



Broward County Commission Approves the Creation of a Climate Change Task Force

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On June 24, 2008, the Broward County Commission approved the creation of a Climate Change Task Force to develop recommendations for a coordinated countywide strategy in mitigating the causes, and addressing the local implications, of global climate change.

The Climate Change Task Force will be appointed by the County Commission and supported by County staff. The goals of the climate change program include:

- development and implementation of projects and incentives for residents, businesses, and organizations to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG);
- development and implementation of adaptation strategies to alleviate the likely adverse consequences of climate change;
- provision of education and outreach to encourage Broward County residents, businesses and organizations to participate in the program; and
- pursuit of federal and state grants, energy cost savings, and other financial resources to offset program costs.

"Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is an important component to Broward County's overall commitment to a healthy, sustainable environment," said Broward County Mayor Lois Wexler. "Broward County is already committed to reducing GHG emissions from County operations to 7 percent below 1997 levels by the year 2015. This task force will assist residents, businesses and organizations to set similar goals and strategies as we move forward together to face the challenges of climate change in the future."

The Task Force will include representatives from: Broward County Government, at-large members appointed by the County Commission, Broward County School Board, Broward League of Cities, Water Advisory Board, Hospital Districts in Broward County, Broward Sheriff's Office, South Florida Water Management District, academic institutions, environmental organizations, Florida Power and Light, business and economic interests in Broward County, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the South Florida Regional Planning Council. The Task Force will be charged with recommending programs to reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective and efficient manner that preserves the County's competitiveness in the national and global economy.

The County Commission is expected to appoint the Task Force membership when they return from their summer recess. For questions regarding Task Force membership please contact Donald Burgess at 954-519-0305.

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