



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 grant support for five stakeholder gardens, including three school gardens, across the community.
- Initiated a program that educates all new employees on Leon County's recycling and sustainability initiatives through a presentation given by staff.
- 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.
- Hosted a Sustainable Communities Summit in January 2015 with a theme of "Food for Us" exploring the community's connection to food.

Contact Us

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GROWING GREEN TOGETHER

- To date, the County has supported four community gardens on County lands and 15 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.
- 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 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 County Government'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



2015 Sustainable Communities Summit



Post Summit Rountable Discussion

Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service

Leon County received the 2015 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award in the category of County Resilience: Infrastructure, Energy & Sustainability for the Leon County Sustainable Communities Summit.





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 200 metric tons annually.

» **Local Food Movement Leadership** – The Office of Sustainability has formed a partnership with the City of Tallahassee and Sustainable Tallahassee to support an initiative entitled the Good Food Program. The program focuses on increasing public awareness of local food initiatives, increasing community involvement in the local food scene, and increasing gardening in the City and County.



Leon County's Seed Library Program



Kate Sullivan School Garden

toward the workplace, but translate into daily life changes that can create a positive ripple effect in the community. The team is hosting interactive workshops that encourage departments to take a more proactive approach to how they contribute to Leon County's internal culture of sustainability.

- Leon County hosted the Sustainable Communities Summit, with the theme of "Food for Us," on January 24th, 2015. The event was an immense success, with more than 300 citizens in attendance. The Summit provided a forum for discussing how the community as a whole could assist in making our food system healthful, affordable, and locally-focused. This was achieved through multiple interactive break-out sessions, where the attendees themselves came up with ideas for how to implement local food projects and voted on those they believed to be most impactful. The Summit also featured two keynote speakers from across the country, Karen Washington and Philip Ackerman-Leist, both who inspired the community and joined our good food family. Following the event, Leon County

hosted a post-summit round table meeting, during which goals and next steps were identified based on the discussion and community input at the Summit.

- Leon County Government in partnership with Sustainable Tallahassee hosted a tree planting at J.R. Alford Greenway.
- Developing a new initiative to educate Leon County employees on how to make small changes to benefit the environment, connect with the community, and strengthen the economy. These initiatives are geared



Composting Workshop



Did You Know

The Office of Resource Stewardship is now on Facebook!
www.Facebook.com/LeonCountyORS