October 9, 2012 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 October 9, 2012 was ***Green Construction and Government Retrofits****.* The workshop was co-hosted by Broward County’s Energy & Sustainability Program and the Broward County Convention Center. Recently awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance Gold certification, the venue is the first convention center in Florida to be LEED certified, and one of only three in the nation to achieve LEED Gold certification for an existing building. Twenty-seven participants got a behind-the-scenes look at this newly retrofitted facility.

Best management practices in energy efficiency, water saving irrigation and landscaping, waste management, contracts and materials procurement were shared. Both the presenters and the participants had a high level of technical knowledge about the subject, and the session was full of excellent questions and discussion. Some highlights from the day:

* LEED certification and capital improvements at the Convention Center cost $4.2 million and took 3 years to complete.
* Energy –efficiency upgrades and retrofits at the center have an average Return on Investment (ROI) of 6 years.
* The commercial decomposition machine, “Diane the Digester”, recycles/composts 95% of all kitchen organic waste. ROI was achieved in less than 2 years for this investment.
* Leftover banquet food is donated to a local food bank.
* Biodegradable cups and cutlery are utilized instead of plastic.
* New landscaping and an efficient irrigation system use 65% less water.
* Recycling has increased in two years from 8% to 65%, due to staff training programs.
* A Green Touchscreen in the main lobby educates visitors on the Center’s green practices and what they can do at home to lower their carbon footprint.

The Project Manager from the Fort Lauderdale International Airport’s Runway Expansion Project also joined the group and shared some of the sustainable construction and operational practices currently undertaken at FLL. Greenhouse gas emissions were substantially reduced by the creation of a temporary connection between the airport and the FEC line for bringing in fill and other construction materials. Also exciting news: the airport planning staff just received a grant from the Federal Airport Administration to create a Fort Lauderdale Airport Sustainability Management Plan. The plan will look at both the economic and environmental factors of sustainability, and should be done in 2 years.

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 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 scheduled, for January 2013 on the topic of Recycling and Waste Management!