress, and governments globally are engaged in the development of initiatives to reduce the impacts of climate change. In May of 2008 the Florida Legislature passed landmark energy/climate change legislation (HB 7135) that, if approved by the Governor, will put Florida in the forefront of climate change initiatives.

The Resolution: On June 12, 2007, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution 2007-391 to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Broward County and to support the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. By promulgating this resolution, Broward County committed to strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing GHG emission levels to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012, committed to urge the federal and state government to enact policies and programs to meet the Kyoto Protocol target of GHG reductions at national and state levels, and committed to encourage city and town governments within Broward County to sign on to the Agreement. This resolution establishes the Board's commitment to climate change protection and creates a framework to guide the planning and implementation of related measures.

Consistent with the commitments under this resolution, the first Broward County action to carry out the mandate of the resolution was to develop a Broward County Government Operations Climate Change Report (Report).

In efforts to reduce energy consumption from electrical and fossil fuel use, and increase the efficiency of its operations, Broward County has already taken many early voluntary GHG reduction actions and implemented various energy savings programs over the past several years. As a positive consequence of these actions, the County has already started the move toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with established climate change efforts.

The Task Force: Broward County convened a Climate Change Inter-agency Task Force (Task Force) with the objective of preparing a climate change report and recommendations for future actions. Due to the wide scope of issues associated with government operations GHG emission reductions, multiple County departments are represented in the Task Force. Diverse issues which need to be addressed include, but are not limited to, energy efficiency and conservation, transportation, utilities, air quality, resource recovery, recycling, protection of green spaces, water resource management, building and construction standards, alternative energy and fuels, sustainable development, and education and outreach.

**The Goal:** The Task Force selected a goal of reducing GHG emissions to 7% below 1997 levels, by 2015. The Task Force made this decision based on operational data available to calculate a base year emissions inventory for County operations.

**The Government Operations Report:** The purpose of the Report is to:

- Review potential climate change related impacts;
- Establish a numerical GHG emissions reduction goal;
- Identify a baseline year and calculate the associated GHG emissions inventory;
- Quantify and credit early voluntary actions already implemented towards the reduction target; and
- Recommend GHG emission reduction strategies for future consideration.

**Broward County Government Operations GHG Emissions Analysis:** The GHG emissions inventory indicates the following (see Figures A and B):

- In 1997, Broward County Government Operations generated 245,735 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub> emissions.<sup>1</sup> The largest source of emissions is Buildings Operations and Maintenance, representing 43% of total eCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, followed by Water/Sewage Treatment, 19%, and Vehicle Fleet Operation, 17%.
- If Broward County took no action to reduce GHG emissions from the 1997 level, based solely on county government operations growth between 1997 and 2015, by 2015 Broward County operations will produce 342,384 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.
- To meet the 2015 target of 228,534 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub>, Broward County operations must reduce a total of 113,850 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Since 1997, Broward County implemented measures that resulted in a 62,491 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions. The most significant reductions were achieved in Vehicle Fleet Operations, Buildings Operation and Maintenance, and Waste.
- To meet the reduction goal by 2015 Broward County needs to identify and implement actions to eliminate 51,359 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub> over the next seven years to meet the established target.

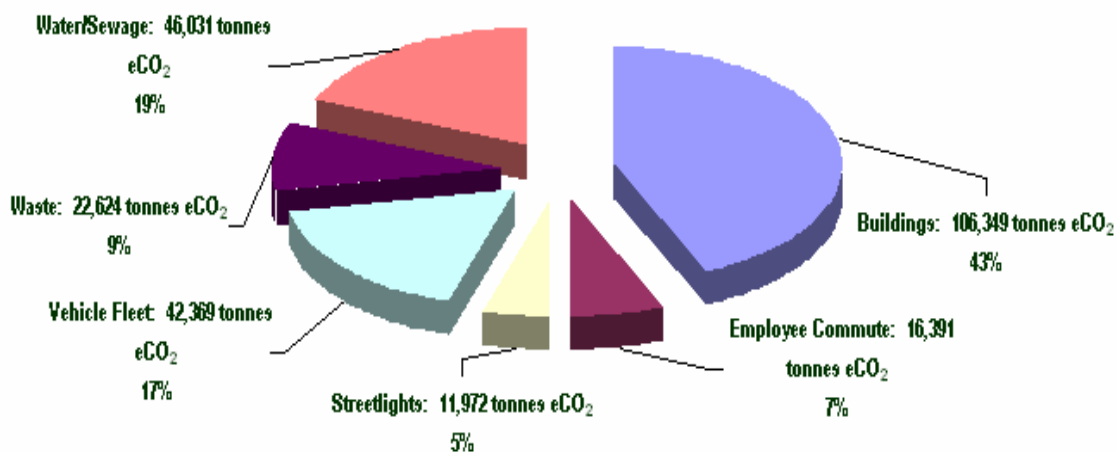


Figure A. Distribution of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Broward County Government Operations by Source Category for Baseline Year 1997, (FY07: October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007).

<sup>1</sup>In the emissions inventory, all values of GHG emissions are reported in metric tons (tonnes) of carbon dioxide equivalent (eCO<sub>2</sub>).

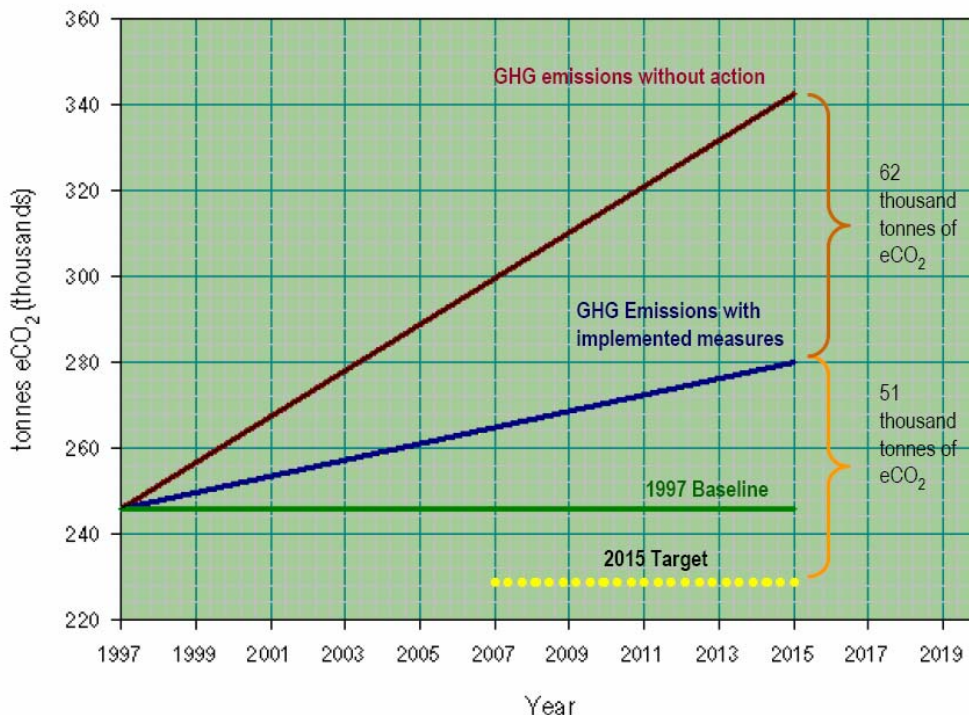


Figure B: Broward County Government Operations GHG Emissions Analysis

**Recommendations:**

- As the budget allows, each year through 2015, the Broward County Office of Management and Budget should identify funding to devote to greenhouse gas reduction measures within Broward County Government, and inform Departments each year as to the extent of available funding;
- The Task Force will generate an annual progress report of existing actions being taken by County agencies to reduce GHG emissions in governmental operations, develop a tracking mechanism to report appropriate data for each year, and coordinate a GHG emission inventory for government operations update every five years in order to benchmark progress against the long term reduction target;
- Broward County should continue to work toward the goal of reducing Broward County Government’s GHG emissions by 7% below the 1997 baseline (the 2015 GHG emissions target is 228,534 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub>, which will require a reduction of 113,850 tonnes eCO<sub>2</sub>), by 2015. Broward County’s efforts should be coordinated with and supportive of the proposed countywide Climate Change Task Force, discussed below; and
- The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, adopted by the Board in Resolution 2007-391, calls for climate change action plans for both government operations and communities. With the experience gained developing this Broward County Government Climate Change Report, it is recommended that the Board proceed forward with adopting a resolution authorizing a county-wide Climate Change Task Force to develop a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program.

**Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department**

[www.broward.org](http://www.broward.org)

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