January 17, 2013 Sustainability Stewards of Broward Workshop Summary

The Sustainability Stewards of Broward (SSB) is collaborative peer network, bringing municipal staff and other interested parties together to discuss best practices in sustainability occurring in Broward County.

The topic of the SSB Workshop held on January 17, 2013 was ***WASTE NOT, WANT NOT (Waste Management, Recycling, and Community Initiatives)****.* The workshop was co-hosted by Broward County’s Energy & Sustainability Program and the Salvation Army of Broward County. A tour was given of their Adult Rehabilitation Center, where they say “both clothing and lives are recycled”. Forty-six participants got a behind-the-scenes look at this community partner’s program.

Best management practices in waste management, such as clothing recycling, food waste and organics recycling, and multifamily and single stream residential recycling, were shared. Not-for-profits, industry leaders, interested citizens and local government staff all discussed ways to make waste management programs more successful.

Some facts gleaned from the day:

* Jim Moyer: According to the EPA, 85% of all clothing and textiles goes into the landfill; only 15% is recovered or recycled.
* Heather Lane: Food scraps are the No. 1 material sent to landfills in the U.S.—at a tune of 254 pounds per person, per year – at a time when 1 in 6 Americans, 49 million people, and 1 in 4 children, are food insecure.
* Karen Sussman: Waste Management’s Okeechobee Organics Recycling Facility (opened in July 2011) collects organic material from 105 grocery stores, hospitals, resorts, restaurants and government agencies.
* Peter Foye: A few emerging recycling trends are single stream recycling with roll out carts, multi-family recycling through on-site options, and municipal solid waste contracts that include green waste recycling (“1-1-1”).
* Jim Hetzel of Coconut Creek and Valerie Amor of Davie also shared their city’s recently passed ordinances pertaining to the reduction of plastic bags and Styrofoam containers.

The workshop agenda, summary, and presentation documents will be posted on the County’s GoGreen webpage, under [Sustainability Stewards](http://www.broward.org/GOGREEN/MUNICIPALITIES/Pages/SustainabilityStewardsWorkshops.aspx). If you were not able to attend, and would like the PowerPoint presentations emailed to you, email me at [jhorwitz@broward.org](mailto:jhorwitz@broward.org).

If you have additional ideas or questions, our speakers have kindly made themselves available for event follow-up. Their contact information is below.

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Thank you again to our wonderful co-host, speakers, and participants - who dedicated their time to share their stories and expertise. Some fantastic case studies were presented, and the group left inspired to take new concepts and best practice back to their municipalities to implement. By sharing our experiences, we advance all of our programs and help to move sustainability forward in our entire community.

Together, through the Sustainability Stewards of Broward, we are making Broward a more energy efficient, climate resilient, and sustainable community. *We hope to see you at the next informative and inspiring event!*

*Jill Horwitz*

Broward County Energy and Sustainability Program