



OFFICE OF RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP: SUSTAINABILITY

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Mission and Goal Statements

Office of Resource Stewardship: To provide leadership and coordination of services through the Office of Sustainability, the Division of Solid Waste, and the Cooperative Extension Program, in order to identify opportunities for synergy and added efficiencies between each work-group to effectively promote stewardship of the community's natural, societal, and economic resources.

Sustainability: To enhance our community's environmental, economic, and social resilience by promoting adoption of sustainability practices within County government and the community at large.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights Environment

- Continued expansion of the County Community Garden program through the addition of two new gardens on County property and grant support for four additional stakeholder gardens across the community.
- Provided Workplace Sustainability Training with Leon County employees to implement sustainable day-to-day practices on the job.
- Developed dashboard metrics for County fleet to assist in attaining fuel conservation goals.
- Planning for a Sustainable Communities Summit to be held January 2015 with a theme of "Food for Us" involving a wide cross-section of the community and exploring the community's connection to food.

Contact Us

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GROWING GREEN TOGETHER

- Continuing efforts under the County's Community Garden Program led to creation of two new gardens on County lands, the Pumpkin Place Community Garden in the Lake Jackson Heights neighborhood and the Lafayette Oaks Community Garden. To date, the County has supported four community gardens on County lands and 10 additional stakeholder gardens, all with grants and technical support. These gardens provide many social and environmental benefits. Hundreds of citizens of all ages are getting to know their neighbors better, engaging in healthy exercise, learning how to grow food, sharing fresh produce with people in need and enhancing properties.
- Leon County hosted a series of events as part of its "Sustainable Community Matters" program offered jointly by the Office of Sustainability and Leon County libraries. These interactive and informal programs offer citizens a chance to learn

about topics relating to personal and household sustainability, such as gardening, energy saving at home, and connecting with nature through Leon County's many recreational trails.

- The Office of Sustainability distributes the Growing Green electronic newsletter to inform and inspire County residents. It includes features about County sustainability initiatives, news about efforts of local citizens, businesses and organizations to "walk the walk" by implementing sustainability actions, and highlights of upcoming events.
- Continued efforts at the Sustainable Demonstration Center at the Leon County Cooperative Extension facility on Paul Russell Road have added interpretive features that enhance public understanding of the "net zero" building's many sustainable features, which include a 60 kilowatt photovoltaic array, a



Pumpkin Place Community Garden Dedication



geothermal heating and cooling system, and a unique rainwater collection system that stores 40,000 gallons of water for use in the site's diverse ornamental and vegetable gardens, as well as a new orchard. This facility highlights the County's ongoing commitment to reduce the County's own carbon footprint, realize energy efficiencies, and catalyze similar efforts elsewhere in the community.

- Leon County is committed to effective collaboration with community partners. Among the initiatives carried out with leadership from Leon County in conjunction with community organizations are:

- » **Community Carbon Fund (CCF)** - Leon County is a partner with Sustainable Tallahassee in the CCF, which assists organizations that serve the poor and disadvantaged in implementing energy upgrades at their facilities. Energy conservation upgrades cut utility costs and allow more funding for core services, while also reducing carbon emissions and utility load. Emissions have been reduced by more than 72 metric tons annually, and the CCF was honored as a "Champion of Hope" in 2013 by the Big Bend Homeless Coalition.
- » **EcoTeams** - Leon County continues to provide leadership and support for EcoTeams, an informal sustainability education and action project coordinated by Sustainable Tallahassee. The program provides citizens access to information about conserving resources and improving household financial sustainability, as well as a chance to form a supportive peer network. EcoTeams meet in neighborhoods, workplaces, places of worship, and other locations in the community.



Community Garden Project Development

- » **News Articles** - Along with other members of the Capital Area Sustainability Council, Leon County contributes to the Tallahassee Democrat's bi-weekly column entitled "Greening Our Community." Articles have spread awareness about the County's "Swap Shop" and "Renew" paint program, the community garden program, and innovative sustainability features of the Public Safety Complex.
- » **Local Food Movement Leadership** - The Office of Sustainability is working with local food leaders to identify opportunities for leadership to support the local sustainable food movement.



Did You Know

Leon County has supported the creation of 14 community gardens.



Leon County's Net-Zero Facility



Macon Community Garden