Meeting Summary

Economic, Health, and Social Subcommittee
Broward County Climate Action Plan Update
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
10:00AM-12:00PM
Government Center East Room 302

1. The meeting began at 10:00AM. Chair Adrienne Kaltman welcomed the group and discussed a few ground rules for the meeting. Introductions were made. Present at the meeting were: Stephanie Victoria, Carrie Kashar, Lois Bush, Samantha Danchuk, Stan Thompson, Patricia Widener, Allison Goldberg, Robert Rudolph, Adam Chapman, Keren Bolter, Fred Bloetscher, Jill Horowitz, Isabel Cosio Carballo, Tiffany Grantham, Chelsea Albucher, Barry Faske, and Cynthia Baker.

2. The subcommittee's mission was stated: To provide recommendations for actions regarding health, economic and social issues related to climate change to the Task Force.

    a. Carrie Kashar led a brainstorming activity in order to collect ideas from the subcommittee. The ideas were categorized into Economic, Health, and Social-related initiatives, with some overlapping suggestions. A full list of the brainstormed ideas are listed at the end of the summary.

3. Dr. Samantha Danchuk provided an introductory presentation reviewing the current Climate Action Plan goals and actions relating to the economic, social and health issues. Over 80% of the original 126 actions have been initiated and/or completed. The goal of the meeting is to get ideas from the subcommittee with suggestions for new actions, modifications, and current actions to keep.

4. Carrie Kashar, of the Energy and Sustainability Program, presented an overview of Broward County's STAR Community Rating and Environmental Benchmarks Report. In 2014, Broward achieved a 4-STAR rating. In order to ensure a 5-STAR rating, the Climate Action Plan update should more-or-less align with STAR benchmarks by analyzing our areas for opportunity in the 2014 report.

5. Dr. Karen Bolter and Dr. Fred Bloetscher provided the latest on research regarding health impacts of sea level rise on our local communities for consideration of actions to include in the updated plan. The key issues of concern include: emergency preparedness, health care, and access to basic necessities for vulnerable populations.

6. The facilitated discussion began with a look at the handout provided by staff listing the current goals with notes of progress. Discussion ensued on “Completed” and “In Progress” goals and actions.
    a. Need to focus on solutions pertaining to vulnerable populations when it comes to SLR. This includes elderly, children, and low-income populations. Must come up with efforts to offer affordable housing, access to healthcare, upgrade sewage lines, etc. Consider neighborhoods like Sistrunk – has lowest income level and lowest elevation.
    b. ACTION Request information on local hospitals and their green initiatives/efforts. (Action EM-1.2 -- Reinforce the self-sufficiency of hospitals during periods of electricity outages, using green technologies.)
    c. Pertaining to air quality: acquire data on asthma, consider portable air monitoring devices, indoor air quality education programs for schools, businesses and households, natural buffers along I-95.
    d. ACTION Research most effective way to communicate with people using technologies and social media. What are ways to educate/engage the public and get them to take action?
    e. ACTION Look into USGBC or FGBC certification for schools in regards to storm readiness and hazard mitigation (Action EM-1.1). How are we tracking this and who has exemption (charter schools?)

7. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM and is set to meet again on June 2nd, same time and location.

Complete List of Brainstorm Ideas

Economic

- Renewable energy district
- Think long-term v. short-term gain
- Need money for operating more and better transit (particularly if goes with less auto travel, particularly single occupancy vehicle travel)
- Making wise transportation investments
- Maintaining property values in light of sea level rise
- Infrastructure costs
- Renewable energy industry district (local jobs)
- Producer responsibility for GHG and offsetting
- Insurance cost and availability
- Plan how to accommodate population that will be forced to relocate as a result of rising sea levels
- Provide incentives for sustainable actions and mitigation efforts with regards to climate change
- Whole House/Building retrofits; tap weatherization of low-income population
- Agricultural incentive programs to encourage carbon sequestration, organic practices, IPM, water conservation to increase agriculture's resilience against climate change
- Need economic vulnerability impact study including loss of use of transportation, property loss and small businesses
- Economic impact of excessive heat on food storage, movement and long-term storage
- Reduced tax base limiting drainage/infrastructure improvements
- Tiered Rate Pricing – water and energy; larger users pay more
- Insurance rates limiting/driving down property values
- Land use – support for shorter trips and more trips by walking and biking (mixed use, compact development) (GHG emission reduction measure, transportation choice expansion)
- Land use/development and redevelopment patterns; so many jobs and population growth projected – where are they going? In a pattern supportive of transit investments in vulnerable areas?

Health

- Education
- Water and Health
- Air quality, fewer emissions, reducing GHG, air quality benefits
- Heat Shelters
- Access to public transit
- Understand challenges of new disease that may impact us as a result of rising temperatures (e.g., mosquito-borne)
- Local Food (lower GHG transport, secure supply)

- New diseases as temperature rises
- Fresh water supply (protect aquifer from salt-water intrusion)
- Health disparities (mental health issues, socioeconomic status, mobility, disease, affordability)
- Bugs (mosquitoes, termites, etc. unknowns)
- Septic tanks and drinking wells with saturated soil
- Climate inspired building design – active, efficient, connected
- Clean drinking water
- Access to health care and emergency services
- Move to more active multimodal transportation for choices and health – outside more
- Dealing with health, change in disease vectors (via mosquitoes, etc)
- Infectious disease – as zones migrate, tropical diseases moving into 7L (dengue)
- Increase natural and engineered mitigation (e.g., bats, spraying, design)
- Changes relating to transportation
- Ladders of opportunity – inc. access to opportunity (jobs, services, education, etc.) equitable approach, relocation pressure/impacts in less advantaged communities, more transportation choices
- Healthy homes, healthy neighborhoods. Health, safe, resilient.
- Indoor air quality – healthy houses, healthy workplaces
- Accessibility to services (health, infrastructure, etc.)
- Reduce urban heat effect through green roof projects, shade trees, less pervious surfaces -> commercial and residential property owners
- Public health issues related to water rise, ocean rise, flooding, etc.

<u>Social</u>

- Low-income evacuation options (MPO/State DOT access to opportunities)
- Access to energy efficient housing and water
- Gentrification issues
- Opportunities to offset GHG emissions – pay for trees/farms in lower-income communities – for tourists, winter residents, wealthier residents
- Mixed income housing in transit-oriented developments – spread benefits of investments in transit
- Clear education campaign: what is climate change, what causes GHG, what are we doing, what you can do…
- Migrations of socially vulnerable populations to high risk areas
- Addressing inequality and difference in GHG production and climate change impact (public conversation)
- How dollars we will need to make our communities more resilient will impact ability of low-income wage earners to live here.
- Climate refugees
- Evacuation during sea level rise enhanced surge – for populations without a vehicle
- Transportation

- Reduction in GHG, provide more multimodal transport, and create more awareness with projections
- Educating the public on issues that may arise because of climate change
- Socially vulnerable population's ability to pay for adaptation infrastructure
- Increase involvement/partnerships of universities and research institutions
- Water Supply Plan & MS4 Storm Water (integrate climate consolidation); Disease/Emergency Managers – vulnerability, resiliency, adaptation
- Emergency preparedness – social networks
- Personal responsibility for adapting property to climate change
- Transit Choice – multimodal; car share/EV Last Mile
- Impact of climate change on social interaction of people. i.e. anger, road rage, etc.