

# Local Business & Industry

Local businesses and industries that drive Miami-Dade's economy have the ability to contribute to a more sustainable community through the choices they make in the procurement of raw materials and supplies, in how they operate their businesses, and/or in the goods and services they produce.

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# Local Business & Industry

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## Assessment Area

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Roughly 20 years ago the green movement in business and industry began to emerge and has become increasingly mainstream over time, with companies around the world implementing "green practices," corporate social responsibility programs and sustainability initiatives. To understand the current and potential role of Miami-Dade's local businesses and industries in the emerging "green" economy, it is important to look at the business community's current practices, products, and services they provide, how we currently steer and direct economic development activity, and what new opportunities the marketplace exist for improving the sustainability of commerce.

An efficient model to consider as we evaluate the role of Miami-Dade's economy is nature and its complex ecosystems. In ecosystems, nothing is wasted; matter is recycled over and over and productivity is consistent over time, notwithstanding any major external perturbations. More and more, waste recovery and the waste=food philosophy is becoming part of the industrial and manufacturing culture. How can we facilitate this in our local economy; integrating "zero-waste" principles to the benefit of our community as well?

### **SUMMARY OF KEY SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES**

*Main challenges identified through collaborative stakeholder analysis of assessment data & indicators*

- Taking advantage of the "green" movement by improving our capacity for innovation and competitiveness in today's market.
- Lessening the shock of future economic downturns and recessions.
- Transforming existing industries to be "greener" while contributing to a more sustainable economy.
- Growing, attracting and/or retaining emerging "green" or sustainable industries
  - Evaluating the green industrial and business growth opportunities as part of our economic development investment decision-making.
  - Integrating a sustainable industry focus into the array of economic development incentive programs currently available.
  - Raising awareness and participation in the County's *Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund (TJIF)* which provides financial incentives for select industries, including Solar Thermal and Photovoltaic Manufacturing, Installation and Repair Companies, wishing to relocate or expand within the County.
  - Raising awareness and participation in the County's Expedited Review and Approval of Permits for "Green" Buildings program.
  - Increasing the market penetration of the energy-efficiency and renewable energy industries and having a properly trained construction contractor workforce for energy-efficiency retrofitting of existing buildings.

- Improving access to and availability of training opportunities for jobs in the green economy
- Promoting local business and industry

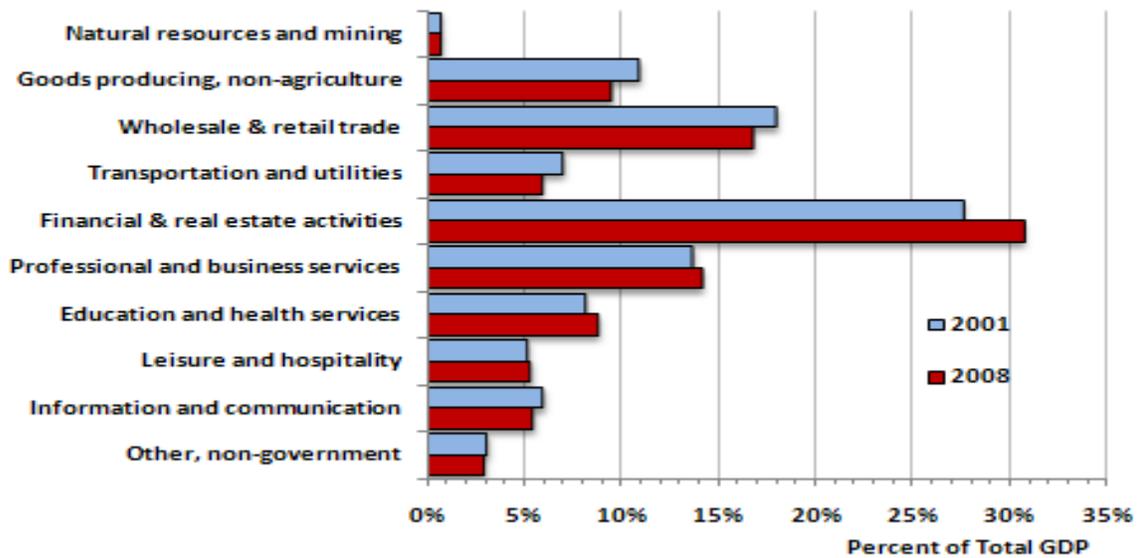
**ASSESSMENT DATA & INDICATORS**

*Data and analysis to identify key challenges & establish a sustainability baseline*

**Local Business & Industry Representation in the Economy**

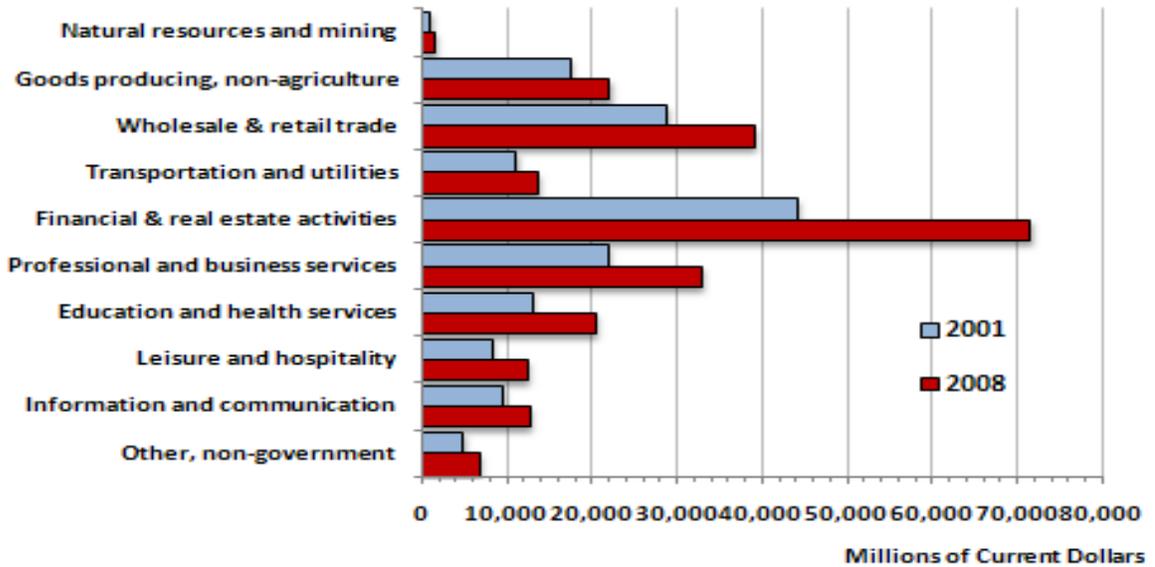
The Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Metropolitan Statistical Area (Miami MSA) is comprised of the Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. The total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Miami MSA reached \$261.3 billion in 2008, rising by 22.5 percent between 2001 and 2008 after adjusting for price inflation. GDP on a per capita basis grew at an inflation-adjusted annual rate of 2.1 percent between 2001 and 2008.

**Figure 1 Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Private Sector GDP as a Percent of the Total, by Industry Sector: 2001 & 2008**



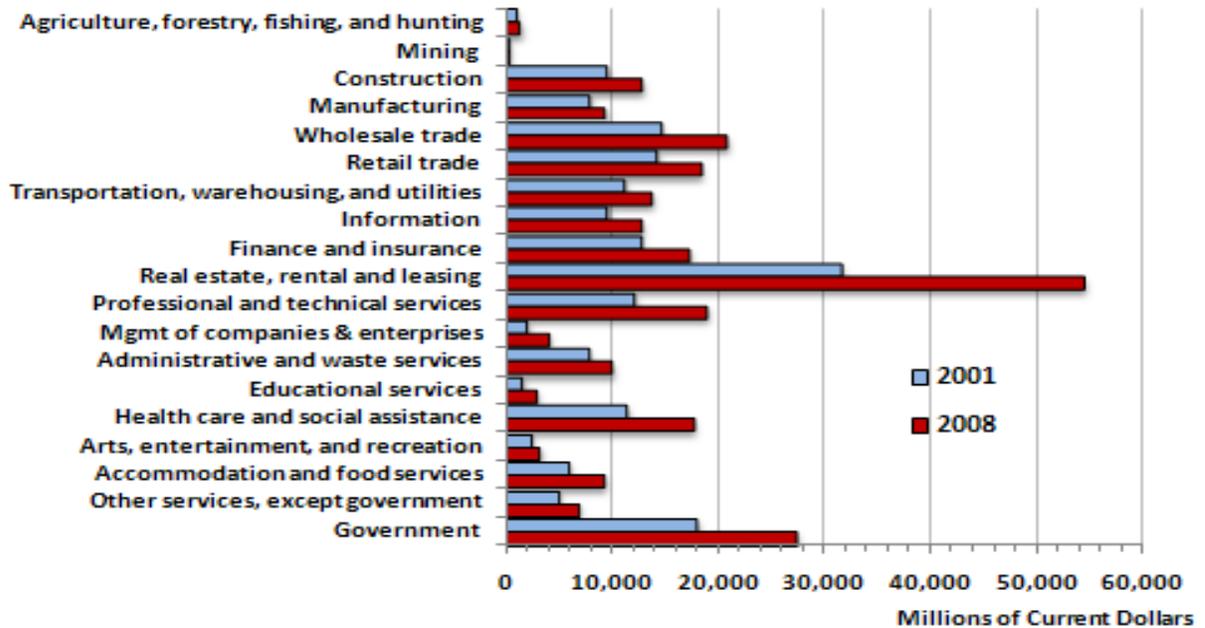
Private sector industries generate 90 percent of the GDP in the Miami MSA, and accounted for 95 percent of the economic growth experienced from 2001 to 2008. The Miami MSA is a mature economy and economic output is heavily oriented towards the private sector provision of services, with 80 percent of GDP in 2008 originating in private sector establishments. Nine percent of GDP originates in private sector goods producing industries (construction 5 percent, manufacturing 3.5 percent, and agriculture 0.5 percent), while the remaining balance originated in government services (See Figures 1 and 2). The distribution of GDP between private services, private goods production and government services is not expected to change significantly over the next decade.

**Figure 2 Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Private Sector GDP by Industry Sector: 2001 & 2008**



At a greater level of disaggregation, the private sectors accounting for the largest shares of GDP include: real estate, rental and leasing (20.8 percent); wholesale trade (8 percent); professional and technical services (7.8 percent); retail trade (7 percent); and healthcare and social assistance (6.7 percent). (See Figure 3)

**Figure 3 Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano GDP by Industry: 2001 & 2008**



## **Local Economic Hubs**

Efficient and safe movement of goods benefits business and the general public. Miami-Dade has three large commercial hubs for transportation of goods or passengers, Miami International Airport (MIA), the Port of Miami (POM), and the Miami River Port. Because MIA and POM are both managed by Miami-Dade County, more detailed descriptions of their services and operations are provided in the Government Operations area of this assessment. The Miami River is the fifth largest port in the State of Florida, providing shipping links to the shallow draft ports of the Caribbean and, Central and South America. The Miami River's navigation and commercial shipping directly handle millions of tons of cargo each year and thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Foreign trade exports account for over 75 percent of the total commerce, according to a 2007 economic analysis conducted by Florida Atlantic University. Miami River cargo transshipment is estimated at \$4 billion per year. At the same time that the Port of the Miami River it is a vital part of the economy, it has many sustainability-related challenges such as dredging and water quality issues that impact marine resources. Because the Miami-River is a working river, there are also risks of industrial contamination, as demonstrated by the fact that two of its tributaries, Wagner Creek and the Seybold Canal, were deemed the most polluted bodies of water in Florida.

(Sources: <http://www.miamirivercommission.org/PDF/EconomicAnalysisoftheMiami%20River42808.pdf>) & *Miami River Commission Annual Report 2008.*)

## **Green Industries & Jobs**

To understand the extent of economic activity that Miami-Dade businesses and industries are contributing to sustainability, first we have to agree on how to measure what makes up a sustainable economy. One place to start is with the federal government's emphasis on "green" jobs and utilizing their evolving measurement standards to assess our current and potential sustainable economic activity.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently embarked on an effort to "produce objective and reliable information on the number of green jobs, how that number changes over time, and the characteristics of these jobs and the workers in them." The intent is to assist "policymakers and the public to better understand green jobs and make informed decisions." To achieve this, BLS has begun the process of:

1. Defining those economic activities related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and protecting the environment,
2. Identifying green job categories as jobs involved in the production of green products and services, jobs involved in "greening" of production processes and jobs in the supply chain to production of green products and services, and
3. Establishing a protocol for measuring green jobs and the change in number over time according to a survey of establishments of industries in the North American Industrial Classification System Codes (NAICS codes) that have green products or services.

For Miami-Dade this translates into the identification of "green" industries in our County and the total number of companies within these which provides the upper bound for the extent that these industry groups as whole could embrace sustainability. Table 1 provides a summary of these industries.

**Table 1: 4 Digit NAICS “Green” Private Sector Establishments and Employment – MDC**  
**Private Sector Industries that Most Likely Contain Establishments and Employment that are "Green" - Miami-Dade**

NAICS	Industry Title	Number of Establishments	Avg Monthly Employment	Total Quarterly Wages	Avg Weekly Wage
1111	Oilseed and grain farming (1)	4	NA	NA	NA
2211	Power generation and supply (2)	35	NA	NA	NA
2361	Residential building construction	1,309	4,885	\$65,567,566	\$1,032
2362	Nonresidential building construction	360	3,989	\$64,635,690	\$1,247
2381	Building foundation and exterior contractors	793	4,776	\$37,640,562	\$606
2382	Building equipment contractors	1,496	12,064	\$125,131,279	\$798
2383	Building finishing contractors	1,254	3,873	\$30,974,026	\$615
3241	Petroleum and coal products manufacturing (3)	9	1,039	\$11,740,617	\$869
3251	Basic chemical manufacturing (4)	7	171	\$2,603,197	\$1,169
3351	Electric lighting equipment manufacturing	18	568	\$3,993,225	\$541
3359	Other electrical equipment and component mfg. (5)	21	NA	NA	NA
3363	Motor vehicle parts manufacturing	23	575	\$7,815,767	\$1,045
5413	Architectural and engineering services	1,206	9,281	\$133,974,582	\$1,110
5414	Specialized design services	758	1,787	\$18,923,094	\$814
5417	Scientific research and development services	123	808	\$13,322,791	\$1,268
5622	Waste treatment and disposal (6)	6	378	\$5,425,603	\$1,105
5629	Remediation and other waste services	44	394	\$3,324,414	\$649
		<b>7,466</b>	<b>44,588</b>	<b>\$525,072,413</b>	<b>\$757</b>

Total Private Sector - All Industries: 84,398 \$8,675,550,743  
 % of the Total Establishments that are in "Green Industries": 8.8% 6.1%

Data Source: BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 1st Quarter 2009  
 Industries identified based on work from City of Los Angeles, Michigan and Washington State.

Notes: (1) May include grains and other products for use in bio-fuels., (2) May include solar tidal, wind and other., (3) Petroleum products for use in producing blended bio-fuels., (4) Production of Bio-diesel., (5) Production of Fuel Cells and batteries., (6) Waste to energy conversion.

## Agriculture

The Miami-Dade agricultural industry has an estimated economic impact of \$2.7 billion according to the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), based on 2007 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) data indicating direct sales value of \$661 million. Approximately 90-95 percent of all agricultural products grown within the county are exported to other parts of the state, nation, and internationally, depending on season, commodity, etc. As the second largest agriculture producing county by value, the local industry far surpasses the ability of the local marketing of any commodity currently grown. While acreage has been reduced by conversion to other uses, the industry continues to produce high value products. As a major port of entry for international agricultural products, 44 percent of all fresh produce enters the Port of Miami and/or Miami International Airport (MIA), according to the USDA.

The above assessment of the current local industry does not take into account potential bio-fuel crops opportunities in the short term, or second or third generation technologies that may make bio-fuel production from non-food crops, or off-season value added cropping.

In combination with climate change, land conservation issues, the community's increasing interest in introducing small scale agriculture into the urbanized parts of the County and bio-energy potential, the sustainability of agriculture from an economic, environmental, and social perspective would seem a natural meeting point for the long-term goals of reducing greenhouse gases (GHG), maintaining aquifer recharge and open spaces and improving the resiliency of our

local/regional economy. Of all Miami-Dade industries, agriculture represents an industry that is most directly dependent on the natural world for its productivity and thus represents a significant opportunity to mimic natural processes in an “agro-ecosystem.”

The recent emergence of viable urban composting programs in a select few municipalities across the nation is one example of a move towards improving the sustainability of agriculture at the local level and integrating a *waste=food* sustainable business/industry principle that mimics the natural world. An important next step is to understand Miami-Dade’s current agricultural system, not just in terms of economic value as currently measured, but also its environmental footprint, and impacts on quality of life and local economic development. There currently exists a data gap of indicators that will help illustrate the broader impact and opportunity around agriculture and sustainable communities. Feedback in this area is welcomed.

### **Tourism/Hospitality & Related Industries**

Tourism and hospitality, both highly visible industries in Miami-Dade and the region, are characterized by the temporary lodging provided to visitors, and the recreational and other activities or infrastructure that these visitors are attracted to. Through the State of Florida’s Green Lodging Certification Program, as well as the Governor’s requirement that all state employees have to stay in certified Green Lodges while traveling within the state, there has been an increase in the number of hotels seeking and achieving Green Lodge certification. As of December 2009, there are 40 hotels in Miami-Dade designated as “Green Lodges”.<sup>1</sup>

Separate from this effort, large global/national hotel chains have implemented their own green lodging practices as part of their corporate social responsibility/sustainability programs. This initial uptake in the implementation of green operational practices within this industry can have long-term impacts on how services are delivered, from the food served and recreational activities offered to visitors, and complementary industries.

Two complementary industries that have also exhibited significant growth over the past 20 years are the eco-tourism and agri-tourism industries. These industries promote the visitation of and recreational opportunities associated with natural ecosystems and agro-ecosystems in their pristine or relatively pristine state thereby increasing the economic value of these land uses/natural systems relative to competing medium to high-economic value land uses. National, state and local governments and private organizations, including land trusts and conservancies and specialized conservation efforts like botanical gardens, play a significant role in maintaining the significant and vital natural ecosystems or natural areas that make up our County and region and attract tourists to our region. Through potential linkages between the growing sustainability movement with the lodging industries and existing eco- and agri-tourism opportunities, the participation in ecotourism activities and the market demand for such activities could increase. We have identified as a data gap the history of visitation (both from out of the region and within) to key recognizable natural or other destinations: National, state and local parks (County ecotourism programs), Botanical Gardens, etc. Potential future indicators could go beyond just visitation numbers to include the number and dollar value of eco-tours associated with hotels and resorts.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging/lodges.htm>

## **Building Design, Construction and Real Estate**

There has been a growth and expansion in green building design and construction as a result of the nationwide grassroots green building movement and use of green building rating systems (U.S. Green Building Council - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Green Globes, Florida Green Building Coalition rating systems, etc.). The following data gaps have been identified: (1) the current capacity of the workforce in this sector and (2) what resources, programs and initiatives are needed to improve the ability of our workforce including planners, real estate brokers and professionals, architects, engineers, construction trades and building and facility managers to be able to plan, design, construct and operate and continuously improve the buildings and infrastructure that make up the built environment. Potential future indicators include:

- Number and type of green building permits filed with building departments across Miami-Dade County and municipalities
- Percentage of companies within each of these built environment industries that have worked on certified green building (or other equivalent) projects
- Projects and types and number of training opportunities available across these range of built environment industries

The indicators listed above are not all inclusive and do not paint the entire picture of how this industry is a component of a sustainable community. Feedback in this area is welcomed as data gaps exist.

## **Energy Services**

The nationwide interest in energy independence, decreased reliance on fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and the federal and state government's funding of programs that encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy are driving the growth of energy auditing, management and retrofit industries in the electricity arena and biofuel harvesting and processing and refining in the fuels arena.

- *Energy Services Companies (ESCO)*

The County and other municipalities across the state currently take advantage of an established State of Florida Energy Performance Contract. With performance contracting, vendors assigned work guarantee that the equipment procured and installed will achieve the promised energy savings. Thus, each project assigned to an Energy Services Company (ESCO) in the pool is backed by a guarantee from that ESCO that project savings will be sufficient to cover the customer's debt service or lease payments. Should projected savings (in energy and maintenance expense) fall short of the amount needed to cover the debt, the ESCO pays the difference (*See Government Operations, Electricity Section for more information on this program.*)

The ESCO program works well and could be further utilized in government, but we must get the industry to enable the same type of retrofit capabilities in other sectors including the residential, small and large commercial building sectors. For example, the payback periods for retrofit initiatives often are not comfortable for private sector building owners who may only be holding onto a property for a number of years.

In the residential and small commercial sector, there are a variety of innovative programs emerging across the nation at the municipal level to enable the financing of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits for these sectors. This type of innovation is critical for the growth in energy service companies and small businesses as well as local green jobs.

- *Weatherization Programs*

The Community Action Agency (CAA) provides home weatherization assistance, through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Florida Department of Community Affairs. This program is a multi-faceted program with enormous benefits by helping low-income families conserve energy and save money. It creates and supports many “green” collar jobs that are vital to the economy and future. Furthermore, it serves as a critical element of the “green jobs” initiative. CAA’s goal is to mandate that weatherization contractors (vendors) make every effort to employ no less than 50 percent of their weatherization crew from local community base organizations such as the South Florida Workforce Agency. Projections reflect an increase in staff from nine to 27 which reflects an estimated 300 percent increase from FY 08-09 staff levels.

- *Alternative Energy Manufacturers*

From a production and manufacturing perspective there has been increasing marketplace interest across the region from renewable energy systems manufacturers and biofuel harvesting, collection and production industries. We have identified as a data gap an inventory of both the attempts and success of these industries to start-up operations in the County and the larger region and their share of the regional economic output. Potential future indicators for the energy service industries and marketplace include:

- Tracking of investments in energy efficiency: federal tax deductions for energy star/efficient appliances
- Number of permits filed for energy service industries based on available North American Industry Classification System codes (NAICS)
- Number of retail/service firms that provide energy services based on available NAICS codes
- Types and number of training opportunities available within the spectrum of alternative energy and energy-efficiency service industries

These indicators are not all inclusive and do not paint the entire picture of how this industry is a component of a sustainable community. We welcome feedback in this area as we realize that there are data gaps.

## **Recycling**

While recycling is a popular, recognized, and growing green practice, the industries that collect, process and create new raw materials or products from materials that otherwise would be treated as waste at the end of their life-cycles are less understood. Both the increasing demand for recycling and recycled products, the increasing popularity of the “cradle-to-cradle” industrial design philosophy, and the concept of “zero waste” are impetus and resources to examine and grow processing and recycled product industries.<sup>2</sup> Potential future indicators for this industry include:

- List of existing recycling firms and complementary industries (e.g. processors, haulers)
- Number and type of permits for industrial recycling operations filed
- Volume of materials collected for recycling (tons or other quantity measures)

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<sup>2</sup> William McDonough and Michael Braungart describe the “Cradle-to-Cradle” industrial design philosophy in their 2002 “Cradle-to-Cradle” publication.

These indicators are not all inclusive and do not paint the entire picture of how this industry is a component of a sustainable community. We welcome feedback in this area as we realize that there are data gaps. (See the Solid Waste & Recycling Area of this report for information on recycling rates and the Climate Change Area of this report for information on the significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through recycling.)

### **Other Relevant Industries**

A data gap of has been identified for information related to other potential industries we want to describe and analyze through the sustainability lens in this assessment area. What other economic sectors should be described and analyzed through the sustainability lens?

### **EXISTING EFFORTS**

*Consolidates current plans, goals, and initiatives related to the specific assessment area*

#### **Existing Legislation - Local**

- *Ordinance 05-91: MDC Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund*  
In the interest of promoting a healthy economy, stimulating economic development and eliminating distressed economic conditions, the County adopted an ordinance that provided the following incentives based on the number of new jobs created and the amount of countywide ad valorem property taxes, excluding debt service, and countywide portion of sales taxes paid per annual amounts addressed in the approved application/agreement:
  - Up to \$1,500 bonus for companies that operate their businesses out of buildings or facilities that qualify as "green construction" and/or that incorporates alternative energy systems. Specially, a company can receive a bonus of up to \$1,000 if the Company operates its business out of a building or facility which qualifies as "green construction" and is certified through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System by the Florida Green Building Council or by the U.S. Green Building Council; and an additional bonus of up to \$500 if the Company operates its business in a building or facility which incorporates solar, thermal, photovoltaic, fuel cell, and/or co-generating energy generation. The alternative energy systems, with the exception of solar thermal, must be grid interconnected to the local utility to qualify.
  - Up to \$1,500 bonus, if the company is in the business of Solar Thermal and Photovoltaic (PV) Manufacturing, Installation and Repair.
- *R-05-0971: Expedited Review and Approval of Building Permit Applications for Green Buildings*
- *R-747-09: Sign Local Government Green Jobs Pledge*  
In order to provide new opportunities to employ residents in growing industries that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gases, eliminate toxins and protect our natural environment, the County adopted a Resolution directing the signing of a Local Government Green Jobs Pledge.

#### **Sustainable Buildings Ordinance & the Built Environment Industry**

Miami-Dade County's requirement for its owned, operated and financed building projects to meet specific green building certification levels is driving local architects, engineers, construction professionals and green product suppliers to provide the necessary resources for the successful design, construction and operation of buildings that exhibit enhanced site/land

development management, energy, water efficiency, indoor air quality and materials and resource management performance.

Some Miami-Dade municipalities have introduced green building ordinances for their own capital improvement processes and/or the larger community that are mirroring the impact on industry that the County has experienced with its own ordinance. We have identified as a data gap an inventory of municipal green building resolutions and ordinances.

### **Miami-Dade County Water Efficiency Standards & Water/Wastewater Fixture Industry**

Miami-Dade County's recently adopted water efficiency standards will drive the local demand for more water and energy efficient water/wastewater fixtures and appliances in our homes and businesses.

### **MDC Renewable + Alternative Energy Product Approval Incentives Program (unfunded)**

The County's Building Code Compliance Office (BCCO) is interested in funding a renewable/alternative energy product approval rebate program. Such a program would attract more product manufacturers to the County and which would help accelerate the adoption and use of these emerging technologies locally.

### **Improved Permitting Efficiency for Renewable Energy Installations**

Over the past year, the BCCO has spearheaded an ongoing effort to evaluate and resolve code obstacles associated with renewable energy installations which involves the leadership of the Miami-Dade County Board of Review and Appeals and engagement of renewable energy (solar PV and solar thermal) manufacturers, contractors, decision makers and stakeholders.

### **Redlands Raised Initiative**

The local branding initiative, *Redland Raised*, was created by the County's Agricultural Manager, in conjunction with local farmers and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to promote a "buy local" program throughout the County and state. The brand is in line with the State's *Fresh from Florida* brand, of which the majority of local growers and packers are members. The Miami-Dade *Redland Raised* buy local program will enhance the competitiveness and economic sustainability of crops grown in Miami-Dade by:

- (1) Marketing and promotion of the *Redland Raised*, *Fresh from Florida* brand – through the development of a wide range of marketing materials that will be used by producers, packer and retail outlets;
- (2) Increased consumption – through a countywide advertising campaign to raise the public awareness of the benefits of buying local.
- (3) Increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge – through the development and production of an official *Redland Raised* cookbook showcasing locally grown specialty crops.

The project is important to Miami-Dade's agricultural community, with the resulting impacts of the program being:

- Establishing a sustainable buy local brand and program
- Assist local growers with marketing and promotion
- Providing fresher products to consumers
- Increase sales and consumption of locally grown crops
- Lowering carbon footprint on the environment
- Increasing consumer awareness, education, and expectations

- Raising the profile and importance of local growers of specialty crops to all types of consumers

Through a partnership with Publix supermarkets established in late 2009, more than 1,000 stores will feature locally-grown produce under the “Redlands Raised” banner.

### **Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension**

Miami-Dade County Cooperative Extension, as part of UF/IFAS and the Consumer Services Department, provides non-formal educational opportunities and training, technical assistance, publications, electronic-based resources, and consultations to a wide variety of clientele within the county. Since the Extension is university affiliated organization, information is research-based and objective without regulatory implications. These educational activities include:

- *The Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) Program:* This BMP program is part of the non-point source pollution prevention efforts within the state. Numerous BMP manuals have been created and adopted by the above agencies and IFAS/Extension has been integral in providing training and consultation with these efforts for voluntary compliance by providing workshops on what the BMPs are and how they can be attained. Some on-site assessments have been conducted to review the check lists of practices a grower is currently carryout and/or what modifications in the operation may be implemented. As Miami-Dade agriculture is a highly diverse industry, several manuals are utilized. Row crops/Vegetables, Container Nurseries, Aquaculture, Equine, and currently under development Tropical Fruit crops manuals are utilized by growers. Growers upon review and assessment, submit a “Notice of Intent” to comply with the stated BMPs to the state. Monitoring and regulatory aspects are carried out by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and/or Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). In addition, production innovations, Integrated Pest Management methods and updates on new and threatening pests and diseases to the industry are delivered in various methods described above.
- *BMPs for the Environmental Horticulture or Landscape Maintenance Industry:* A BMP manual has been developed for the Environmental Horticultural and Landscape Maintenance “Green Industries” as well. In addition, a recent state law (373.62(1) FS) went into effect on urban commercial fertilizer application and mandatory completion of training is required for all applicators. This training is offered by the Extension in English and Spanish as it has been designated the training entity, and Extension staff must be certified to provide the training. Programs are available to private industry, public agencies and organizations at all levels of government, supporting community sustainability initiatives.
- *General Agricultural and Landscaping Sustainable Practices:* The Extension, working with the FDEP and FDACS, will keep agricultural producers and landscapers up to date with current Best Management Practices for specific industries as a means of optimizing pesticide and fertilizer use and minimizing environmental impacts. Enforcement of state laws regarding pesticide purchase and use is the purview of the FDACS. The Extension is designated as the local training and testing organization for licenses issued under Chapters 388, 482 (Limited Certification licenses only) and 487, Florida Statutes. In addition, the Extension is responsible for keeping the agricultural community and other non-residential fumigant users up to date with current federal and state requirements for safe use of these products.

Beyond sustainable practices, Extension conducts updates on business and financial management, market development, new crops and technologies, disaster preparedness and recovery, bio-security and many other topics on a periodic and timely basis.

### **Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce “Green” Focus**

The Greater Miami Chamber is an activist chamber that seeks solutions to the problems that vex businesses and creates solutions when answers cannot be found. The Chamber is committed to improving the economic vitality of the community, with a keen eye on quality of life issues and social justice for all residents. To carry out this mission, the Chamber serves as the voice of business enterprise and involves the private sector in community leadership. The Chamber’s “green” focus includes:

- *Natural Resources Committee:* The Natural Resources Committee of the Chamber encourages dialogue among local member businesses, partners and invited industry leaders to catalyze the increased adoption of sustainable business practices in Miami-Dade County
- *Sustainable Best Practices Award:* A natural evolution of the Chamber’s Green Industry focus is the leadership of the Chamber in launching the first Miami-Dade Sustainable Best Practices Award program in 2009. There were over 91 entries representing manufacturing, professional services, hospitality/tourism, green building, retail, government and other sectors of our economy.

### **Eco-Chamber**

Miami-Dade County is the home of the recently founded Global [Eco-Chamber](#). The Chamber is “dedicated to helping organizations create and implement sustainable business practices while counseling them on how to make sound and profitable business decisions...” The six initiatives of the Chamber include (from mission page of website):

- Help companies and governments take additional eco-friendly steps while improving their budget through analysis and tracking tools.
- Help those who are already green or taking steps in the right direction to thrive through business development and marketing tools.
- Work to ensure governments are creating legislation that is good for environment while still supporting jobs and businesses.
- Help to build and support the next generation of environmental leaders through free student programs
- Share best practices across the globe between industries and governments to, helping progress to be more rapid and readily adopted.
- Unify fragmented eco industries to create a louder, more powerful voice for advancement.

### **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

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*Feedback & results gathered though the planning process or surveys*

No feedback is available at this time.