

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: April 26, 2022

Department: Office of Resilience

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Action Plan – Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Options

Summary: Palm Beach County is completing a climate change Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience Action Plan (VARAP). The County-wide Resilience Action Plan will provide resilience targets and an implementation strategy to achieve them for the County's government operations as well as the overall community. This plan will also assess and recommend strategies to mitigate climate change by reducing County government and community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. On a per capita basis, the County has GHG emissions lower than the national average, which helped the County achieve LEED Gold Certification for Cities and Communities in 2020. The County pursues GHG emissions reduction strategies that include promoting electric vehicle use, capital construction project sustainability planning requirements, and energy efficiency lighting retrofits. To help contribute to a global climate change mitigation strategy, staff recommends that the VARAP include GHG reduction options that could assist the County in achieving significant GHG emissions reductions including net zero GHG emissions, should the County choose to pursue this. Nothing produced in the VARAP will compel the County to pursue any individual measure. Rather, the VARAP will provide costs and benefits associated with various GHG mitigation options. The County would then decide what initiatives to pursue. Meanwhile, the County will continue to implement cost-effective GHG mitigation initiatives. Staff will present on the County's GHG inventory, GHG mitigation targets, and VARAP planning options. Staff will seek BCC direction on how to proceed with the VARAP regarding GHG emissions reduction goals and planning. Countywide (RM)

Background and Policy Issues: Experts predict that localities must take immediate, drastic action to reduce GHG emissions to avoid the negative consequences that a global warming of 1.5 to 2.0 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels would cause. Jurisdictions are moving toward net zero GHG goals, which entail emitting no more GHGs than they are able to offset and/or sequester. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and many other partners have established the Race to Zero initiative to rally jurisdictions to cut GHG emissions in half by 2030 and to net zero by 2050 or sooner. Many local government peers around the United States and in the state of Florida have joined the Race to Zero, including: the counties of Broward and Miami-Dade; and the cities of Hallandale Beach, West Palm Beach, Miami, Miami Beach, Boynton Beach, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Orlando, and Cape Canaveral.

Attachments: None

Recommended by: Megan S. Houston 2-22-22
Department Director **Date**

Approved by: Paul 3/10/22
Assistant County Administrator **Date**

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	0	0	0	0	0
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes _____ No X

Does this Item include the use of Federal Funds? Yes _____ No X

Budget Account No.:
Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____ Object _____ Program _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:
There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Department Fiscal Review:

_____ *A. Henry*

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and /or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

Approved 2/29/22
Lisa M. ... 3/1/22
OFMB

Ann L. ... 3/8/22
Contract Development and Control
3-7-22

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director