Strong Leadership, Connections & Commitment

Miami-Dade County has a strong record of environmental leadership and stewardship that dates back to the early 1990’s. That rich history and local commitment in a community with obvious vulnerabilities to climate change has given Miami-Dade a voice on a national and international level. Miami-Dade County is shaping policy at the global table. We must continue to work at all these levels, from the international discussion to the individual and personal commitments.

Goals

• Create the next generation of green leaders
  Work with the more than 100 GreenPrint partners to integrate sustainability into local, regional and national strategic decision-making, policies and operations.
"We have a blueprint for staying green and sustainable... called "GreenPrint". It’s getting noticed....We are at the forefront of green initiatives, but we need to make sure our efforts stretch beyond the confines of County government by forming partnerships with businesses, industries and residents. Commissioners, I need your help in shaping these proposals and turning them into policy."

- Mayor Carlos Alvarez, State of the County, February 24, 2010
Miami-Dade County GreenPrint

1982 - First hybrid Metrobuses placed into passenger service
1985 - First fuel-efficient hybrid waste collection vehicle placed into service
1990 - Became a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) case study and pilot program and hosted the "Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risks" workshop led by the Coastal Services Center in South Carolina
1993 - Hosted the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Interagency Climate Change Task Force Listening Session (one of six sessions nationwide)
1998 - Received the "Most Outstanding Green Government" award by the U.S. Green Building Coalition South Florida Chapter
1999 - Received the "Leadership Award for Process Innovation" by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability for the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact
2003 - Expanded Office of Sustainability with the award of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
2006 - Established goal of reducing County government’s energy consumption by 20 percent by 2014
2007 - Began the process of developing our community’s sustainability plan, GreenPrint
2008 - Established the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact
2009 - Purchased first biodiesel fuel blends for use in County fleet and equipment
2009 - Replaced 75,000 traffic signal bulbs with LED modules, saving $2 million
2010 - Created Office of Sustainability
2010 - Joined the Chicago Climate Exchange
2010 - Adopted the Sustainable Buildings Ordinance

Sustainability Timeline

- Opened Solid Waste Resources Recovery Facility, one of the most technologically advanced waste-to-energy facilities in the world
- Founded member of ICLEI, an international organization supporting climate protection and sustainability planning and initiatives for local governments
- Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL) approved by Miami-Dade voters
- Initiated Energy Services Performance Contracting
- Urban CO2 Reduction Plan adopted
- Created Internal Resources Conservation Committee
- Purchased first biodiesel fuel blends for use in County fleet and equipment
- Joined Cool Counties, committed to reducing CO2 emissions 80 percent by 2050
- Implemented a Single-Stream Recycling Program
- Miami-Dade Climate Change Advisory Task Force established by the Board of County Commissioners
- Adopted the Water Use Efficiency Plan
- Created Internal Resources Conservation Committee
- Purchased first hybrid fleet vehicles
Leadership, Connections and Commitment Initiatives:

1. Strengthen regional and local community partnerships
   - Implement the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact
   - Codify the sustainability planning process and create a formal leadership structure for GreenPrint implementation
   - Encourage all municipalities to adopt GreenPrint
   - Pursue more public-private partnerships to implement policies identified in County plans that improve County services

2. Integrate sustainability into all leadership systems
   - Continue to participate in and influence sustainability policy formulation and decision-making at the national and international level through partnerships, conferences, and legislation
   - Integrate sustainability knowledge into existing leadership programs and new elected official orientations countywide

3. Be green government role models
   - Integrate and prioritize climate change and sustainability in local government strategic planning, business planning and in fiscal decision making
   - Develop an interagency working group to ensure implementation of the CDMP by tackling conflicts between different County plans and within the development process
   - Work with local Board of Rules and Appeals and other stakeholders to maintain the Florida Energy Code and to better define and set forth responsibilities of each trade in order to improve compliance with and enforcement of the Code (Within the Florida Energy Code and 2010 Florida Statutes, Chapter 468, Part XII) requiring water efficiency retrofits at point of home resale (prior to changing ownership) and later update the ordinance to require additional retrofits focusing on energy efficiency

4. Create ongoing outreach, education, and dialogue with the community about the implications of climate change and the benefits of sustainability
   - Develop and implement ongoing community outreach about sustainability and climate change
   - Estimate the Costs of Action vs. Inaction and communicate implications to key decision-makers

"Our survey found widespread agreement among CEOs about what the next era of sustainability will look like: It is one where sustainability is not only a separate strategic initiative, but something fully integrated into the strategy and operations of a company. As one emerging economy CEO told us, ‘Currently, the burning issue is how to better incorporate sustainability into daily practice.’"

-UN Global Compact- Accenture CEO Study 2010

Sustainability and the implications of climate change bring a different managerial twist to any organization. Learning and communicating with each other as government entities, businesses and major institutions will help to facilitate this change. Eventually, it will be integrated into how we do business. Public Management magazine, a publication from ICMA, drove this home: “Educating residents about sustainability is important. When speaking to them, it may be good to refer to sustainability as being about local people, local places and local prosperity. To bankers, speak about living off the interest not the principle. To farmers, speak about not eating your seed corn. To the elderly, speak about their grandchildren. To veterans speak about our nation's security. To scout groups, speak about leaving your campsite better than you found it… speak out” (Reid). We need to keep speaking.