

June 27, 2013 Climate Change Planning Workshop Summary

a Sustainability Stewards of Broward and Broward APA Joint workshop

On the afternoon of June 27, 2013, local planners and technical staff from the tri-county area came together to discuss how the new Broward County Climate Change Element can be used by local governments for the purpose of incorporating the economic, environmental, and social aspects of climate change into their comprehensive, capital improvement, and other critical planning processes.

The event was co-hosted by Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division, Broward County Planning and Redevelopment Division, Broward County Planning Council, and the Broward Chapter of the American Planning Association. Seventy (70) individuals attended the half-day workshop at Long Key Nature Center in Davie.

The workshop included a series of background presentations, municipal case studies, and small group discussions around specific policy areas. Dr. Nancy Gassman of the County's Natural Resources Planning and Management Division gave an overview of the scientific foundation and history of local and regional planning efforts on the topic. Jill Horwitz of the County's Energy and Sustainability Program spoke about the creating of the new Climate Change Element in the Broward County Comprehensive Plan, and how its framework can be a useful template in a variety of local planning mechanisms. Sister policies adopted through an amendment to the Land Use Plan were described by Executive Director of the Broward County Planning Council, Barbara Blake Boy, and technical questions regarding the creation and application of the new Priority Planning for Sea Level Rise Map were answered by Dr. Nancy Gassman.

Perhaps most exciting, were the presentations from local governments on how they have been incorporating mitigation and adaptation policies into their planning processes, and how that has translated into successful project and program implementation. Jim Hetzel from Coconut Creek shared how setting community energy goals in their City Green Plan helps them measure and evaluate greenhouse gas reduction goals in throughout their city operations and community programs. Two programs especially noteworthy a "green stop" in their development review process where plans must show how there are meeting the city's green goals, and their Sustainability Minor Home Repair grant which provides assistance to workforce income level residents for energy improvements through their Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Jimmy Koeth from the City of Fort Lauderdale talked about how the city has been strategically folding climate change adaptation planning into their plans, processes and procedures. This city has been on the forefront of climate change planning for quite some time, and recent damage to AIA from Hurricane Sandy and seasonal high tides only underscores the importance for continued diligence in taking steps forward to reduce risk and create resilient sustainable communities. Two planning efforts, their Fast Forward Visioning process, and the Adaptation Action Area pilot project, highlight their continued commitment and leadership in the area of climate change preparedness planning.

Presentations were followed by a series of small group discussions organized around specific policy-oriented topic areas. County staff and BAPA board members facilitated conversations around:

- Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
- Transportation and the Land Use Connection
- Adaptation and resiliency of the Built Environment
- Water Resources (aquifer, drainage, and reuse)

The groups found ways that the policies in the Climate Change Element and Land Use Plan are relevant to their day-to-day work, and discussed challenges and opportunities to incorporate climate consideration into a variety of planning and operational processes. The workshop was rounded out by one final presentation, tying these conversations back to a larger picture, by Nilsa Zacarias who shared ideas for incorporating climate change into the daily decision-making of planners, such as in redevelopment, zoning, and site plan reviews.

By sharing the latest scientific models, progressive local policy examples, and successful experiences in implementation, Broward County and the Broward chapter of the American Planning Association hope to expand the discussion on climate change impacts and advance the efforts of local governments throughout our region who seek to incorporate climate change preparedness into their core planning and institutional framework.

The workshop agenda and summary will be posted on the County's GoGreen webpage, under [Sustainability Stewards*](#) and on the BAPA website at www.floridaplanning.org (click on Sections on the left, then on Broward on the map). If you were not able to attend, and would like the PowerPoint presentations emailed to you, email jhorwitz@broward.org.

Thank you again to our wonderful co-host, speakers, and participants - who dedicated their time to share their stories and expertise. Together, we are making Broward a more energy efficient, climate resilient, and sustainable community.

Jill Horwitz

Broward County
Natural Resources Planning and Management
Division - Energy and Sustainability Program

Rosana Cordova

Chair, APA,
Florida Chapter
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* The Sustainability Stewards of Broward (SSB) is collaborative peer network of municipal staff and other interested parties who come together to discuss best practices in sustainability occurring in Broward County and the greater South Florida region.