



# OFFICE OF RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP: SUSTAINABILITY

ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

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 County Community Garden Program by providing expertise and financial support for seven community stakeholder gardens, including two school gardens and three faith-based organizations.
- Created Growing Green Education, which provides recycling and sustainability curriculum for Leon County Schools.
- Streamlined utility payments to better track and analyze utility consumption data in order to conserve resources.
- Delivered Workplace Sustainability Training for Leon County employees to implement sustainable day-to-day practices on the job.
- Redesigned the Office of Sustainability website and updated the Green Map, where residents can find information about local community gardens, farmers markets, regional farms and more.

## Contact Us

(850) 606-5000  
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Sustainability

## GROWING GREEN TOGETHER

- Through its Community Garden Program, the Office of Sustainability has supported 27 community gardens to date. Staff engages in ongoing publicity efforts to promote the program, including several garden dedication ceremonies to highlight both the new garden's intended efforts and the County's contributions.
  - » Staff worked with The Shelter at the Kearney Center, Cooperative Extension, and FSU College of Social Work to dedicate the Wendy Crook Memorial Garden for residents and kitchen staff to use at The Shelter.
- Since 2010, Leon County has been pursuing opportunities to provide the PACE program (Property Assessed Clean Energy) to the citizens of Leon County. This financing program allows for certain property improvements related to energy efficiency, energy conservation and weatherization in Leon County.
- Leon County is committed to community outreach and education to expand our reach and improve our services. Among the day-to-day efforts and presentations, staff participated in the following events:
  - » On April 23, 2016, Leon County partnered with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Tallahassee and the Florida Department of Health in Leon County to host the Healthy Communities Festival. The event drew over 2,000 attendees and 60 exhibitors provided environmental resources focused on sustainability.
  - » In an effort to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags and increase the use of reusable bags, the Office of Sustainability hosted a community-wide Better Bag Challenge, which encouraged citizens to trade plastic bags for a canvas tote bag. Nearly 200 citizens brought in an estimated 1,500 plastic bags.
  - » The Office of Sustainability participated in the Spring Home Expo by hosting a Composting and Gardening 101 session and a Better Bag Challenge.



*The Better Bag Challenge*

- Redesigned the Growing Green website. The website features a variety of topics, including waste and energy reduction, local food, and sustainable transportation, and is consistently updated.
- Redeveloped the Green Map, an online, interactive map that shares location and information about local community gardens, farmers markets and more.
- In effort to reach more students in Leon County, the Office of Sustainability developed Growing Green Education, which provides classroom lesson plans and activities for elementary schools. Working with curriculum developers for Leon County Schools, staff created lesson plans about recycling and sustainability.
- Continues to deliver Workplace Sustainability Workshops to Leon County departments to encourage energy and water conservation, better purchasing options, waste reduction and overall employee health.
- The Leon County Cooperative Extension Services trained over 438 commercial landscape maintenance and land management professionals, resulting in 2,080 certifications and/or continuing educational units. Cooperative Extension engaged 7,342 youth in 4-H programs and activities and initiated 4-H SPIN (Special Interest) Clubs at three of the Leon County libraries during the summer months.