

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 9/9/08 ----- Consent Regular
 Workshop Public Hearing

Department: Administration
Submitted By: Economic Development Office

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to receive and file: A presentation by the Alternative Energy Task Force on their recommendations to the Palm Beach County Overall Economic Development Committee (OEDP).

Summary: The Alternative Energy Task Force was formed to address Action Item II.02 in the Palm Beach County Strategic Economic Development Plan's Strategic Direction of sustainability. The OEDP Alternative Energy Task Force, comprised of 21 public and private stakeholders, worked in collaboration with the Pollution Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County, the Air Waste Management Association and the Treasure Coast Chapter of U.S. Green Building Council. Over a nine (9) month period the Task Force hosted nine (9) research presentations, created an inventory of existing county energy conservation programs, identified "best practices," and prepared a critical look at pertinent topics and issues of the emerging alternative energy field. Alternative Energy policy discussions focused on encouraging self-reliance, business growth, energy costs, and community sustainability. Countywide (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: On November 10-11, 2005, the Board of County Commissioners convened the 21st Century: 2005 Palm Beach County Economic Summit. The purpose of the Summit was to update the 1994 Strategic Economic Plan to reflect 2005 growth and development conditions, and to formulate strategies to address changing economic conditions. During the visioning process and at the 2005 Summit, business and community leaders raised awareness on the challenge of Palm Beach County's economic resiliency following a year of costly, unexpected climate changes and hurricanes. At the May 23, 2006 BCC Workshop, Commissioners approved the 21st Century: Palm Beach County Strategic Economic Plan mission statement and work plan. The Strategic Economic Plan was approved by the BCC March 13, 2007 with 48 action items, including alternative energy preparation. The Economic Development Office recommended "alternative energy" as a new cluster industry in Palm Beach County.

Attachments: 1. Alternative Energy Task Force Recommendations

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Recommended By:  8/11/08
Economic Development Director Date

Approved By:  8/13/08
Assistant County Administrator Date

I. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (PBC)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (PBC)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
(Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
 Budget Account No: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____
 Program Code _____


B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:


C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Administration Comments:

No fiscal impact

 8/11/08
 OFMB *W.D. 8/11/08 abv 8/11*

 8/11/08
 Contract Administration *James 8/11/08*

B. Legal Sufficiency:

 8/12/08
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TASK FORCE

**Recommendations to the Palm Beach County
Overall Economic Development Committee
November 2007**

Palm Beach County Alternative Energy Recommendations

November 10th, 2007

Palm Beach County Overall Economic Development Program Committee (OEDP)
Commissioner Addie Greene, Chairperson
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Commissioner Greene:

I am pleased to submit the attached recommendations of the Palm Beach County Alternative Energy Task Force in collaboration with the Pollution Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County, the Air Waste Management Association, and the Treasure Coast Chapter of U.S. Green Building Council to the OEDP. These recommendations are the result of the Task Force's work over the past nine months; the members on the Task Force went beyond the call of duty in helping to frame the pertinent topics and issues that were critical to understanding a rather complex emerging industry.

The Task Force's journey over the past nine months, although quite exhilarating, was also very sobering as we watched the prices of fossil fuel rise precariously and place a stranglehold on the country's economy. Through a rigorous discovery process, the Task Force determined that Palm Beach County has the potential to diversify 30% of its energy sources to various types of Alternative Energies. Equally important, is the tremendous impact that the countywide adoption of tried and proven energy conservation practices will have on our continued economic viability. So great is the opportunity in Palm Beach County for developing its Alternative Energy Cluster into one of the region's main economic drivers that the implications of ignoring its importance could compromise the County's growth for decades.

The Task Force wishes to express its gratitude for the responsibility that the OEDP entrusted in it. It is our sincere hope that the OEDP will move to enact the attached recommendations in recognition of their impact on both the quality of life and the economic stability of this County.

On behalf of the Task Force

Paul Skyers

Paul Skyers
Task Force Chairperson

cc. Commissioner Mary McCarty, Vice-Chairperson

PALM BEACH COUNTY ALTERNATE ENERGY TASK FORCE

Paul Skyers, Chairman
Executive Director
PBC Resource Center

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Environmental Manager
Florida Dept. of Health

Kathy Andress
Deputy Director
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Florida Dept. of Health

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BACKGROUND

The Palm Beach County Alternative Energy Task Force was formed in January 2007 (by the Palm Beach County Overall Economic Development Program Committee) in response to one of the findings from the County's recent Economic Summit which cited the County's lack of "**resilience**" in rebounding from storms and natural disasters as a significant impediment to economic growth. The business community cited problems with downed power lines and other types of energy disruptions as the reason for two to three weeks loss of productivity after each hurricane, and urged the County to investigate/encourage the use of alternative energies as means of diversifying the County's dependence on traditional energy sources.

The Task Force has met monthly to examine what types of alternative energy products/services are already being produced/sold here in the region. The Task Force has also sought to understand how businesses within the Clean-Tech Energy Clusters:

- Energy Generation
- Energy Storage/Infrastructure
- Energy Efficiency

operate.

The Task Force has determined that the Alternative Energy Business Cluster continues to grow in Palm Beach County with some 22 existing entities that make/sell/service a variety of Alternative Energy products as their core business. It is estimated that these businesses contribute approximately \$10 Million to the County's GDP annually. Additionally, there are twenty or so other businesses that manufacture alternative energies (bio-mass, solar, thermal) for internal use only. In terms of addressing the county-wide issue of "resilience," the Task Force is encouraged by array of alternative energy products that are being used by a few of the County's businesses, but sees the need to create an "Alternative Energy Toolkit" (perhaps through a web site) to educate and advise the majority of the county's businesses on topics such as:

- ❖ "Green" Product Selection
- ❖ Energy Performance Savings Contracting
- ❖ Energy Conservation Practices
- ❖ Market Potential for "Green" Products
- ❖ Relevant Tax Rebates, Grants, and other Incentives.

Notably, the Governor of the state, in his first year in office, has aggressively attempted to lay the groundwork for exponential growth of the Alternative Energy Industry in

Florida. Governor Charlie Crist vetoed a sweeping energy bill on Wednesday June 20th, 2007, saying it did not go far enough to wean the state off petroleum fuel and could stymie his efforts to do so. The bill (HB 7123) would have given corporations more than \$60 million in tax breaks to boost the use of alternative fuel sources such as ethanol and solar power. The measure, backed by Senate and House leaders, also would have required state agencies to study how to reduce greenhouse emissions and state-owned buildings to comply with national energy-efficient standards. Governor Crist calls global warming a "moral issue", and has made it one of his priorities. He also said that he wants to reduce regulatory delays for alternative energy production.

"While this purports to advance these important goals, it unfortunately does not go far enough and, in some instances, takes a step backward."

Crist said of the bill in his veto message.

The bill also did not consolidate energy regulation, study and planning under a single agency, which Crist's veto letter said was necessary to end the bureaucratic morass delaying energy policy revisions.

Through its interaction with many of the local businesses in the Alternative Energy Cluster, the Task Force determined that the primary hurdle in their path to acceptable levels of market penetration was consumer acceptance (caused mostly by lack of awareness and knowledge of "green" products and services). Other challenges that face the local businesses in the Alternative Energy Cluster include:

The lack of available Certified Energy Contractors and/or Home Performance Contractors

The initial cost of acquiring "green" technologies

The scant knowledge that consumers have about the necessary lifestyle management changes required in order conserve energy

In some cases, local Alternative Energy firms that are engaged in product development were struggling to secure the necessary venture capital funds to bring their invention(s) to the marketplace. These challenges, however, couldn't overshadow the tremendous growth opportunity associated with the Alternative Energy Industry:

"The fact that the Region has 365 days of sunlight and the capacity to grow more than 1 million tons of feedstock each year positions it for exponential growth in the Alternative Energy Industry Clusters - this could be the Region's biggest economic opportunity of the 21st century"

Paul Skyers

RECOMMENDATIONS

Action Item # 1: Launch an initiative to make all government buildings and public spaces demonstration sites for various forms of "green technology"

1. Encourage each government entity to assess what types of "green technologies" are already being used in its facilities, and to identify feasible enhancements.
2. Utilize applicable signage regarding the use of green technologies within these facilities and public spaces.
3. Each government body should adopt The Florida Green Local Government Standard

Action Item # 2: Create a website which will serve as a "clearinghouse" for green information.

The website will contain:

1. Product information on all green technologies
2. "How to" information on incorporating "green" practices into everyday life
3. Sources for grants and incentives geared towards encouraging the use of "green" technologies.
4. Profiles of local companies that are involved in producing/selling green technologies
5. "Webinars" on green topics
6. A Calendar of "Green" Events in the region
7. Current events issues that affect the use of "green" technologies

Action Item # 3: Create a Palm Beach County Alternative Energy Development Council

Its mission will be to:

- Increase public awareness of Alternative Energy products & services (web site, PSAs, EXPOs, etc.)
- Increase public awareness of Green Building processes, Environmental Management Systems, green products & services
- Provide Business Development services to emerging green & alternative energy companies
- Coordinate with P², AWMA, FPL, and USGBC
- Enhance the County's resilience in dealing with catastrophic occurrences (hurricanes, etc) and their impact on access to energy.
- Create a specific baseline for county-wide energy conservation (include energy profiles, scorecards, performance indicators, etc.)
- Identify energy savings opportunities & establish focus areas
- Co-host a Mega Green Expo each year in the Fall
- Build the "Best of Everything" brand in Alternative Energy & Conservation

- Provide Technical Assistance services to emerging green & alternative energy companies (market penetration/creation, elimination of market barriers, and access to capital)
- Support USGBC & PSC's efforts in rulemaking and with building code modifications
- Support certification process for Energy Contractors and/or Home Performance Contractors
- Position Palm Beach County as one of the leading exporters of Green Technology
- Serve as a advisors on local ordinance changes that support the use of green technologies
- Encourage the both commercial & residential properties to perform energy audits and surveys

Action Item # 4: Launch an initiative that will support the growth in “green” curricula at the local Colleges, High Schools, and Middle Schools

- ✓ The goal would be to establish Palm Beach County as one of the top five National Knowledge Centers for Green Technology
- ✓ Support partnerships between colleges & K-12 schools on “green” development/innovation projects

APPENDIX

Green Local Government Standard

The Green Local Government Standard designates Green Cities and Green Counties for outstanding environmental stewardship. The standard is presented in such a way that it is much more than just a program - it is a powerful tool. The guiding documents of the standard are designed to act as educational material for a wide audience of readers. Here, the documents not only present opportunities for a local government to "be green", but also provide examples and resources covering how to do it. The Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), working under a contract from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Florida Energy Office, created the Florida Green Local Government Standard. A number of organizations and agencies served as subcontractors or contributed, including:

- The Florida Green Building Coalition, Inc. FGBC will maintain the standard over time and award all designations.
- The Miami Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management put together educational modules on fleet management and on landscape maintenance to assist local governments with the process.
- Sarasota , Alachua and Miami-Dade counties and the City of Gainesville helped with creation and review of the standard.
- City of Orlando representatives also participated in development of the standard.

Support the growth of "green" technologies within the region:

<p>Energy Generation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solid Oxide Fuel Cells - Solar Thin-Film Panels - Waste-to-Energy Project – North County(SWA) - Algae Biomass from CO₂ Emissions - Ethanol Project (cellulosic)- close to the Okeelanta Sugar Mill - Bio-diesel/"Viesel" blending Projects - countywide - Ocean Energy Technology Project – FAU - Photovoltaic Energy Residential & Commercial Projects – countywide - Solar Thermal Project ("in development") - Biomass (switchgrass) Project – Belle Glade - Cogeneration – Okeelanta Cogeneration Facility - Nuclear Power
<p>Energy Storage/Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bio-diesel Storage Tanks @ Port of Palm Beach - The expansion of E85 & Bio-diesel filling stations within the county

	Residential & Commercial Net Metering Systems
Energy Efficiency	Solar Tubing (daylight harvesting) Residential & Commercial projects – countywide A/C Control (natural ventilation) – countywide Motion Sensor Light Control projects – countywide Green building projects – MerryPlace, FAU Nursing School, etc. Heat Recovery & Heat “Offcast” Systems – countywide Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) Bio-diesel conversion kits Electric Vehicle conversion kits

Serve as advisors for local ordinance changes that support the use of “green” technologies

1. Provide feedback on vegetable oil recycling protocols to restaurants and to government bodies and industry associations involved with restaurants
2. Provide advice on County laws that restrict the use of Electric Vehicles on roads where the speed limits exceed 25 mph.
3. Provide advice on implementing a fast-track permitting process for the installation of alternative energy devices and structures (such as Photovoltaic panels, Heat Recovery & Heat Off-cast devices, and Energy Conservation systems)