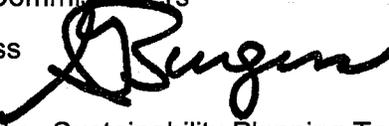


Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY

Date: April 1, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager 

Subject: Miami-Dade County - Sustainability Planning Toolkit Pilot Community

I am very pleased to announce that Miami-Dade County has been selected as one of three communities nationwide to participate in a sustainability planning toolkit pilot program through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). In December 2008, the County applied for participation in this pilot program and was chosen by ICLEI and New York City along with the cities of New Rochelle, New York and Newark, New Jersey. The pilot toolkit is based on New York City's PlaNYC (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/home/home.shtml>), an ambitious yet achievable plan that Mayor's Office of Long Long-Term Planning and Sustainability put together to address the major challenges facing New York City.

Key community stakeholders informed the planning process which was clear yet thorough with a focus on land, water, air, energy, transportation and climate change. Each topical issue area has a list of initiatives that contribute to agreed upon targets. Progress towards these targets is tracked annually through sustainability indicators. As this is a sustainability plan, the initiatives are not tied to any one particular department, but rely upon an integrated effort including partnerships with the larger community. To make the necessary shift in practices to improve our sustainability we have to be willing to innovate.

As part of our participation in the pilot program, the County will follow a five milestone process for plan implementation. Specifically, the milestones include conducting a sustainability assessment; setting sustainability goals, developing a sustainability plan; implementing the sustainability plan; and monitoring/valuing progress. The County must also provide feedback on the toolkit so that ICLEI can make any necessary improvements to their toolkit as they roll it out to communities across the nation. In return we receive assistance directly from ICLEI and New York City and are able to utilize pre-developed sustainability plan templates in the process.

Provided attached is a hard copy of the PlaNYC and the 2008 progress report courtesy of the New York City and ICLEI. I realize that the County is already a leader on many facets of being a sustainable government and community but we have important challenges ahead and need to continue improving the quality of life that we enjoy here in the County. This deliberate process will however coordinate and highlight our efforts. We are on our way to integrating sustainability into the way we do business as well as our daily routines.

We look forward to sharing our progress and collaborating with you, through Commissioner Katy Sorenson as the Chair of the Budget, Planning and Sustainability Committee, in this process in raising awareness and developing policies and programs that improve sustainability of government operations and enable our community to improve their sustainability as well.

C: Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Denis Morales, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
County Executive Office Staff
Department Directors